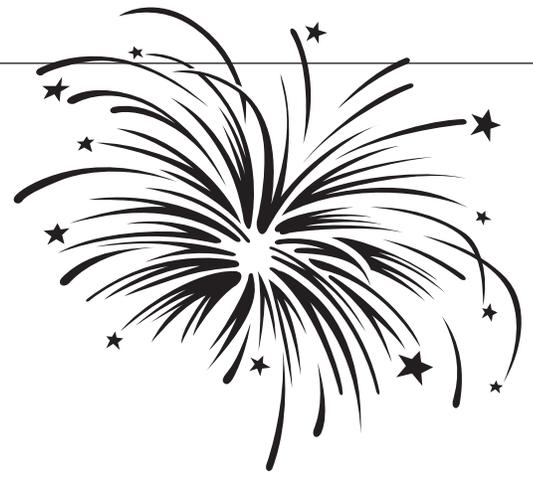


# Be Smart... Leave Fireworks to the Professionals



## **Enjoy Supervised Professional Fireworks Displays**

Local fire departments supervise professional fireworks displays all over Massachusetts. Unfortunately, children and adults continue to set off illegal fireworks that start fires and cause serious injuries to themselves and others.

## **Fireworks Can Be Deadly**

A 45-year old Gloucester woman died in a December 22, 2003 house fire when someone threw fireworks and ignited a Christmas tree in the living room. Three other people were injured. On May 20, 1997, a 26-year old man from Watertown was killed while he was lighting fireworks in a hallway. A 27-year old Framingham man was killed on July 4, 1993, when backyard fireworks exploded in his face. On July 4, 1992, fireworks fatally injured a 30-year old man on a Fairhaven beach.

## **All Fireworks Are Illegal in Massachusetts**

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane fireworks." Class C fireworks include sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners, cherry bombs and more. Sparklers burn at 1800°F.

It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot.

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

Do not purchase fireworks by mail. Government cannot prohibit the advertising and sale of fireworks by mail, but police do confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many consumers attempting to circumvent the law have lost both their money and their fireworks.

## **Set a Good Example for Children**

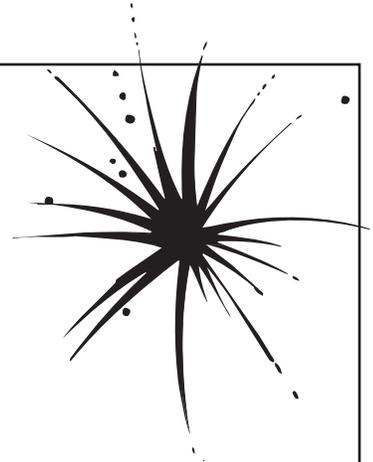
Children imitate adults. If you use fireworks, children will copy you, not realizing how very dangerous fireworks are. Fifty-one percent, (51%), of fireworks-related burn injuries reported by hospitals to the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the last 10 years (2007-2016) were to children under age 18. Almost thirty-percent, (29%), were children under age 10.

(over)



**FireFactors**

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## **Fires Caused by Fireworks**

In the past decade (2007-2016) there have been 826 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). The incidents caused 11 civilian injuries, five fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$1.8 million, which is high considering most fireworks fires are outdoor brush fires.

- On May 13, 2016, the Watertown Fire Department was called to a fire in a stand-alone garage with two vehicles inside. The fire was started by fireworks. Luckily the fire was knocked down before it could extend to the house.
- On July 2, 2016, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in a 6-unit apartment building started by fireworks. Fireworks were maliciously thrown into the main entryway, causing burns to wood floors and walls.
- On July 4, 2016, the Fitchburg Fire Department was called to a 5-acre brush fire started by fireworks. Mutual aid was called and crews were on scene for over six hours.

## **Burns Caused by Fireworks**

In the past decade (2007-2016), 49 people were treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks (burns covering 5% or more of the body) according to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). Fifty-nine percent of the victims were children and youths under age 25. These victims are scarred for life.

- On July 3, 2016, an 8-year old Lawrence boy was hit in the chest by a wayward firework from an illegal show at a neighbor's house.
- On July 4, 2016, a 4-year old Lawrence boy received burns to his forehead and chin from fireworks that hit him in the face.
- On July 9, 2016, a 10-year old Boston boy lost four fingers while playing with illegal fireworks inside an apartment.
- On July 15, 2016, a 15-year old Plymouth boy who was lighting commercial grade fireworks received burns to his eye and hands, as well as a puncture wound to his abdomen.
- On October 8, 2016, a 61-year old Billerica man received burns to three of his fingers when an illegal firework went off in his hand.

