

## 1 - THE LAW & RESPONSIBILITIES

It is illegal to let fireworks off after 11pm at night and before 7am in the morning with the exceptions of New Years Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year which is 1am and Bonfire Night (November 5th) which is midnight.

By law, anybody setting off the fireworks must be over the age of 18 and have permission of the land owner (it is illegal to set off fireworks in a public place). Make sure to familiarise yourself with the firework and where the fuses are located. Make sure the instructions and required minimum safety distances on the label are followed.

Warn neighbours in advance of the display especially if there are any young children, elderly, pets or animals in the vicinity (see section on pet safety).

**FIREWORKS SHOULD NEVER BE TAMPERED WITH OR MODIFIED!**

## 2 - TYPES OF FIREWORKS

All fireworks on sale to the general public must comply to the CE European Standard EN15947 or equivalent UKCA standard. This means they will fall into one of three categories as described below:

**CATEGORY F1** - 'Indoor Fireworks' e.g. Party Poppers or Ice Fountains.

**CATEGORY F2** - 'Garden Fireworks' e.g. smaller fireworks from a selection box or small cakes and barrages. These will have a minimum operator safety distance of 8 metres, with spectator safety distances varying from 8 metres to 20 metres. With a fuse burn time of 3-8 seconds, and contain less than 500g of explosive powder.

**CATEGORY F3** - 'Display Fireworks' e.g. the largest fireworks available for retail sales. These will have a minimum operator safety distance of 15 metres, with a spectator safety distance of 25 metres. With a fuse burn time of 5-13 seconds, and contain less than 1kg of explosive powder.

**CATEGORY F4 - PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY - NOT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

Under the CE regulation compound fireworks are allowed. A compound firework is a larger cake or barrage firework made from linking together multiple smaller cake or barrages at the manufacturing stage. **BE AWARE** that due to the linking process there may be a delay between each firework section firing.



## 3 - UNPACKING & STORAGE

When your fireworks arrive please inspect your order is correct and fireworks are undamaged, make sure when unpacking your fireworks take care especially with fireworks enclosed in a pyro mesh cage (see pic). We recommend wearing gloves and use snips or strong scissors to remove the metal banding and the cage. Once the contents have been checked, repack your order and store in the packaging. **KEEP IN A SECURE, COOL, DRY PLACE AND AWAY FROM NAKED FLAMES OR OTHER SOURCES OF IGNITION AND HIGHLY FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES.**



## 4 - FIREWORK SETUP

Always read and follow the instructions on each firework well before firing and make sure the spectators are at least at the minimum safety distance stated.

Avoid overhead obstructions, such as trees or power cables. On the night it is advisable to wear gloves, ear, head and eye protection and avoid loose, unbuttoned or flammable clothing. Keep the fireworks away from naked flames and flammable material. Never smoke when handling or lighting fireworks.

Some materials may be required for setting up the fireworks which are not provided e.g. timber for wooden stakes, electrical ties or heavy duty tape.

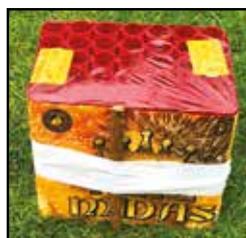
Always be aware of the location of the firework and it's fuse(s) and **NEVER PUT ANY PART OF YOUR BODY OVER THE FIREWORK** and make sure to light the fuse at arms length at its outermost tip.

**DO NOT SMOKE WHILE IN THE VICINITY WHEN SETTING UP OR WHEN LIGHTING THE FIREWORKS!**

## 5 - CAKES & BARRAGES

Follow the directions as instructed on the fireworks warning label. Please be aware of the required safety distances for firers and spectators.

**STEP 1** - Place the firework on flat ground and secure to a stake or post with strong tape or electric ties. Which has been inserted (**crowd side of the**



**candle/fountain or mine**) in to the ground. **MAKE SURE THE FIREWORK CANNOT FALL OVER!** Avoid overhead obstructions, such as trees or power cables that could obscure the firework's path.

**STEP 2** - Locate fuse, signified by the words **FUSE** or **FIRST FUSE UNDER THIS COVER** or by the number **1**. (**Note: Some fireworks contain 2 fuses**).



**STEP 3** - Remove/peel the orange fuse cover off the firework and if required pull fuse through decorative plastic/paper topping of the cake for easier access



**STEP 4** - **ENSURING NO PART OF YOUR BODY IS OVER THE FIREWORK.**

Standing sideways, at arm's length light the outer most end of the fuse and retire immediately to the stated distance on the firework label.



**2ND/RESERVE FUSE INSTRUCTIONS**  
Some fireworks have 2 fuses. In the event the first fuse fails, observe the instructions printed on the label. **DO NOT LIGHT BOTH FUSES TOGETHER!**

**DO NOT** return to the firework immediately but leave the firework for at least 15 minutes in case of delayed ignition. Then locate reserve/2nd fuse signified by the words **RESERVE FUSE UNDER THIS COVER** or by the number **2**.

Remove/peel the orange fuse cover off the firework and if required pull fuse through decorative plastic/paper topping of the cake for easier access

**STEP 5** - **ENSURING NO PART OF YOUR BODY IS OVER THE FIREWORK.**  
Standing sideways, at arm's length light the outer most end of the fuse and retire immediately to the stated distance on the firework label.



## 6 - ROCKETS

Follow the directions as instructed on the fireworks warning label. Please be aware of the required safety distances for firers and spectators.

**STEP 1** - Insert launch tube provided into the ground or attach securely to a stake and angle slightly away from spectators. Ensure the tube is secure using electrical ties or strong tape and **CAN NOT FALL OVER**.

**STEP 2** - Insert rocket stick into launch tube and make sure it is free to rise and is not stuck in the ground.



**STEP 3** - Remove orange fuse cap exposing the fuse and gently straighten the fuse.

**STEP 4 - ENSURING NO PART OF YOUR BODY IS OVER THE FIREWORK.** Standing sideways, at arm's length light the outer most end of the fuse and retire immediately to the stated distance on the firework label.



## 7 - CANDLES, FOUNTAINS & MINES

Follow the directions as instructed on the firework's warning label. Please be aware of the required safety distances for firers and spectators.

**STEP 1** - Place firework on flat ground and secure to a stake or post with strong tape or electric ties, which has been inserted (*crowd side of the candle/fountain or mine*) in to the ground. **MAKE SURE THE FIREWORK CANNOT FALL OVER!** Avoid overhead obstructions, such as trees

or power cables that could obscure the fireworks path.



**STEP 2** - Locate fuse, signified by the words **FUSE** or **FIRST FUSE UNDER THIS COVER** or by the number **1**. Remove/peel the orange fuse cover off the firework and if required pull fuse through decorative plastic/paper topping.



**STEP 3 - ENSURING NO PART OF YOUR BODY IS OVER THE FIREWORK.**

Standing sideways, at arm's length light the outer most end of the fuse and retire immediately to the stated distance on the firework label.



**SHOULD THE FIREWORK FAIL TO PERFORM - DO NOT RETURN TO THE FIREWORK (see section of firework failures)**

## 8 - WHEELS

Follow the directions as instructed on the firework's warning label. Please be aware of the required safety distances for firers and spectators.

**STEP 1** - Attach securely to an upright post (by means of the nail supplied) through the hole in the centre of the wheel.



**STEP 2** - Make sure the wheel is free to spin. **DO NOT HAMMER NAIL COMPLETELY IN!**



**STEP 3** - Remove/peel the orange fuse cover off the firework and if required pull fuse through decorative plastic/paper topping of the cake for easier access

**STEP 4 - ENSURING NO PART OF YOUR BODY IS OVER THE FIREWORK.**

Standing sideways, at arm's length light the outer most end of the fuse and retire immediately to the stated distance on the firework label.



## 9 - RAIN

Be prepared for rain. Plastic bags, clear bin liners and cling film, can be used on most fireworks to great effect against weather proofing fireworks.

Cakes, barrages, candles, fountains and mines will fire through a single layer of plastic. (**Note: Do not use on rockets or catherine wheels**).

The most sensitive part of the firework to damp is the fuse, so leave exposing the fusing until approximately 10 minutes before firing.

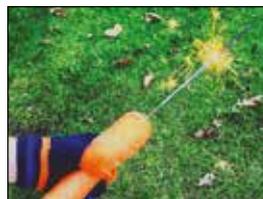


## 10 - SPARKLERS

Sparklers are recommended for use by children 5 years old and above should be supervised by a person over 18 years old.

Please make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves and hold the sparklers at arm's length while being lit and only light them one at a time. Don't wave sparklers about close to other people.

**Safety Tip: For younger children put the end of the sparkler in a carrot to increase their distance from the sparks and also to provide a more substantial handle to hold.**



## 11 - ICE FOUNTAINS

When using ice fountains, please use the spike attached to insert in non-flammable material, or use a ice fountain clip to attach securely to a bottle neck, so it won't fall over or drop off the bottle neck.

Then standing sideways, light the sealing paper on the top at arms length and retire at least 1 metre.



## 12 - REMOTE FIRING

There are many remote firing systems available which generally consists of a receiver unit, remote firing control and a set of Talon igniter's. These systems work on the same principals explained below.



**STEP 1** – Locate the fuse on the firework and insert into the groove within the Talon Igniter Head.



**STEP 2** – Split the exposed wire ends of the talon igniter and insert one wire into the red terminal and one in the black terminal on the firing system receiver unit. (Please note it doesn't matter which way round they are inserted within the terminals).



**STEP 3** – When ready to fire your display, make sure the firing site is clear of people and then make sure the receiver unit is switched on and antenna raised vertical and with clear line of sight to the remote firing control unit. (Tip: For better signal you can raise the receiver unit of the ground on a box above any grass).



**STEP 4** – Retreat to the recommended safety distance. Extend the antenna on the remote firing control unit. Press and hold the button to the firework you wish to fire.

Check our website for the remote firing systems we have on offer.

## 13 - FIREWORK FAILURES

In the unlikely event that your firework with a single fuse fails to ignite, do not go back to it, but leave it at least 15 minutes. (We recommend 60 minutes) then place the firework in a bucket of water to soak for 24 hours. If your firework contains 2 fuses please follow the instructions on the label and also **see the cakes and barrages section for more information.**



## ORGANISED EVENTS

First of all, you need to decide on a few basic details, for example: What is the expected size of the audience? Is there going to be a bonfire? **(It is preferable not to light the bonfire before setting off the fireworks, as stray sparks may accidentally set them off.)**

## 14 - SITE LAYOUT

Make sure the display site is used as a whole. With areas made up of:

**THE SPECTATOR AREA** - from which the spectators watch the display.

**THE SAFETY AREA** - a clear area between the spectators and the firing area to ensure that spectators are at a safe distance from the fireworks during the display, and bonfire area - the area provided for the bonfire (if there is to be one)

**THE FIRING AREA** - from which the fireworks are set up and fired from.

**THE FALL-OUT AREA** (or dropping zone) - an area kept clear of people, where the debris from spent aerial fireworks lands.



## 12 - OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Ensure that the site is free of dry, cut grass and other easily combustible materials particularly if you are doing a display in the summer months.

It is important that you inspect the site in daylight to check for obstructions, for example trees, adjoining buildings, and overhead electric power lines. Apart from obstructing the flight of aerial fireworks, overhead power lines pose other potential dangers.

For example: Scaffolding poles, metal ladders and similar items used in the construction of temporary staging, or long wires such as those sometimes used in firing circuits for electrically fired fireworks, can cause a dangerous discharge of electricity from overhead electric power lines, if they touch, or even come near to them. This is known as a 'flash over'; Smoke or debris coming from fireworks or a bonfire burning under or near overhead electric power lines could also cause a flash over.

Overhead electric power lines near to firing wires attached to electrically fired fireworks can induce an electric current in wires, causing the premature firing of the fireworks;

If you are in any doubt about overhead

electric power lines contact the local regional Electricity Company for advice. If it is impossible to arrange the site so that the firing and bonfire areas are well away from obstructions, you may need to look for another site.

## 15 - WHO TO CONTACT

### POLICE

It is not usually necessary to contact the Police but in certain circumstances it might be advisable particularly if you are expecting a large crowd.

The police's main interests are crowd control, public order, emergency access, and local traffic management and parking. It is advisable to act on any recommendations they may make.

### FIRE SERVICE

Again it is not usually necessary to contact the Fire Service but in certain circumstances it might be advisable particularly if you are expecting a large crowd. They will mainly be interested in:

- How the emergency services will be called;
- Access for emergency vehicles;
- Marshalling crowds and traffic in emergency conditions;
- Arrangement of spectators' enclosures;
- Local fire-fighting arrangements; and buildings and other features nearby which could be affected by a fire.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY

You may need to contact your local authority under entertainment legislation. Local authority enforcement officers will also give advice on complying with health and safety legislation and other matters such as minimising noise nuisance, avoiding any problems that may have occurred in the past and complying with local by-laws.

### NEIGHBOURING LANDOWNERS OR USERS

Advance warning to neighbouring landowners or users will enable them to move livestock (cattle, horses etc.) where necessary.

### LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

It is wise, in the interests of good public relations, to inform any local hospitals, old people's homes etc. of the event.

### COASTGUARD

If the display is to be held near the sea it is important to inform the local coastguard in advance. Aerial fireworks could be mistaken for distress signals.

### AERODROMES/AIRPORTS

If the display is to be held near an aerodrome, inform the airport authority at least seven days in advance. Alternatively, contact the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Safety Regulation Group, Aviation House, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex RH6 OYR, particularly if you are unsure whether there are aerodromes near the display site. Adhere to height restrictions for aerial fireworks stipulated by the airport authority or CAA.

## 16 - SITE FACILITIES

Be sure to prevent access of spectators to the safety, fall-out, bonfire and firing areas by some suitable form of physical barrier i.e. hazard tape or harris fencing and marshalls.

Check that the fire fighting facilities at the site are adequate and consider asking the fire service or a fire-fighting specialist for advice.

The following provisions are advised as a minimum level of equipment for putting out small fires including fire extinguishers - **MAKE SURE CORRECT EXTINGUISHER TYPE USED FOR THE HAZARD**, buckets of water, fire blankets and make sure they are available throughout the display site; and an adequate number of stewards instructed in how to use this equipment. Tell the stewards not to attempt to fight major fires.

Provide at least two spectator exits from the site which are large enough, spaced well apart, clearly marked, kept free from obstructions and well lit.

Keep the agreed emergency service routes into the site clear of obstruction and readily accessible at all times.

A small public address system or loud speaker will ensure that announcements and instructions can be clearly heard by all spectators at larger displays.

Provide at least one suitably equipped first-aid point, manned by a qualified first-aider. Signpost it clearly and make it easily accessible to an ambulance.

Provide suitable litter receptacles throughout the spectator area.

Any car-parking area ought preferably to be well away from the display site and upwind of it (i.e. with the wind blowing from the car park towards the site). Do not allow parking anywhere else. The parking area needs to be clearly signposted, with vehicle and pedestrian access routes to and from the parking area totally segregated from each other.

Where appropriate, supervise parking to prevent obstruction of emergency access routes.

Do not allow any other fireworks or sparklers to be brought into the display site.

## 17 - BONFIRES

Make one person responsible for the bonfire, and allow only that person and designated helpers into the bonfire area. **DO NOT USE PETROL OR PARAFFIN TO LIGHT THE FIRE.**

**DO NOT BURN DANGEROUS RUBBISH** such as foam-filled furniture, rubber, aerosols, paint, gas cylinders, tyres and bottles. Materials producing light ash, which could blow about, such as corrugated cardboard, are unsuitable.

**BEFORE LIGHTING THE FIRE, CHECK ITS CONSTRUCTION CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS STABLE, AND**

**THAT THERE ARE NO CHILDREN OR ANIMALS INSIDE (MOST COMMONLY HEDGEHOGS).**

## PET & ANIMAL SAFETY

Some animals such as dogs and cats can have very sensitive hearing which can lead them to becoming scared during firework season.

As a company of animals lovers, we always advise our customers on the simple things such as informing your neighbours about letting fireworks off so they can have time to prepare and protect their pets.

## 18 - SMALL PETS

Rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, ferrets and birds all need to be treated with special care when fireworks are being let off. These animals can be easily frightened. It is recommended to follow the guidelines below:

- Hutches/cages and enclosures should, if possible, be brought into a quiet room indoors or garage or shed with extra bedding to burrow into so it feels safe.
- If you cannot bring your pet's hutch inside, you should turn its enclosure around so that it faces a wall or fence instead of the garden.
- Cover any aviaries or hutches with thick blankets or duvets to block out the sight and sound of the fireworks, but make sure there is enough ventilation.

## 19 - CATS & DOGS

- Always keep dogs and cats inside when fireworks are being let off, and walk your dog earlier before the fireworks start.
- Close all windows and doors, and block off cat flaps to stop pets escaping and to keep noise to a minimum. Draw the curtains, and if the animals are used to the sounds of TV or radio, switch them on (but not too loudly) in order to block out some of the noise of the fireworks.
- Ensure dogs are wearing some form of easily readable identification (ID) – even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag.
- Prepare a 'den' for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, miaow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out.
- Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behaviour. It's OK to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead.
- Avoid leaving your pet alone when fireworks are being let off. If you have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed.
- Don't tie your dog up outside while fireworks are being let off, i.e. outside a shop while you pop inside, or leave them in

the garden or in your car.

• Do not take your dog to a fireworks display. Excessive panting and yawning can indicate that your dog is stressed.

## 20 - HORSES, PONIES & LIVESTOCK

Fireworks are recommended to not be set off near livestock or horses in fields, or buildings housing livestock. If you are planning a firework display in a rural area you should warn the neighbouring farmers in advance.

If you own a horse the following guidelines may be helpful;

- Keep your horse in a familiar environment, and routine with any companions to make them feel secure. If your horse is usually stabled then keep them stabled. If they normally roam in the field, keep them there as long as it is safe, secure and not near the fireworks display area.
- Ensure that you or someone experienced stays with your horse if you know fireworks are being set off. This way you can observe their behaviour, ensure they remain as safe and calm as possible and respond to its reactions appropriately.
- If your horse reacts badly to loud noises speak to your vet or consider moving your horse for the night.
- Remain calm and positive as horses can sense unease in people and this may make things worse if the horse is startled
- Be careful yourself. Try not to get in the way if your horse becomes startled as you may get hurt.
- Don't risk riding your horse when fireworks might be set off.
- If you have to leave your horse in the care of another person during a fireworks display, leave clear instructions and contact details for yourself and your vet should any problems arise.

## THINK AHEAD

If you think your pet will struggle to cope with the fireworks season, speak to your vet 6 to 12 weeks beforehand. If you want behavioural advice it's best to look into it 3 to 6 months in advance.

Occasionally we are often not forewarned about private fireworks displays. Be prepared for the lead up to the 5 November and New year's eve, and be proactive about finding out when other celebratory occasions might occur.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information you can check out of in depth firework safety video available on our website at:

**[dynamicfireworks.co.uk/  
fireworks-safety-guide](http://dynamicfireworks.co.uk/fireworks-safety-guide)**