

St. John's Regional Fire Department Consumer Fireworks Safety



Consumer Fireworks Safety

The St. John's Regional Fire Department wants to help you and your family enjoy your consumer fireworks as safely as possible.

Overview

This brochure provides guidelines of safety instructions when using consumer fireworks. Please follow all manufacturer's instructions for each firework you purchase.

Introduction

Consumer fireworks are low-hazard firework articles designed for recreational use by the public. These fireworks include items such as roman candles, sparklers, fountains, wheels, volcanoes, mines and snakes. Although these types of fireworks are considered low-hazard and require no training to use, they are explosive devices and, as such, can cause injury and damage if not used as per the manufacturer's recommended instructions. A person must be a minimum of 18 years old to purchase and set-off fireworks.



Safety Instructions for Purchasers

Follow the laws.

Follow your local and provincial Laws regarding the purchase, possession and use of consumer fireworks.

Only Purchase Authorized Fireworks

From reliable dealers. All vendors within the SJRFD jurisdiction are required to have a permit for the sale of fireworks. All authorized fireworks will have a bilingual label.

Store Fireworks Properly.

Always store fireworks in a cool, dry place and keep them away from children. The maximum amount of fireworks that can be stored in a dwelling is 10 kg gross weight. Any amount more than this must be stored in a separate, locked building.

Transport

Always transport fireworks in your trunk or in the absence of a trunk (e.g. van or pick-up truck), transport fireworks in a non-sparking container with a lid. Do not smoke while loading, transporting or unloading fireworks.

Use Fireworks Outdoors

Never use fireworks indoors, they are designed for outdoor use only.

Choose a Clear, Open Area

Always use fireworks in an open area away from buildings, vehicles, overhead obstruction such as power lines and dry brush/grass. Check the manufacturer's instructions on each package for the required clearances.



Check for Wind

Check wind direction and wind speed; fireworks should be lit with the prevailing wind blowing away from spectators.

Have Water Nearby

Keep a charged hose or bucket of water close in case of a malfunction or fire. Dispose of used fireworks (including debris) in a pail of water.

Read All Instructions

Carefully read all the instructions for each firework item ahead of time.

Use Ground-Based Fireworks on a Hard Surface.

Always light ground-based fireworks (fountains or mines) on a hard, flat and level surface to ensure the stability. Grass is typically not suitable, lay down wood/plywood.

Bury Aerial Fireworks.

For aerial fireworks (roman candles), bury (do not pile) the device to half its length in the ground or in a large pail filled with earth or sand.

Keep Spectators Safe.

Read manufacturer's instructions on each firework to determine the proper safe distance for spectators to be.

Use Proper Eye Protection and Wear Proper Clothing

Protect your eyes with safety glasses or safety goggles. Regular prescription glasses or sunglasses provide little or no protection and may contribute to an injury. Wear non-flammable clothing such as cotton; never wear synthetic fibers (nylon, polyester) when firing.

Keep Children Away From Fireworks.

Never let children handle, play with or fire fireworks under any circumstances. Even sparklers, which are considered by many as "safe" fireworks for children, burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing.



Use Care When Handling Fireworks.

Take care when handling fireworks to prevent dropping them. Do not carry fireworks in your pockets. Never smoke when handling fireworks.

Use Care When Firing Fireworks.

When lighting, never put any part of your body or head over the firework; never hand hold them or insert them into other means of containment such as pipes; and never point or throw them at people. During the show, store the unused fireworks away from the firing area and keep them covered to prevent stray sparks from prematurely setting them off.

Duds or Misfires.

Never attempt to re-light fireworks that have misfired (duds). Wait 30 minutes and then place them in a bucket of water.

Clean-up after the show.

Wait 30 minutes after the display has finished. Check the firing area for duds, clean up all debris, dispose in a pail of water and check the area again the next morning.

For more information on consumer fireworks, please contact:

Fire Prevention Division

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SJRFD.ca