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## General Safety Tips

As a family-owned business, we want nothing more than to help you and your loved ones celebrate safely. With that in mind, we've put together this list of safety tips. These tips are compiled from those offered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the National Council on Firework Safety (NCFS), general industry standards, and our years of experience.

### **1. Children should not handle fireworks.**

Only adults should be allowed to use fireworks. Never allow children to handle, light, or play with fireworks. Even teens, 18 or older, should only use fireworks under close adult supervision.

### **2. Always follow the law.**

Obey all local, state, and federal laws regarding the use and possession of fireworks. If you are unsure of local laws, contact your local AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction). The local AHJ may be the fire chief, township chairperson, etc. It is also important that you understand the intended use and possible hazards associated with each firework, so be sure to read and follow all labels, cautions, directions, and warnings.

### **3. Alcohol and fireworks DO NOT mix.**

Any use of fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs increases the possibility of misuse and/or injury to yourself and others. Fireworks should only be used by responsible, respectful adults who are not under the influence of any mood altering substance.

### **4. Use fireworks outside on a hard surface in a clear and open area.**

Never use fireworks indoors. Always use fireworks outside and make sure there are no flammable materials, buildings, trees or other obstructions nearby (remember to check above as well as to the sides). It is also important that fireworks be placed on a hard, flat, and level surface to insure their stability. Never discharge fireworks inside a barrel, metal or glass container, or home-made tube.

### **5. Be aware of your audience and respectful of those nearby.**

Always make sure the audience and any other living beings are a safe distance away prior to discharging fireworks. This also means making sure wind conditions are right. Have earplugs on hand and make sure young children are wearing ear protection. Let neighbors know you are planning a fireworks display beforehand and be respectful of pets and farm animals.

### **6. Never place any portion of your body directly over a firework when lighting.**

Any pyrotechnician worth his or her salt will tell you that the first rule of fireworks is, "Never put anything you aren't willing to lose over a firework." Never put your head or any part of your body over the top of any fireworks product, never look into a firework to check it, and never hold a lit firework item in your hand.



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### **7. Use care when lighting fireworks.**

When lighting a firework, always keep your body as far away as possible. We recommend using punk or an extended butane lighting device. Also, we strongly suggest that the person lighting the fireworks should wear eye protection. Only light one fireworks item at a time and once the firework is lit, move away as quickly and safely as possible.

### **8. Use care in handling fireworks.**

Never carry fireworks in your pocket or smoke around fireworks. Be careful when handling fireworks to ensure they will not be dropped and remember to place unused fireworks in an area where there is no risk of them being prematurely ignited. If the fireworks must be stored, make sure to place them in a cool dry place to ensure longevity. Always dispose of fireworks properly.

### **9. Do not use dud's.**

A dud is the common term for a malfunctioning firework. Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks.

### **10. Always have a Designated Fireperson.**

Before lighting any firework, always designate one person as the fireperson whose only job will be to stay alert and ready in case of emergency. This person should be in charge of ensuring there is a source of water (ideally a hose and full bucket) and/or fire extinguisher nearby.

### **11. Never use fireworks as weapons.**

Never throw, point, or aim fireworks at any living being or property.

### **12. Purchase fireworks from reliable dealers who are available year-round.**

Buy fireworks only from reliable, licensed, and insured fireworks dealers. By purchasing from these types of dealers, you can be sure that their products meet or exceed the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) safety standards. You can also be sure that they are familiar with and truly care about the products they are selling.

### **13. Do not try to make your own firework or attempt to obtain illegal explosive devices.**

Never attempt to modify, construct, or make your own fireworks (unless you are a licensed and insured pyrotechnician). Homemade devices are extremely dangerous and are considered illegal explosive devices. Overloaded products are also illegal. Items such as M-80's and Cherry Bombs have been illegal since 1966. THEY ARE NOT FIREWORKS; they are extremely dangerous, illegal explosive devices.

### **14. Do not take fireworks on airplanes.**

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) it is a violation of federal law to transport fireworks on airplanes.