Consumer Fireworks Safety

Consumer Fireworks are not toys. Consumer Fireworks are, in fact, powerful pyrotechnic articles and, for this reason, both their sale and purchase are regulated. The Explosives Safety and Security Branch of Natural Resources Canada routinely tests fireworks and approves those that are safe to transport, store, handle, and use.

To ensure a fun but safe family fireworks display, it is important that the simple safety procedures outlined below are followed.

**PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD** who use fireworks must be supervised by an adult.

**NEVER** try to light a firework or hold a lit firework in your hand unless the manufacturer’s instructions indicate that they are designed to be hand-held.

**CHOOSE** a wide, clear site away from all obstacles. Refer to the safety instructions on the fireworks label for minimum distances from spectators.

**LIGHT CAREFULLY**: Always light the fuse at its tip.

**DO NOT FIRE IN WINDY CONDITIONS**.

**KEEP WATER NEARBY**: Dispose of used fireworks (including debris) in a pail of water.

**READ** all instructions on the fireworks. **PLAN** the order of firing before you begin.

**WAIT** at least 30 minutes before approaching a firework that did not go off. **NEVER** try to **RELIGHT** a firework that did not go off. **NEVER** try to fix a firework that is defective.

**USE A GOOD FIRING BASE** such as a pail filled with earth or sand.

**KEEP** fireworks in a cool, dry, ventilated place, out of the reach of children.

**BURY** fireworks that do not have a base **HALFWAY** in a container of earth or sand (such as a pail, box or wheelbarrow) unless the label on the firework indicates otherwise. Set them at a 10-degree angle, pointing away from people.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that safety glasses be worn.

Visit [nrcan.gc.ca/explosives](http://nrcan.gc.ca/explosives) for more information.