

FIREWORKS LEGISLATION

It is an offence :

- To set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (or after midnight on bonfire night).
- To modify, tamper with or misuse fireworks.
- To throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place.
- To sell fireworks to anyone under 18.
- For anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in a public place.
- To cause unnecessary suffering to any domestic or captive animals.

FOR A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT

FREEPHONE 0800 0731 999

or visit www.strathclydefire.org

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!

Bonfires and fireworks produce large volumes of carbon emissions and other harmful gases.

USEFUL LINKS

www.direct.gov.uk/fireworks

www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS SAFETY



DID YOU KNOW?

IT IS AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON TO LIGHT A FIRE IN A PUBLIC PLACE THAT ALARMS, ANNOYS OR ENDANGERS PEOPLE OR PROPERTY!

STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE ATTEND OVER 300 INCIDENTS ON THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER EACH YEAR, COSTING OVER £700,000.



ORGANISED DISPLAYS

- If organising a public display, contact the fire & rescue service for safety advice.
- Running a display takes a lot of work, so try to share the load by planning ahead.
- Set up a committee whose members can each take responsibility for a particular task, including one person to be in charge of all safety arrangements.
- Arrange for fire extinguishers, buckets of water, buckets of sand and metal litter bins to be available on the night.
- Check that plenty of electric torches will be available on the night, with full batteries.
- Publicise the fact that spectators are not allowed to bring their own fireworks, including sparklers.
- Draw up a detailed checklist of tasks and indicate who is to be responsible for each one.
- Check whether you are adequately insured to cover any firework-related injuries to those present at the display.
- Think about fire safety and also the air pollution bonfires can create and the environmental damage they cause.

BONFIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Attend a safely organised public bonfire display.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby, in case of emergencies.
- Don't leave the bonfire unattended.
- Keep children and pets away from the bonfire.
- Don't throw any fireworks into the fire.
- Once the bonfire has died down, spray the embers with water to stop it re-igniting.
- People suffering from respiratory problems must not be exposed to smoke and fumes.

BUILDING A BONFIRE

- Bonfires should be built on level ground downwind of any spectator area.
- It should be sited at least 30m from any property, roads or vehicles and at least 25m from trees, fences, hedges, telecommunications or power lines.
- Don't build the bonfire too big and make sure the stack is stable and won't collapse outwards or to one side.
- Use only dry material - damp material will cause more smoke, which could annoy your neighbours or be harmful to people with breathing difficulties.
- Don't burn pressurised containers or vessels such as aerosols, tyres or canisters as some containers may explode causing injury.
- Burning anything containing foam, paint or plastics many produce toxic fumes.
- Remove any rubbish from the area around the bonfire so no one is tempted to throw something on to the fire.
- Check the bonfire before lighting it - piles of garden waste are sometimes used as a refuge by hibernating wildlife.
- Never use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to get the fire going - it may get out of control quickly.

FIREWORKS

Watching fireworks can be great fun for children. However, figures show that, more often than not, it's children rather than adults who are hurt by fireworks. Over the past five years over 350 pre-school children, some as young as one year old, were treated in hospital for firework injuries. **Be safe and always follow the fireworks code.**

For further information about fireworks and the Fireworks Code visit

www.strathclydefire.org/your-safety/out-and-about/fireworks.aspx



WARNING: FIRE AND ALCOHOL DON'T MIX

Do not go near bonfires or fireworks whilst under the influence of alcohol. Some individuals may be tempted to ignore local bye-laws and drink alcohol in public places. This could lead to Police issuing a £60 fixed penalty ticket or a report being sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

BONFIRES AND THE LAW

It is an offence under Section 56 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for any person to lay or light a fire in a public place so as to endanger any other person or give him reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance or so as to endanger any property.

If you know anything about fires that have been started deliberately in your area, you can call the **Crimestoppers Scotland hotline on 0800 555 111**. All calls are completely anonymous and do not require names or personal details and you will not be asked to give evidence in court.

Fly tipping during the Bonfire and Fireworks season is a major cause of fire and it is also a criminal offence. If you see fly tipping or know of an area where there is a build up of refuse or combustible material, contact your local authority cleaning or environmental department to arrange uplift. You can also contact the **Dumb Dumpers Stop line on 0845 2 30 40 90** or visit

www.keepsotlandtidy.org/dumbdumpers.asp

Our advice is to attend a safely organised bonfire display. However if you must have a bonfire at home, make sure it is well away from buildings, trees, hedges, fences and sheds and does not cause a nuisance to neighbours.

