

## Choosing Safe Fireworks:

It is extremely important to know the difference between a legal consumer firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100x and blockbusters are not fireworks, they are explosives-federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury or even death. Stay away from anything that is not clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer's name and instruction for proper use.

**Here are some more tips to help ensure a safe Fourth of July.** Fireworks are not toys. Fireworks complying with strict regulations enacted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1976 function primarily by burning to produce motion and visible or audible effects. They are burning at approximately the same temperature as a household match and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if used improperly.

**NEVER give fireworks to young children.** Close, adult supervision of all fireworks activities is mandatory. Even sparklers can be unsafe if fused improperly. Select and use only legal devices. If you choose to celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks, check with your local police department to determine what fireworks can be legally discharged in your area.

**Stay away from illegal explosives.** Illegal explosive devices continue to cause serious injuries around the Fourth of July holiday. These devices are commonly known as M-80s, M-100x, blockbusters or quartermasters. Federally banned since 1966, these items will not contain the manufacturer's name and are usually totally unraveled. Do not purchase or use unlabeled fireworks. If you are aware of anyone selling such devices, contact your local police department.

**Homemade fireworks are deadly.** Never attempt to make your own devices and do not purchase or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks. Mixing and loading chemical powders is very dangerous and can kill or seriously injure you. Leave the making of fireworks to the experts.

**Carefully inspect each firework you purchase.** Be sure it isn't leaking powder; make sure the fuse is securely attached; if the item has a base, make certain it's secure; for rocket-type fireworks, make sure the stick is rigid and well-attached. Because water can affect the sensitive chemicals packed inside a firework, avoid items that appear to have been wet and then dried. Also avoid fireworks that show signs of mishandling or appear to be old.

**Remember to look for the name of the item, the manufacturer's name and instructions on each item.** These things are required by law. If these items do not appear, the firework may have been made illegally and could be very dangerous.