

Safety Information for Using Permissible Consumer Fireworks



Celebrating Safely Involves the Three B's

Please, **“Be Prepared,” “Be Safe,”** and **“Be Responsible”** when using New Hampshire Permissible Fireworks and celebrate safely in all of your events or celebrations.

Be Prepared before lighting fireworks.

- Only purchase fireworks allowed by NH law, available at licensed retail stores.
- Purchase only the quantity that you will use. Otherwise, storing explosives at home increases the risk of unintentional detonation.
- Only use and display fireworks on property you own, or with written permission from the landowner.
- Read and follow all safety information and warning labels.
- Request more safety information from the licensed retailer if you are not familiar with a device.
- Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby in case of an unexpected fire.
- Use a level surface, away from things that can burn or easily ignite.
- Contact your local fire department to check the fire weather conditions in your area. Dry plants, leaves and grass can easily catch fire from fireworks sparks.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately in the event of a fire or medical emergency. Don't wait!

Be Safe when lighting fireworks.

- Adults 21 years of age or older are the only ones allowed to buy or use fireworks according to state law.
- Wear eye/ear protection, gloves, and clothing that cannot easily ignite.
- Read and follow the safety directions on each firework device or package.
- Light only one at a time and move away quickly.
- Keep all spectators at a safe distance. Some consumer fireworks have specific safety distances.
- Light and display fireworks only outside, away from anything that can burn or easily catch fire.
- Be considerate of your neighbors, family pets and the environment. You could be held liable for damages to another's property.

Be Responsible when finished.

- Clean up all debris when done.
- Devices that do not fire once they are lit are very dangerous; if this happens, stay away for 15 minutes. Then fill it with water or place it in a bucket of water.
- Make sure that unused fireworks, matches and lighters are secured and out of the reach of children.



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New Hampshire State Law:

Permissible fireworks are consumer firework devices that are allowed in New Hampshire.

They can be purchased in any licensed retail store across the state.

Requirements:

- Consumers must be at least 21 years old to buy, have, or use permissible fireworks.
- Consumer fireworks may only be used on private property that you own, or with written permission from the land owner, or in the owner's presence.
- Must follow ALL locally adopted local ordinances.
- Please contact the local fire department for the most up to date *Permissible Fireworks New Hampshire Community Restrictions* list. NH RSA 160:C:11 still applies in all jurisdictions.
- One can be held liable in any civil action for damages to another's property. In other words, you can be sued for using fireworks on property that isn't yours.

National Injury Statistics:

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), hospital emergency departments treat over 11,000* injuries related to fireworks each year.

Illegally Manufactured Explosive Devices

Illegal explosive devices are often confused with fireworks because they can look like large firecrackers. They are commonly known as M-80's, M-100's, M-250's, M-500's, Cherry Bombs, QuarterSticks, and Blockbusters. They usually don't have labels, warnings, or instructions. These types of devices are banned as part of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) and never should be referred to as fireworks.

*Refers to five year average.

Source: US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) (2021) Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities during 2018. [Report] Retrieved from <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2021-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf>

Warning

Illegal explosives are not fireworks. They can be extremely sensitive, have not been tested for safety, and can easily malfunction. They have been known to cause severe injury or death. If you find one of these, **DO NOT** touch them.

Please **IMMEDIATELY** notify your local police or fire department, or the New Hampshire Department of Safety at 603.223.4381

Please remember, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional display. To learn more about a community sponsored fireworks display near you, contact your local fire department for available dates and times.

Types of Permissible Fireworks:

- Cylindrical Fountains
- Cone Fountains
- Ground Spinners
- Helicopters, Aerial Spinners
- Roman Candles
- Mines / Cakes / Shells
- Reloadable Mortars
- Parachutes
- Firecrackers
- Novelties (Party Poppers, Snaps, and Snakes)
- Smoke devices containing less than 100g of pyrotechnic composition
- Bottle/Sky Rockets/Missiles
- Sparklers, Morning Glories

