



FIREWORKS



FACT SHEET

Changes to Minnesota law in recent years have made some types of consumer fireworks legal. However, many types of fireworks continue to be **illegal** to sell, possess, or use. The Worthington Police Department provides this Fireworks Fact Sheet as a quick reference for legal and illegal fireworks.

Legal Fireworks

- **Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item.**

Other sparkling items which are non-explosive and non-aerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 200 grams or less for multiple tubes and include:

- **Cylindrical Fountain:** Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks or smoke and sometimes a whistling effect is produced.
- **Cone Fountain:** The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than 1 cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 200 grams
- **Illuminating Torch Wheel:** Pyrotechnic device intended to be attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect.
- **Ground Spinner:** Small device venting out an orifice usually on the side of the tube. Similar in operation to a wheel but intended to be placed flat on the ground and ignited. The rapidly spinning device produces a shower of sparks and color.
- **Flitter Sparkler:** Narrow paper tube attached to a stick or wire that produces color and sparks upon ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function.
- **Flash/Strobe:** Emit a bright light Novelty items such as snakes and glow worms, smoke devices, or trick noisemakers which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops, each consisting of not more than twenty-five hundredths grains of explosive mixture.

Illegal Fireworks

- Any fireworks that are explosive
- Any fireworks that are aerial
- Firecrackers (any size)
- Ladyfingers
- Sky rockets
- Bottle rockets
- Missile type rockets
- Helicopters, aerial spinners, UFOs
- Roman Candles
- Mines or shells (heavy cardboard or paper tube(s) attached to a base—upon ignition stars, balls or reports are propelled into the air)
- Chasers
- Parachutes
- !.3G Display (special or class B) Fireworks
- Aerial shells
- Theatrical pyrotechnics (see Minn. Stat. 624.20 to 624.25)

Basically, any fireworks listed above are still not legal for public sale, possession or use, except with a permit and by a certified operator according to Minnesota Statute 624.20. (i.e. these fireworks are still not legal unless a permit has been issued by the local jurisdiction and they are used by a state certified operator).

**If questions contact:
Worthington Police Department
(507) 372-2136**

Call 911 to report the use, possession, or sale of illegal fireworks.



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS



Worthington firefighters and police officers want your family to be safe this summer! Fireworks are associated with many injuries nationally each year. The following safety guidelines are offered to reduce fireworks injuries, fires and nuisance complaints:

- Read, understand and follow the instructions on each device prior to using.
- Use fireworks with close adult supervision.
- Choose a safe place to use fireworks that is far from anything that could be damaged from the normal or abnormal operation of any device. Fireworks should only be ignited outdoors and away from animals, buildings, storage tanks, brush or combustible materials.
- Anyone acting in an irresponsible manner or who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs should not handle or discharge fireworks.
- Keep fireworks away from small children and store them in a cool dry location away from sources of ignition (heat and flames). Fireworks should not be allowed to become wet and should not be used when dried after becoming wet.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or on your person.
- Lit cigarettes, cigars, pipes or open flames should be kept away from fireworks that are for sale or when stored.
- Never ignite fireworks inside another container, such as inside a bottle or can.
- Eye protection is recommended for those using fireworks. Never throw fireworks or aim them at another person, animal or building.
- Only light one firework device at a time, then move away from the device quickly. Keep clear of any device that has been ignited, but has yet to go off.
- If a firework device has been ignited but fails to go off, stay clear of the device for an extended period of time to prevent injury due to delayed activation. Soak the device in water before handling it.
- Never place any part of your body, especially your head, over the firework device when lighting. Approach the item from the side and light while keeping your body away from the item.
- Never relight malfunctioning fireworks. Report any defects back to the seller or the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Never experiment with fireworks, make your own fireworks, or alter fireworks in any manner (a strong federal prohibition exists for such activity).

**Contact the Worthington Police Department for questions
by calling (507) 372-2136**

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