



Safety Alert 10-09 Fireworks Safety July 2010



Over the last several years in the U.S. an average of 9,000 people, per year, have required hospital treatment as a result of injuries caused by fireworks. In one year alone, 26 people died as a result of their injuries. In that same year, more than \$36 million in property damage resulted from fires caused by fireworks. To help you have a safe Independence Day, the MSCoE Safety Office provides the following guidance for safe use of fireworks:

Fort Leonard Wood Fireworks Policy: The use of fireworks by individuals is prohibited anywhere on the installation, including in the housing areas. The only authorized uses are for military training and for organized DFMWR events, such as the Independence Day celebrations.

Fireworks Safety Precautions:

1. Only purchase fireworks from a legal source. Otherwise, they may be dangerously unstable. Remember that fireworks are EXPLOSIVES, and must be treated with caution.
2. Do not allow children to use fireworks under any circumstances. Even Sparklers can burn at temperatures of 1800 degrees Fahrenheit and can easily ignite clothing.
3. Follow all warnings and instructions on the label of the firework. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
4. Never light fireworks while holding them and light only one firework at a time. Wear eye protection and keep water handy for emergencies and to douse fireworks that don't go off.
5. Never try to re-light or handle malfunctioned fireworks. Wait 20 minutes and then soak them with water.
6. Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area that is away from buildings and flammable materials. Keep in mind that some fireworks travel and may land on roofs, in dry grass, or other areas where they could ignite fires. Never use them around gasoline or other flammable liquids.
7. Never carry fireworks in your pocket. Always store them in a cool, dry place.
8. Do not use aerial fireworks, that shoot into the sky, when there is lightning in the area. Lightning can strike the carbon trail left by the firework and follow the trail to the ground, striking you.
9. Never experiment with or make your own fireworks.
10. Some fireworks are illegal to possess. Illegal fireworks known as M-80s, quarter sticks, or cherry bombs often come in plain brown or white wrappers, with no identifying marks. For more info visit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives website at www.atf.gov. Because they meet neither safety nor quality standards, they are extremely dangerous. They can be highly unstable because heat, shock, friction or pressure can trigger an accidental detonation. Report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks or explosive devices to your local law enforcement agency or by calling the toll-free ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).



MSCoE SAFETY OFFICE