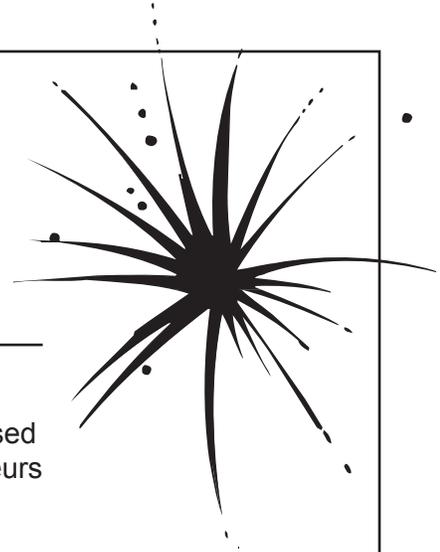


Be Smart... Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals



Enjoy the many supervised professional displays!

All across the state there are many professional fireworks displays supervised by local fire departments. Unfortunately, too many children and adult amateurs continue to set off fireworks that start fires, and cause serious injuries to themselves and others.

Fireworks can be deadly!

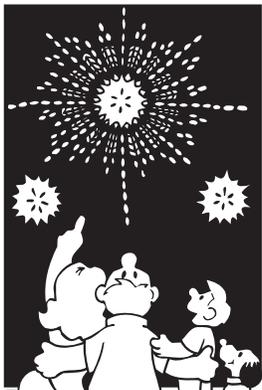
A 45-year old Gloucester woman died in a December 22, 2003 house fire when someone threw fireworks and ignited the Christmas tree in the living room. Three other people were injured. On May 20, 1997, a 26-year old man from Watertown was killed while he was lighting fireworks in a hallway. A 27-year old Framingham man was killed July 4, 1993, when his backyard fireworks exploded in his face. On July 4, 1992, fireworks fatally injured a 30-year old man on a Fairhaven beach.

All fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts.

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane" such as sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs, to name a few. Sparklers burn at 1800°F.

It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot.

Do not purchase fireworks through mail-order or on-line catalogues.



The distribution of mail-order catalogues that clearly state that fireworks are illegal in some jurisdictions cannot be prohibited. State and local police regularly confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks into Massachusetts. Many unhappy consumers have lost both their money and the fireworks trying to circumvent the law.

Set a good example for your children.

Children imitate what they see adults do.

If you use fireworks children will imitate you, not realizing how very dangerous they are. Over sixty-five percent of the fireworks-related burn injuries reported by hospitals to the Office of the State Fire Marshal were children under age 18.

(over)



FireFACTORS

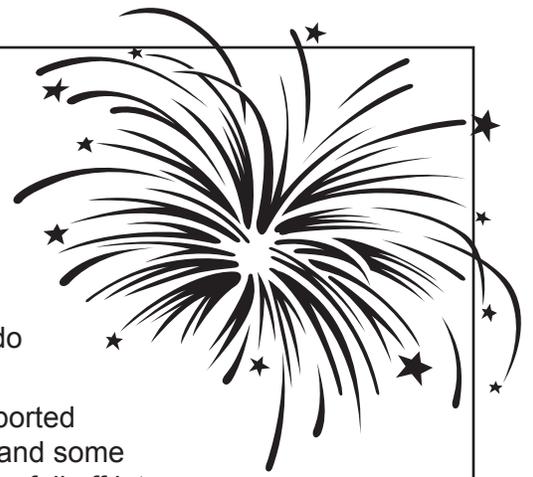
Office of the State Fire Marshal • Department of Fire Services

P.O. Box 1025 State Road Stow, MA 01775 (978) 567-3300 www.mass.gov/dfs

MFIRS facts!

In the past decade (2002-2011) there have been 804 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). They caused one civilian death, 18 civilian injuries, four fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.5 million. This is quite a substantial amount since most fireworks related fires are outside brush fires and do not usually have high loss figures.

- On July 3, 2011, at 5:41 p.m., the Spencer Fire Department reported a building fire in a two-family home that started when a tenant and some children were playing with sparklers. Part of one of the sparklers fell off into some trash near the rear stairs. Soon the stairs were engulfed and the fire began making headway into the first floor bathroom. No one was injured in this fire. Detectors were present but failed to operate because the batteries were dead. Damages from this fire were estimated to be \$5,000.
- On July 3, 2011, at 9:34 p.m., the Marshfield Fire Department responded to two simultaneous fireworks incidents with several injuries. At the first incident, a 13-year old boy, 17-year old girl and 47-year old woman were all burned when a consumer grade fireworks accidentally fired off into the crowd. At the second, a 9-year old boy, 13-year old boy and 14-year old girl were all burned by the illegal fireworks.
- On July 3, 2011, at 9:37 p.m., the Saugus Fire Department was dispatched to a fireworks explosion. A 21-year old Saugus man received severe injuries to his face when he looked directly into a cake type firework to see why it stopped firing and it blew up in his face.
- On July 3, 2011, at 7:16 p.m., the Wareham Fire Department was dispatched to motor vehicle fire. Fireworks that were being transported in a pickup truck exploded en route igniting the truck. One person was burned and damages were estimated at \$4,000.
- On July 5, 2011, at 1:13 a.m., the Dennis Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in a single-family home. Fireworks ignited the roof on fire. No one was injured and damages were estimated at \$65,000.
- On July 6, 2011, at 10:53 p.m., the Littleton Fire Department was dispatched to a motor vehicle arson. A fire destroyed two school buses and damaged a third. Investigators believe that fireworks were involved in starting the fire. Damages were estimated at over \$200,000.



M-BIRS facts!

In the past decade (2002-2011), 45 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5% or more of the body. Two-thirds, or sixty-seven percent (67%) of the victims were children under the age of 18. Thirty-one percent (31%) were between the ages of 10 and 14. During the last 10 years the oldest reported person injured by fireworks was a 52-year old man and the youngest was a six-month old boy.

- On July 3, 2011, a 15-year old Connecticut boy received burns to 5% of his body surface area and shrapnel wounds when fireworks exploded in the PVC pipe being used as a mortar tube.
- On July 3, 2011, a 9-year old Holbrook girl received burns to 8% of her body surface area when an exploding firecracker ignited her clothing.

