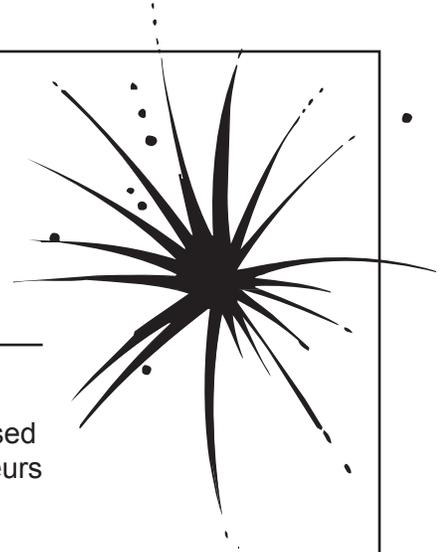


Be Smart... Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals



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-five 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

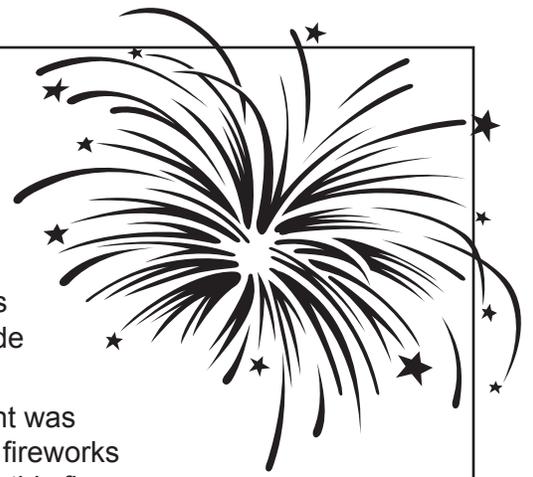
Office of the State Fire Marshal • Department of Fire Services

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

MFIRS facts!

In the past decade (2001-2010) there have been 774 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). These 774 fires and explosions caused one civilian fatality, 10 civilian injuries, six fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.4 million. This is quite a substantial amount since most fireworks related fires are outside brush fires and do not usually have high loss figures.

- On March 7, 2010, at 7:14 p.m., the Greenfield Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in a two-family home. Someone was using fireworks and they ignited an exterior wall of the building. Damages from this fire were estimated to be \$3,000.
- On July 3, 2010, at 9:53 p.m., the Norwood Fire Department was called to a structure fire in a shed that was started by fireworks. The fireworks also ignited a nearby fence, and damages were estimated to be \$7,500.
- On July 3, 2010, at 10:02 p.m., the Canton Fire Department was called to a shed on fire at a dump that spread to a nearby fence. It was determined that fireworks from a neighbor's yard had caused the fire. No one was injured and damages were estimated at \$4,600.
- On July 4, 2010, at 9:30 p.m., the Saugus Fire Department was dispatched to a shed fire. The fire was ignited by someone lighting off fireworks. Damages were estimated at \$10,000.
- On August 21, 2010, at 10:27 p.m., the Boston Fire Department was dispatched to a building fire in an abandoned industrial warehouse. One hundred and sixty firefighters from Boston and 14 neighboring community fought the 9-alarm fire for 16 hours. Several people were using fireworks on the roofs of nearby buildings. Damages were estimated at \$1 million.
- On August 29, 2010, at 9:08 p.m., the Springfield Fire Department was dispatched to a motor vehicle fire. Someone had ignited fireworks in the passenger area of the car. No one was injured in this fire and damages were estimated at \$1,000.



M-BIRS facts!

In the past decade (2001-2010), 43 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5% or more of the body. Almost two-thirds, or sixty-five percent (65%) of the victims were children under the age of 18. Twenty-three percent (23%) were between the ages of 10 and 14. During the last 10 years the oldest reported person injured by fireworks was a 52-year old man and the youngest was a six-month old boy.

- On June 9, 2010, a 52-year old Rowley, man received burns to his forearm and lower legs when fireworks exploded near him.
- On July 3, 2010, a 24-year old Springfield man received burns to 10% of his body surface area from fireworks.
- On July 3, 2010, a 41-year old Marshfield man received burns to his face and arms when the fireworks he was watching at an illegal display exploded directly in front of him.
- On July 4, 2010, a 7-year old Marshfield boy was burned on his hand when he picked up a roman candle that then exploded.

