



Celebrate Safely Campaign Kit

Fireworks Safety Campaign

FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Enjoy Your Independence Day Celebrations!

Minimizing Fireworks Risk through Accountability and Responsibility:

Don't overestimate your child's ability to use good judgment. Set family boundaries. Only adults should light fireworks. Children are naturally curious. Be sure fireworks and any matches and lighters are secured out of sight and reach of children. Be sure to discharge all fireworks devices so there are no leftovers to tempt curious children.

There are approximately 1,000 fireworks-related emergencies in Washington each year. We must all work together to reduce this tremendous loss through the responsible and safe use of fireworks.

You May be Held Accountable:

Remember, there may be legal consequences for any injuries or damages caused by the irresponsible use of fireworks. These consequences range from being charged with an infraction, a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and/or felony. This does not include any civil or monetary penalties or claims.

Take Responsibility:

- Talk with family members and guests about the fireworks laws for your area. Laws restricting or banning the use of fireworks in cities and counties are listed on the fireworks web site.
- M80's, M100's, or Cherry Bombs are not fireworks—they are illegal explosive devices. They can cause amputations and other severe injuries. Their use or possession has legal consequences.

Be Prepared...Before you Light Fireworks:

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed fireworks stands.
- Store fireworks out of children's reach.
- Keep pets safe indoors.
- Always keep a bucket of water handy.

Be Safe...When Lighting Fireworks:

- Only adults should light fireworks.
- Use outdoors only.
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a "dud".

Be Responsible...After You Finish:

- Soak used fireworks in water.
- Be considerate—clean up used fireworks.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.



FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU – PREVENTION DIVISION
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FOR TEENAGERS . . .

“Let’s Talk About Fireworks and Safety”

Minimizing Fireworks Risk Through Accountability and Responsibility:

Each year there are nearly 1,000 emergency incidents in Washington associated with fireworks. Fireworks-related fires cause millions of dollars in damages.

You Will be Held Accountable:

Remember, there are legal consequences for any injuries or damages caused by the irresponsible use of fireworks or the use of illegal explosive devices. These consequences range from being charged with an infraction, a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and/or felony. This does not include any civil or monetary penalties or claims.

For example, possession of illegal explosive devices—such as a firework that has been tampered with or altered—is a gross misdemeanor offense and carries a penalty of up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Take Responsibility:

- M80’s, M100’s, or M1000’s are illegal explosive devices. They are NOT fireworks. They can cause amputations and other severe life-changing injuries. They are federally illegal and their use or possession has legal consequences.
- Know the fireworks laws for your area. Laws restricting or banning the use of fireworks in cities and counties are listed on the fireworks web site.
- Don’t overestimate your ability: Tampering with fireworks is dangerous and illegal. Fireworks that are tampered with are illegal explosive devices.
- Attend a Public Display—It’s a great way to enjoy fireworks. There are over 100 fireworks public displays in Washington State in observance of Independence Day.



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Child-Safe Activities During the 4th of July Celebrations

Enjoy these fun child-safe activities during your 4th of July celebrations:

Do a web search for these subjects and see what you find!

- Patriotic arts and crafts
- Patriotic costumes
- Patriotic music and stories – go to any music or book store
- Patriotic or Pilgrim paper dolls – can find at some book stores
- Patriotic (red, white, and blue) foods and candies
- Watch a 4th of July Parade
- Patriotic decorations
- Fiber optic flashlights
- Glow-in-the-dark sticks
- Foil pinwheels
- Kaleidoscopes
- Bubble wrap
- Confetti poppers
- Streamers
- Noise makers
- Piñatas
- Rope lighting
- Bubble machines (or fans)



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State Legal, Federally Legal, and Illegal Fireworks

State Legal Fireworks are consumer fireworks that are legal to possess and discharge on and off an Indian reservation:

- **State Legal Fireworks**
Novelty and Smoke Items
Sparklers and Spinners
Multi Aerials
Helicopters
Cones and Fountains
Wheels
Roman Candles
Reloadable Mortars (1 ¾" or smaller)

Federally Legal Fireworks are all consumer fireworks, but are legal to possess and discharge **only while on an Indian reservation:**

- **Legal Only on Tribal Lands**
Firecrackers and Chasers
Bottle Rockets
Missiles and Rockets

Illegal Fireworks are just that—illegal to possess and discharge anywhere. Some examples are:

- **Illegal Explosive Devices**
M-80's or Larger
Cherry Bombs
Tennis Ball Bombs
Legal Fireworks that are altered

The State Fire Marshal urges citizens to use caution in purchasing fireworks. Many cities have banned fireworks altogether, such as Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma. This makes possession or discharge of any fireworks illegal within their city limits. Any fireworks you have in your possession can be confiscated and you could be cited for Class 3 to a Class 1 Civil Infraction with penalties ranging from \$103 to over \$500.

Possession of illegal explosive devices, including altered legal fireworks, is a felony and you could face state and federal felony charges.



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How can I tell if my fireworks are legal?

All legal consumer fireworks packed for sale in Washington have to meet seven main requirements:

1. Have a Warning Label on the box and on the item.
2. Instructions for use/how the item is to be used and necessary safety precautions to be taken.
3. Labeled with the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, or seller.
4. Name of the country of manufacture.
5. The United States Department of Transportation designation as "Division 1.4G consumer fireworks" (UN0336) or "Division 1.3G special fireworks."
6. All label wording shall be prominently located, in the English language, and in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color with the printed matter on the fireworks device or container.
7. Bright, colorful paper packaging.

Example: The numbers on the picture represent the requirement number above.



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How can I tell if my fireworks are legal? (continued)

Additional information about a couple of the labeling/marketing requirements:

1. The Warning Label has two components:
 - **Signal Word:**
This is designed to attract the user's attention that the information is important and should be read. It will contain either "**WARNING**" or "**CAUTION**".
 - **Statement of Hazard:**
The statement of hazard is designed to warn the user of the specific aspect of the item's operation that may result in the potential for injury. A statement of hazard includes statements such as:
 - **FLAMMABLE**
 - **SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS WITH REPORTS**
 - **SPINS ON GROUND**
 - **EMITS SHOWERS OF SPARKS (etc.)**
2. Instructions for use:

Example:

WARNING	
SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS	
USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. PLACE LAUNCHER UPRIGHT ON HARD, SMOOTH SURFACE. UNWRAP LONG FUSE ON BALL. PUT SHELL INTO TUBE WITH FLAT END DOWN AND WITH FUSE EXTENDING OUT OF TUBE. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.	

Some manufacturers include additional information that is not required, but provides the consumer additional safety and product performance information:

Number of Shots	12
Design	 Vertical Firing
Performance Highlights	 
Firework Type	Multi-Shot Aerial
Firework Effects : Brocade Crown Red, Green & Blue Crackle Palm	
Performance Description : You can almost hear the crowd roar as Brocade to Blue, Brocade to Red, Brocade Crown to Green and Colored Crackle Palms Crown the night sky in a 12 shot display of glory.	



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How can I tell if my fireworks are legal? (continued)

3. There is a significant difference between a firework marked "Division 1.4G consumer fireworks" versus one marked "Division 1.3G special fireworks."

Division 1.3G special fireworks are also referred to as Commercial Grade or Professional Display Fireworks.

Normally there are two types found:

- a. An **aerial shell**, which is similar to the ones legal for purchase at a licensed fireworks stand. There are several differences between a Commercial Display Shell and Consumer Firework Aerial Shell:
- Size
 - Typically start at 2" in diameter. (1 3/4" is the maximum size for a consumer firework.)
 - Content
 - Contains more pyrotechnic material.
 - Color
 - Wrapped in a solid color paper, usually brown.
 - Displays a safety warnings such as:
 - "For Outdoor Use Only by Federally Licensed Personnel"; and
 - "DANGEROUS: If found, deliver to local Fire or Police Department."
 - Has a longer fuse or no fuse attached.
 - Possession requires a license from the ATF and/or pyrotechnic license from the State of Washington.

NOTE: In the pictures below, you'll notice the fuse is of a different type on the 1.3G shell compared to that on the 1.4G shell. While the long fuse appears as if it would take longer to burn, it is actually a "quick fuse" intended for professional applications using a launch tube (usually with remote ignition). The fuse will burn through and ignite the shell in as little as one tenth of a second.

There have been a number of serious injuries to the hand and/or head of persons trying to light and throw a 1.3G shell with "quick fuse". The fuse burns faster than a person is able to throw the shell clear of the hand before the lift charge is lit and explodes.

Example: 1.3G aerial shell on the left and 1.4G aerial shells on the right.



Warning Label indicates a professional firework.



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How can I tell if my fireworks are legal? (continued)

- b. The second type of firework is a “Cake” which is a repeating aerial firework that is comprised of many tubes of mini-shells in one unit. Having multiple tubes allows for several effects or one effect.

These are similar to the one legal to purchase at a licensed fireworks stand, with the main difference being the amount of pyrotechnic material in the product. The one feature most different between a 1.3G Cake and a 1.4G Cake is the label required.

A 1.3 Firework (such as a Cake) is required to have a label showing the following:

- The importer
- Manufacturer name
- Country of manufacture
- Date manufactured
- Shift the product was finished

The label will also indicate that the product is allowed to be used only by a Federally Licensed person. Possession requires a license from the ATF and pyrotechnic license from the State of Washington.

LD100-N10 Tropical storm
Importer; Fireworks Company Importing Item Name Address / City / State
Manufacturer; Legend Fireworks Manufacturing Co., Ltd. PingXiang, Jiangxi, China Date: 12/25/2009 Shift; 1
UN0335 1.3G DISPLAY FIREWORKS WARNING SHOTS FLAMING BALLS AND REPORTS FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY BY FEDERALLY LICENSED PERSONAL. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. PLACE UPRIGHT AND USE ONLY ON CONCRETE, ASPHALT, OR OTHER HARD, LEVEL SURFACE. THIS ITEM MAY TIP OVER IF USED ON GRASS OR OTHER UNEVEN SURFACE AND SERIOUS INJURY COULD RESULT. NEVER



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State Fireworks Law – Sales / Discharge Period

Dates and times fireworks can be sold from a state licensed stand and discharged when not banned or restricted by the local jurisdiction:

4th of July Fireworks Sales and Discharge Period		
Date	Sales Period	Discharge Period
June 28th	12 p.m. (noon) to 11 p.m.	12 p.m. (noon) to 11 p.m.
June 29th	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
June 30th	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
July 1st	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
July 2nd	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
July 3rd	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
July 4th	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 a.m. (midnight)
July 5th	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Winter Fireworks Sales and Discharge Period		
Date	Sales Period	Discharge Period
December 27th	12 p.m. (noon) to 11 p.m.	No Discharge
December 28th	12 p.m. (noon) to 11 p.m.	No Discharge
December 30th	12 p.m. (noon) to 11 p.m.	No Discharge
December 31st	12 p.m. (noon) to 11 p.m.	6 p.m. to 12 a.m. (midnight)
January 1st	No Sales	12 a.m. (midnight) to 1 a.m.

Fireworks Bans and Restrictions:

In Washington, the local jurisdictions have the ability to accept the state Fireworks Law, ban fireworks all together, or impose restrictions to the sales period and/or discharge period. Check for restrictions or bans in the area you will be discharging your fireworks.



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