

## Firework Safety

Fireworks are a source of pleasure and entertainment, and are perfectly safe if treated with the respect that they deserve.

Staff of Hampshire's Trading Standards Service enforce the law regulating the storage and sale of fireworks, and are always happy to offer advice on ways to ensure that firework displays are safe and enjoyable.

If you are thinking of having your own firework party, no matter how small, their advice is to keep it SIMPLE:

<b>Space</b>	<p>Is your garden or proposed site large enough?</p> <p>Some fireworks require minimum spectator safety distances of 25 metres (82 feet). Many domestic gardens are just not that large.</p> <p>Also, if you are going to have a bonfire, ensure it is a safe distance from houses, sheds, fences, trees etc.</p>
<b>Instructions</b>	<p>Always read the instructions. Remember that different types of fireworks require different handling. Only buy fireworks that comply with the British Standard – BS7114. This number will be marked on the firework casing.</p> <p>If the instructions require specific “launching surfaces” (e.g. soft soil to bury the firework base, or a flat surface to stand on) ensure you have suitable surfaces prepared beforehand.</p>
<b>Misfires</b>	<p>Never return to a firework that has failed to ignite.</p> <p>At the end of the display put it in a bucket of water and leave it to soak.</p> <p>A bucket of water is also handy for putting spent sparklers into.</p> <p>Do not throw failed fireworks onto a bonfire !</p>
<b>Protection</b>	<p>Protect fireworks by keeping them in a closed box and taking them out immediately before use.</p> <p>Protect children by keeping them away from fireworks, and making them wear a glove to hold sparklers. (Sparklers cause the most injuries to young children of any fireworks).</p> <p>Protect pets by keeping them indoors.</p>

<b>Lighting</b>	<p>Have one adult responsible for lighting all the fireworks. Only light one at a time, as some have fuse times as short as just 3 seconds – how far away can you get in just 3 seconds ?</p> <p>Always light at arm's length using a slow burning fuse as supplied in all boxed selections. Use a torch to illuminate the launch site and to read the instructions.</p>
<b>Extinguish</b>	<p>At the end of the party ensure that all firework remains and any bonfire embers are extinguished.</p> <p>Again, do not throw misfires into the remains of the bonfire.</p>

### Firework Resources on the web:

- Fireworks Retailers and the Law - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/tradingstandards/tradingstandards-businessadvice/tradingstandards-fireworks.htm>  
**(Factsheet - Regulatory Services - Hampshire County Council)**
- Firework Safety Web Site - <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/consumer-issues/product-safety/firework-regulations/fireworks-resources>  
**(BIS - Department for Business Innovation and Skills)**
- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service - <http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/>
- Fight for Sight - <http://www.fightforsight.org.uk/> **(Charity)**

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**This advice is designed to provide basic guidance to Consumers. It is not a complete or authoritative statement of the law. We will be pleased to offer this information in larger print or translated into any language on request.**

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