



Fireworks Publication #12

The American traditions of parades, cookouts, and fireworks help us celebrate the summer season, especially our nation's birthday on the Fourth of July. However, fireworks can turn a joyful celebration into a painful memory when children and adults are injured while using fireworks. Although legal consumer fireworks that comply with the CPSC regulations can be relatively safe, all fireworks are hazardous and can cause injury. Fireworks are classified as hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Some fireworks such as illegal firecracker type devices (M-80's, quarter sticks) and professional display fireworks should never be used or handled by consumers or children due to serious injuries and death that can and do occur from such use or handling.

The following are examples of injuries from legal and illegal fireworks:

- A 52-year-old man lit an artillery shell type of firework with a large fuse. Either he did not move away from it in time, or he came back to check it after it was lit. The device exploded near the victim's face and his shirt caught on fire. The victim experienced first and second degree burns to about 40 percent of his body. He was taken to the hospital and later developed an infection. He died almost three weeks after the incident.

- A 19-year-old female lit a firework that was supposed to shoot into the air. Instead, the firework exploded, shattering the lens of her glasses and burning the skin around her eye. The victim was treated at an emergency room and then released.

- A 15-year-old male found some aerial fireworks that were discarded in the trash. Although designed to be launched from a tube, the victim placed a device on the ground and lit the fuse. The device then exploded causing burns to the victim's hand, face and chest. He was admitted to the hospital and released four days later.

- A 27-year-old man picked up about 30 sparklers and began to light them for children in the neighborhood. Several of the sparklers exploded, according to the victim, resulting in first degree burns to his hand. He was treated at an emergency room and released.

To help prevent incidents like these, the federal government, under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, prohibits the sale of the most dangerous types of fireworks to consumers. These banned fireworks include large reloadable mortar shells, cherry bombs, aerial bombs, M-80 salutes and larger firecrackers containing more than two grains of powder. Also banned are mail-order kits and components designed to build these fireworks.

In a regulation that went into effect December 6, 1976, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission lowered the permissible charge in firecrackers to no more than 50 milligrams of powder. In addition, these amended regulations provide performance specifications for fireworks other than firecrackers intended for consumers use, including a requirement that fuses burn at least 3 seconds, but no longer than 9 seconds. All fireworks must carry a warning label describing necessary safety precautions and instructions for safe use.

The Commission has issued a performance requirement to reduce the risk of potentially dangerous tip-over of large multiple tube mine and shell devices. Tip-over of these devices has resulted in two fatalities.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission still estimates that in 2004 about 9,600 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with fireworks. Over half the injuries were burns and most of the injuries involved the hands, eyes, and head. About half of the victims were under 15 years of age.

Fireworks should be used only with extreme caution. Older children should be closely supervised, and younger children should not be allowed to play with fireworks.

Before using fireworks, make sure they are permitted in your state or local area. Many states and local governments prohibit or limit consumer fireworks, formerly known as class C fireworks, which are common fireworks and firecrackers sold for consumer use. Consumer fireworks include shells and mortars, multiple tube devices, Roman Candles, rockets, sparklers, firecrackers with no more than 50 milligrams of powder and novelty items such as snakes, airplanes, ground spinners, helicopters, fountains, and party poppers. In general consumer fireworks are: DOT Class C 1.4G UN0336.

The following is a summary of state regulations as of June 1, 2005.

I. STATES THAT ALLOW SOME OR ALL TYPES OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS (formerly known as class C fireworks), **APPROVED BY ENFORCING AUTHORITY, OR AS SPECIFIED IN LAW** (39 states and the District of Columbia):

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arkansas	New Hampshire
California	New Mexico
Colorado	Nevada
Connecticut	North Carolina
District of Columbia	North Dakota
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	Oregon
Hawaii	Pennsylvania
Idaho	South Carolina
Indiana	South Dakota
Kansas	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Utah
Maryland	Virginia
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	West Virginia
Mississippi	Wisconsin
Missouri	Wyoming

(The above states enforce the federal regulations and applicable state restrictions).

II. STATES THAT ALLOW ONLY SPARKLERS AND/OR OTHER NOVELTIES (total of 5 states):

Illinois Ohio
Iowa Vermont
Maine

III. STATES THAT ALLOW ONLY NOVELTY FIREWORKS (1 state):

Arizona

IV. STATES THAT BAN ALL CONSUMER FIREWORKS (including those which are allowed by CPSC regulations) - (total of 5 states):

Delaware New York
Massachusetts Rhode Island
New Jersey

To help consumers use fireworks more safely, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these recommendations:

-- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Sparklers, considered by many the ideal "safe" firework for the young, burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing. Children cannot understand the danger involved and cannot act appropriately in case of emergency.

-- Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.

-- Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses, dry leaves or grass and flammable materials.

-- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that don't go off.

-- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.

-- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.
- Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions.
- Observe local laws.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework while lighting.
- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks.

**PARENTS SHOULD SUPERVISE THE
ORDERING AND USE OF MAIL-ORDER
"MAKE YOUR OWN" FIREWORK KITS
AND COMPONENTS. MAIL-ORDER KITS
AND COMPONENTS DESIGNED TO BUILD
BANNED FIREWORKS ARE ALSO
PROHIBITED.**

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. Consumers can obtain releases and recall information at CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov. Consumers can report product hazards to info@cpsc.gov.

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Fireworks Identifier: 2007 CPSC Hank Glogowski
Illegal fireworks: Found in western PA in April 07



The small ones also come in brown and red and have green fuses or red white and blue striped fuses.

These should not be sold to the public.

FYI: the small ones retail for \$3; the big ones for \$5-\$10.

1.4G UN0336 is the designation for consumer fireworks: 50mg of powder content for fire crackers
150mg of powder content if it goes in the air.

1.3G UN0335 is designation for display fireworks: must have a ATF permit to store and use.
Can't be stored at a home.

average powder content in small ones are 10 times more than a regular firecracker.

average powder content in large one is 100 times that of a regular firecracker.

Nothing a consumer is legally allowed to buy has that amount of powder content.



These are one shot Thunder Kings: A commercial firework used in displays: Although they have consumer labeling they should not be sold to the public.



This is a commercial firework typically seen at displays: not to be sold to the public

Non colorful 1.3 Cracker bomb box below



Cracker bombs: same device in both packages



Above is a colorful Cracker Bomb package still a 1.3 device and no consumer should have it.

CRACKERS BOMBS: 1.3 device