



Nice Matters!

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**DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES**



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Dear Residents and Visitors,

On behalf of the men and women of the Emerald Isle Police Department, we want to wish you a Happy and Safe Fourth of July. As you plan and prepare to celebrate the birth of American independence, I would like to offer a few facts and tips regarding fireworks.

### **What fireworks are legal in North Carolina?**

The types of consumer fireworks permissible for use in North Carolina are generally classified as sparklers, fountains, and novelty fireworks. Items that do not explode or are not intended to spin or to leave the ground and fly through the air are permitted for use in North Carolina.

### **What fireworks are not legal in North Carolina?**

Fireworks items such as firecrackers, ground spinners, bottle rockets, Roman candles, and aerial fireworks. A simple rule of thumb; anything that explodes or is projected into the air is illegal.

### **Who is responsible when shooting fireworks?**

If you decide to shoot fireworks you are liable for any injury, death, or destruction of property.

### **Who can purchase fireworks?**

North Carolina law requires the purchaser of any consumer fireworks to be at least 16 years old. In the instance of a public exhibition of fireworks, such as a festival, carnival, etc., a permit from the City or County Fire Marshal's Office is required. The fireworks must be presented by licensed, trained, competent operators, and a representative from the Fire Marshal's Office will inspect the pyrotechnics and viewing area to ensure safety.

### **What are the consequences for using fireworks that are not legal in North Carolina?**

Violation of fireworks laws is classified as a misdemeanor, which may be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and/or imprisonment for up to six months, depending upon the level of violation. The fireworks laws cover transport, display, storage, sale, possession, and use of fireworks.

### **Are sparklers safe for young children?**

Often parents offer small children sparklers, thinking they are a safe alternative. Sparklers reach over 1200 + degrees Fahrenheit, which can cause third degree burns. Keep in mind that glass melts at 900 degrees.

### **What safety precautions should I take when using sparklers?**

- Never hold a child in your arms while using a sparkler.
- Never hold or light more than one sparkler at a time.
- Sparkler wire stays hot long after flames have gone out. Be sure to place used sparklers in a bucket of water.
- Stand at least 6 feet from another person while using sparklers.

- Never wave sparklers or run while holding them.

**What safety precautions should I take when using fireworks?**

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks. NFPA reports injuries to children ages 10-14 are twice as high.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move back a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water, water hose, and/or fire extinguisher close in case of fire.
- Light one firework at a time and then move away.
- After fireworks fully complete their functioning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding to prevent trash fire.

I hope you have found the facts and tips helpful as you prepare and plan your festivities. May this Fourth of July be memorable and safe for you and your family.

All the best,

Chief Michael A. Panzarella