

# Be Smart... Leave Fireworks to the Professionals



## July 4th is a Busy Time for Firefighters

The Fourth of July is a busy time for firefighters. They are supervising professional fireworks shows and responding to fires and medical emergencies. The week of July 4th is one of the busiest times of the year for fires. Firefighters, police officers, and medical professionals ask you to help us. Leave fireworks to the professionals.

## All Fireworks Are Illegal in Massachusetts

The possession and use of all fireworks by private residents is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks including: firecrackers, cherry bombs, and sparklers. Sparklers burn at more than 1,200°F. That's hotter than melted glass!

It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Massachusetts law requires that illegal fireworks be confiscated on the spot. People who have or use illegal fireworks can face a fine. People who sell them face potential jail time.

## Do Not Purchase Fireworks through Mail-Order or Online Catalogs

Do not buy fireworks by mail. The Government can't prohibit the advertising and sale of fireworks by mail. But police do confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many people trying to circumvent the law have lost both their money and their fireworks.

## Illegal Fireworks Put People and Property at Risk

Massachusetts fire departments reported 944 fires and explosions from illegal fireworks between 2012 and 2021. These incidents caused 3 civilian injuries, 43 fire service injuries, and millions of dollars in damages. Massachusetts medical facilities treated 31 people with severe injuries from fireworks in the last 10 years. These reports reflect burns covering 5% or more of the victim's body.

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



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