



To order and purchase fireworks by mail is illegal in Connecticut

Fireworks Safety

Although most fireworks can be relatively safe with proper and careful use, some fireworks, such as illegal fireworks, present substantial risk and can result in deaths, amputations, severe burns and injuries resulting in blindness. Before using fireworks, make sure that they are permitted in your state or local area. All fireworks (with the exception of sparklers) are illegal in Connecticut and may not be sold, purchased or used with the exception of regulated displays by state licensed professionals. Fireworks are defined as law as "any combustible or explosive combination prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation. Novelties, and trick noise makers such as *smoke bombs, party poppers, snappers and the snake* are banned by Connecticut General Statute 29-357.

Fireworks that are banned under federal law:

- M-80's, cherry bombs & any firecracker containing more 50 milligrams of powder
- Large re-loadable shells
- Aerial bombs
- Mail order kits for building fireworks

Statistics:

Firework injuries accounted for 10 deaths and an estimated 11,000 injuries in 2000.

The number of estimated injuries in the year 2000 was 29% higher than in 1999.

An estimated 10% of all Emergency Department visits require hospitalizations.

Illegal fireworks account for 13% of all firework related injuries.



The safest way to enjoy fireworks is at professionally presented, approved and licensed events

Information provided by: National Council for Fireworks Safety, Center for Disease Control & U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Safety Tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions (sparklers are the only allowed fireworks in the state of CT).
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from houses, dry leaves or other flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Always buy fireworks from a reputable supplier.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never throw or point a lit or unlit firework at people.



50% of people injured are 14 and younger with boys ages 5-14 having the highest numbers

Most injuries occur in the home followed by recreational setting and the streets and roadways:

Areas injured:

Eye 30%
Hands 29%
Head & Face 17%

More than 1/2 of all fireworks injuries are burns

Caused by:

Class "C"
Firecrackers 24%
Rockets 20%
Sparklers 18%

Class "B"

Most severe injuries are caused by this class (cherry bombs & M-80's)

How & Why:

Sparklers—clothing catches on fire
Rockets—veer off into people
Firecrackers—explode (either in hands or when someone leans closer to check on them).

Being too close
Unsupervised
Lack of physical coordination
Curiosity
Experimentation (homemade)

