

Firework Safety

Despite annual safety warnings, firework celebrations still end in painful injuries for too many people, including very young children.

Yet fireworks can be great fun for families, not just around November 5 (Bonfire Night/Guy Fawkes Night), but also Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year.

Injury figures support the advice that the safest place to enjoy fireworks is at a large public display - far fewer people are injured here than at smaller family or private parties.

But if you'll be having a firework party at home, you can make the occasion fun and safe for everyone by making sure you have enough unhindered room and using fireworks suitable for your environment: if you use large display sized fireworks in a confined area, you could be asking for trouble! Follow the Firework Code, as well as some sparkler and bonfire safety tips below.

Firework Code

Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used (and remember, alcohol and fireworks don't mix!). Children and young people should be supervised, and watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance. Follow these top 10 tips for a safer fireworks party:

- 1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable and check the time you can legally set off fireworks.**
- 2. Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time.**
- 3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.**
- 4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.**
- 5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.**
- 6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit.**
- 7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.**
- 8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.**
- 9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire**
- 10. Make sure that the fire is out, and surroundings are made safe before leaving.**

Did you know?

- It is an offence to let fireworks off during night hours (11pm to 7am), except:**
 - Bonfire Night (midnight).**
 - Diwali, New Year's Eve, and Chinese New Year (1am)**
- It is against the law to carry fireworks in public if you're under 18**
- Fireworks must not be sold to anyone who is under 18**
- It is an offence under the Explosives Act 1875 to tamper with or modify fireworks**

Advice taken from ROSPA: <https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/Advice/Fireworks-Safety> with some additions.