

SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



FIREWORK DISPLAYS

As a person in charge of a fireworks display, it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure the health and safety of anyone in the vicinity. Let your display be memorable for the fireworks, not for injuries!

FIREWORKS CAN POSE SERIOUS RISKS

Fireworks cause hundreds of injuries every year. In 2001, 1362 people were treated for injuries caused by fireworks in Accident & Emergency Departments in the UK. This was 40% up on the previous year's figure.

Properly organised displays are probably the safest way to enjoy fireworks, although there were still 231 injuries at public parties and displays in 2001. Holding a well-planned and properly run display involves more than just setting up fireworks and letting them off carefully.

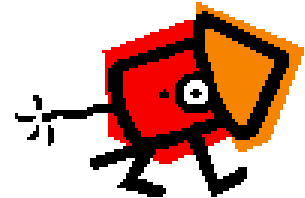
We would also like to remind you that the noise created by fireworks may give cause for concern to residents in the area and may, if fireworks are used on a regular basis, contravene the noise nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, the Council will not normally carry out any enforcement with regard to noise from fireworks during the period surrounding the Diwali Festival and Guy Fawkes' Night. Fireworks should only be used for occasional celebrations, and the following guidelines should be observed:

- Firework displays should be sited as far as possible from neighbouring premises.
- Neighbours should be advised in advance so that pets may be kept indoors.
- Firework displays should be as short as possible.
- No fireworks should be lit after 11.00 p.m.

It is your duty, under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974, to ensure the health and safety of everyone attending any fireworks displays you organise. **Let your display be memorable for the fireworks not for injuries!**

See overleaf for firework display safety tips →

TOP TIPS FOR SAFETY AT FIREWORK DISPLAYS



1. Planning ahead

- Set up an event committee and allocate responsibilities to each committee member. Appoint stewards/ marshals for the actual event. Be clear on who will be doing which tasks and when they will be doing them. You **MUST** ensure everyone is clear with what to do in emergency situations.
- If you are not employing a professional firework display operator, try to involve at least one person who has previous experience of organising firework displays. **Remember** – fireworks that are not marked with '**Complies with BS 7114 Part 2 1988**' must only be used by professional display organisers.
- Choose a suitable site for the event – is it big enough for the display, a bonfire - if you are having one, and the numbers of guests you are expecting? Is there sufficient space for fireworks to land well away from spectators, whatever the direction of the prevailing wind happens to be on the night? Make sure the site is well away from any overhead power lines.
- Plan and mark out areas for spectators and fireworks (well away from people and with a safety zone for fireworks to fall). Keep pedestrian and vehicle routes separate, make sure they are well lit, and ensure emergency vehicles can get easy access to the site.
- Ensure all fireworks are stored safely and securely – the supplier or your local authority should be able to advise you on this matter.
- It is important that you keep the local authorities informed about your event. This should include your local branch of the West Yorkshire Fire Service and Leeds City Council Environmental Health Services (contact details below). If your site is near an airport you will need to ask them for specific advice regarding the site location.

2. On the day ...

- Make sure spectators keep to their designated area and do not enter the fireworks zones.
- **DO NOT** allow spectators to bring their own fireworks onto the site. There should be clear signs placed around the site to remind the public not to set off their own fireworks.
- If you are having a bonfire, check that the structure is sound and that there are no animals or small children inside before lighting it. Only one person should be responsible for lighting the fire and no one else should be in the vicinity. The designated fire lighter should wear suitable clothing and should not use paraffin or firelighter fuel to ignite the bonfire.
- **NEVER** attempt to re-light fireworks that have failed to go off. Half an hour is the **minimum** time to wait before approaching a firework that has failed to ignite.

A more detailed fact sheet for display organisers entitled 'Safe and Successful Firework Displays' (A DTI publication) is available by request from the Health and Safety section of Environmental Health Services. The team is also available to give advice any other aspect of health and safety. They can be contacted on:

(0113) 24-77791 or env.health@leeds.gov.uk