



Every year, about 13,000 people are treated for injuries in hospital emergency departments due to the mishandling of live, misfired and waste consumer fireworks ([CPSC Fireworks Information Center](#)). In addition, fires resulting from fireworks cause over \$20 million in direct property damage ([NFPA](#)). The fire service must take a proactive stand to educate the public about the safe transportation, storage, use and proper disposal of these explosive devices.

Consumer fireworks are defined as any small firework device designed to produce visible effects by combustion and which must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

16 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Ch. II (1–1–02 Edition): PART 1507—FIREWORKS DEVICES

Guidance on managing fireworks

Generally, the importation, distribution and storage of fireworks defined as consumer fireworks are exempted from the provisions of the federal explosives laws. However, because they contain pyrotechnic compositions classed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as explosive materials, the manufacture of consumer fireworks requires a manufacturer's license. In addition, pyrotechnic compositions used in the manufacture of consumer fireworks must be stored in accordance with regulations in 27 CFR Subpart K - Storage.

In July 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a memorandum entitled [Safe Handling, Storage and Treatment of Waste Fireworks](#) PDF 1.9 MB. This memorandum provides information regarding the safe and legal handling, storage and treatment of waste fireworks, and responds to recommendations from the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

Messages to share with the public

- The best way to stay safe from fireworks is to not use them. Instead, attend a public fireworks display put on by professionals.
- Fireworks are dangerous to people and pets. Using them puts your property at risk.
- Hand-held sparklers burn at 1,200 F. Remember, wood ignites at 356 F and burns at 575 F.

Learn more on the web

Information for the fire service

- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration: Pyrotechnics Industry](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration: Fireworks Safety](#)
- [Safe Handling, Storage and Treatment of Waste Fireworks](#)

Information for the public

- [Summertime Burn Safety](#) handout PDF 190 KB [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Summer Safety Tips](#) handout 1.9 MB
- [Fireworks Safety Tip Sheet](#) PDF 693 KB