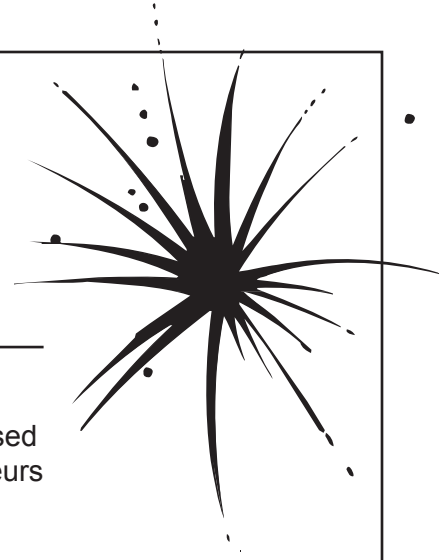


Be Smart... Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals



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 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

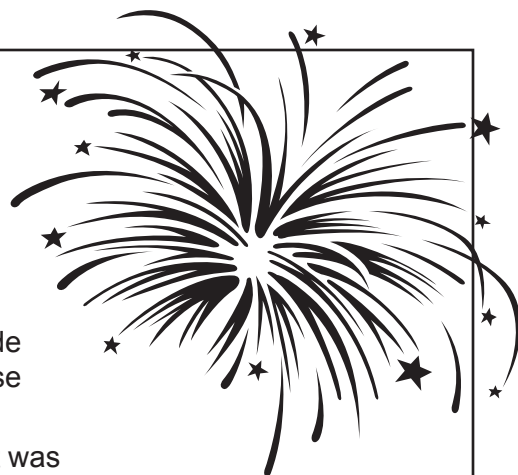
Office of the State Fire Marshal • Department of Fire Services

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

MFIRS facts!

In the past decade (2000-2009) there have been 715 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). These 715 fires and explosions caused one death, 10 civilian injuries, eight fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$1.5 million. This is quite a substantial amount since most fireworks related fires are outside brush fires and do not usually have high loss figures. A majority of these fires occurred during the week of the Fourth of July holiday.

- On July 3, 2009, at 10:24 p.m., the Marshfield Fire Department was dispatched to a fire at the beach. A group of people was shooting off fireworks and ignited an outside fire.
- On July 4, 2009, at 9:32 p.m., the Hull Fire Department was dispatched to a grass fire in an open field. The fire was ignited by someone lighting off fireworks.
- On July 5, 2009, at 12:30 a.m., the Hudson Fire Department was dispatched to an outside fire near the side of the road. The fire was ignited by someone lighting off fireworks. No one was injured and damages were estimated at \$30.
- On July 6, 2009, at 9:33 p.m., the Scituate Fire Department was dispatched to an outside fire at the high school. Several people were playing with fireworks in the area.
- On June 8, 2009, at 11:52 a.m., the Amesbury Fire Department was called to a structure fire in a single-family home started by fireworks. The fireworks ignited an exterior stairway. Smoke detectors were present and alerted the occupants in the home. Damages from this fire were estimated to be \$22,000.
- On October 31, 2009, at 2:26 p.m., the Hubbardston Fire Department was called to a fire in a 20' x 80' storage shed. A 13-year old boy using fireworks nearby ignited the shed on fire. One firefighter was injured fighting this fire. Damages from this fire were estimated to be \$10,000.



M-BIRS facts!

- In the past decade (2000-2009), 48 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5% or more of the body. Sixty-seven percent (67%), of the victims were children under the age of 18. Twenty-nine percent were children under 14.
- On July 3, 2009, a 6-month old Rockland boy received burns to his head when embers from exploding fireworks landed on his forehead.
- On July 4, 2009, a 6-year old boy he received burns to 15% of his body surface area when the sparkler he was holding ignited his clothes.
- On September 6, 2009, a 30-year old man received burns to his head and face from fireworks. He was looking into the barrel of a large piece of fireworks when it exploded in his face.

