



South Northamptonshire Council
Environment Division

Fireworks and the Law

Fireworks add excitement and glamour to many of our celebrations and are enjoyed by many. Please enjoy them in safety, without causing annoyance to your neighbours, and members of your community or their pets. The following will help you have an enjoyable night. Fireworks are regulated under provisions of the Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997, The Fireworks Regulations 2004 and Control of Explosives 1991, amongst others, and which are enforced by The Police and/or Trading Standards and so if you have any queries regarding these then you need to contact those organisations.

Under those regulations, it is an offence to:

- Possess adult fire works in a public place if under the age of 18
- Sell fireworks to under 18's
- Set fireworks off after 11.00pm at night (except on certain festival dates-see below) and before 7.00am
- Supply unsafe fireworks that do not comply with the British Standard BS7114
- Possess a category four firework if you are not a fireworks professional.
- Under the Explosives Act 1875, it is an offence to let off fire works in a public place.

amongst others,

As fireworks are used to celebrate many festivals there are extensions on the following dates:

Until 1.00am on the night of the Chinese New Year

Until 1.00 am on the night of Diwali

Until 1.00am of New Year's Eve

Until midnight on 5th November

A breach of these times could lead to a fine of up to £5000 or 6months in prison, enforced by the police. Whilst Local Authorities have powers to deal with statutory noise nuisance, under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, these are only applicable to situations that occur from a "premise" and on a frequent or prolonged basis and so cannot be applied to temporary or occasional interference involving little actual or potential harm.

Hints and tips when having your own display

Tell neighbours, this allows them to make arrangements for their animals and also prepares them for extra noise. If a neighbour complains that you are disturbing them be considerate.

**Ensure that your fireworks are over by the times previously stated.
Consider Friday or Saturday evenings for you celebrations.**

Use appropriate fireworks and ensure that you follow the instructions.

Make sure pets and other animals are safely away from fireworks.

Remember noise bounces off buildings and air pollution increases in confined areas.

After you display clean up all fireworks and dispose of them safely.