



Fireworks Safety Tips

2011



The Clark County Fire Department wants you and your family to have a fun and enjoyable experience with fireworks and your holiday celebration. All fireworks products sold in Clark County meet or exceed the standards established by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for UN0336 1.4G (Class C) consumer fireworks. Fireworks can provide hours of wholesome, family entertainment, but must be used by adults carefully and safely. For more information, contact the Clark County Fire Department Prevention Bureau at (702) 455-7316. The following safety measures are recommended to protect the audience and those lighting the fireworks:

- 1. Children Should Not Handle Fireworks.** Never let children handle, play with or light any fireworks. Fireworks should only be handled by adults.
- 2. Do Not Use Alcohol With Fireworks.** Do not consume alcohol when using fireworks. Fireworks must be used by individuals who act in a responsible manner and who are not impaired in any way.
- 3. Follow the Laws.** Follow your local and state laws regarding the possession and use of fireworks. Only fireworks labeled “safe and sane” are legal for use in Clark County, and only from **June 28 through July 4**, when it’s legal for authorized dealers to sell them. Illegal fireworks in Clark County include firecrackers, roman candles and sky rockets – any item made of highly combustible materials. Any fireworks purchased from vendors located outside Clark County are illegal to possess and store. No fireworks, even those labeled “safe and sane,” are allowed at Red Rock, Mount Charleston, Lake Mead or other federal areas.
- 4. Use Fireworks on a Hard Surface.** Use fireworks on a hard, flat and level surface, not on grass or gravel. If you are using fireworks on grass, lay down a strong piece of plywood as a shooting surface. You must do what you can to ensure the stability of the items as you use them.
- 5. Use in a Clear, Open Area.** Use fireworks in a clear, open area, making sure the area overhead is free from obstructions. Keep the audience a safe distance away from the shooting site. Watch out for dry grass, dry brush or any flammable items that could catch fire. Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- 6. Keep Clear of Fireworks.** Never put your head or any part of your body over the top of any fireworks product at any time. Never look into a tube to check on fireworks. Never hold lighted fireworks in your hand.
- 7. Use Care in Lighting the Fireworks.** Always light fireworks products with an extended butane lighting device, a punk or a flare. Light the fuse only on the tip. Use a flashlight at night so you can see the fuse. Never use a lantern or other flame-producing device near fireworks for illumination. Light the fireworks product and get away quickly.
- 8. Light Only One Firework Item at a Time.**
- 9. Keep Water Close By.** Have a fire extinguisher, water supply, hose or bucket of water nearby. During any fireworks shoot, there should always be someone assigned as the watch, whose job it is to be alert and at the ready with a water source for emergencies.

More

News release also available on the Internet at www.accessclarkcounty.com

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- 9. Do Not Use Malfunctioning or “Dud” Items.** Never attempt to re-light, alter or fix any “dud” firework item.
- 11. Be Cautious of Lighting Any Fireworks During Strong Wind Conditions.** Light fireworks with prevailing wind blowing away from the spectators. If there is a wind shift during your shooting, you should stop or rearrange your shooting site to accommodate the wind shift.
- 12. Use Care in Handling Fireworks.** Use care in handling fireworks and be careful not to drop them. Do not carry fireworks in your pocket. Never smoke when handling fireworks.
- 13. Never Use Fireworks as Weapons.** Never aim, point or throw any fireworks at another person or at any property.
- 14. Store Fireworks Properly.** Store fireworks in a cool, dry place and dispose of fireworks properly.
- 15. Use Fireworks Outdoors Only.** Never use fireworks indoors.
- 16. Purchase Fireworks from Reliable Dealers.** Purchase fireworks from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers. Do not use illegal explosives; do not alter any fireworks; do not attempt to make your own fireworks.
- 17. Wear Safety Glasses.** Safety glasses are recommended for individuals lighting fireworks and those individuals in close proximity to the fireworks.
- 18. Use Caution with Animals.** Remember that loud noises and flashing lights can scare pets that are normally calm. If your pet is afraid of fireworks, talk to your veterinarian about the possibility of sedation to keep your pet calm. Another alternative is to secure your pet in an interior room of your home such as a bathroom.
- 19. Do Not Transport Fireworks on Airplanes.** It is a violation of federal law.