

Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals



Enjoy the many supervised professional displays!

All across the state there are many professional fireworks displays supervised by local fire departments. Unfortunately, too many children and adult amateurs continue to set off fireworks that start fires, and cause serious injuries to themselves and others.

Fireworks can be deadly!

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 July 4, 1993, when his 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” such as sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs, to name a few. Sparklers burn at 1800°F.



It is illegal to purchase fireworks in another state, such as New Hampshire, and to transport them into Massachusetts. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot.

Do not purchase fireworks through mail-order catalogues.

The distribution of mail-order catalogues that clearly state that fireworks are illegal in some jurisdictions cannot be prohibited. State and local police regularly confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many unhappy consumers have lost both their money and the fireworks trying to circumvent the law.

Set a good example for your children. Children imitate what they see adults do.

If you use them, children will not realize how dangerous fireworks are for them, and imitate you. Over half of the fireworks-related burn injuries reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by hospitals were children under age 18.



FireFACTORS

**Office of the State Fire Marshal
Department of Fire Services**

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MFIRS facts!

In the past decade (1992-2001) there have been 557 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). These 558 fires and explosions caused 20 civilian injuries, seven fire service injuries, three (3) civilian fatalities and an estimated dollar loss of \$762,525. This is quite a substantial amount since most fireworks related fires are outside brush fires and do not usually have high loss figures. A majority of these fires occurred during the week of the Fourth of July holiday.

- On April 30, 2001, the Mansfield Fire Department was called to a brush fire started by children playing with party poppers. A 14-year old boy suffered smoke inhalation as he attempted to put out the fire. The estimated dollar loss was \$50.
- On June 14, 2001, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in residential parking garage located behind a storage warehouse. Children playing with party poppers ignited decorations that were setup for a special event. The fire caused an estimated dollar loss of \$5,000.
- On June 26, 2001, the Ware Fire Department was called to a motor vehicle arson. The fire was intentionally started by fireworks in the passenger area of an antique car. There was one fire service injury related to this incident and an estimated dollar loss of \$2,000.
- On July 4, 2001, the Springfield Fire Department was called to a fire in an apartment building started when fireworks ignited an exterior balcony. No one was injured but the estimated dollar loss incurred by this blaze was \$20,000.



M-BIRS facts!

In the past decade (1992-2001), 86 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5% or more of the body. Nearly two-thirds, 60%, of the victims were children under the age of 18. Twenty-six percent (26%) were between the ages of 10 and 14; 8% were between five and nine; and 13% were children under five. During the last 10 years, the oldest reported person injured by fireworks was 47 and the youngest was less than a year old.



- On July 14, 2000, a 2-year old boy was injured by fireworks at the Italian festival in Springfield. An illegal firecracker ignited his diaper.
- On July 1, 2000, a 35-year old Leominster man was injured while pouring gunpowder from multiple firecrackers into a pile when it flashed on him. He burned his face and left hand.
- A 13-year old Norwell boy was injured when a rocket kit purchased from a “educational science store” exploded. He was burned on his face and chest on February 26, 2000.
- On March 19, 2000, two 12-year old Lowell boys burned their faces, eyes, hands and chest when the bottle rockets they were “playing” with exploded.
- On May 26, 2000 a 15-year old Salem, New Hampshire boy was seriously injured when fireworks exploded in his right hand.