Be Smart...
Leave Fireworks to the Professionals



Illegal Fireworks Cause Fires and Injuries

Every summer in Massachusetts, people are hurt and property is destroyed by fires that start with illegal fireworks. More of these incidents take place during the week of July 4 than at any other time of year. Please don't contribute to a serious fire, injury, or other emergency: leave fireworks to the professionals.

Illegal Fireworks are Dangerous

Massachusetts fire departments reported about 1,000 fires and explosions from illegal fireworks in the last 10 years. These incidents damage or destroy people's homes, cause severe burns, and can even be fatal.

Illegal fireworks include cherry bombs, firecrackers, and sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of over 1,800° Fahrenheit. That's hotter than the melting point of aluminum! Children suffer some of the most traumatic injuries caused by sparklers and other illegal fireworks. Play it safe: leave fireworks to the professionals.

Illegal Fireworks Will Be Confiscated

The possession, use, and sale of fireworks is illegal in Massachusetts unless you have a license and certification. This includes fireworks that were purchased legally in another state. State law requires police to confiscate illegal fireworks. Anyone who possesses them may be fined. Anyone who sells fireworks could face jail time. Don't risk a day in court: leave fireworks to the professionals.

Professional Fireworks are Safer

If you want to celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks, watch a professional display! The pyrotechnicians who run these shows for cities and towns are highly trained and carry professional licensing and certification. These displays are supervised by firefighters who are prepared for any emergency. Massachusetts boasts dozens of professional fireworks displays each year. The Department of Fire Services posts a list of these professional displays each summer. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for Fireworks.

All fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts. This includes sparklers, firecrackers, and cherry bombs.

Department of Fire Services
www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3100