

Fireworks

Concern: Unplanned, uncontrolled and unsupervised events.

Risks: Harm from explosions and uncontrolled fires.

Consequences: Life changing injuries, mental health issues, property and environmental damage.

Risk Assessment: A suitable and sufficient risk assessment shall be carried out in advance of the event. The safety arrangements shall be briefed and understood by everyone delivering the event.

Time

- You can only use adult fireworks in private places, between 6pm and 11pm.
- On Bonfire Night (5 November) the cut off is midnight.

Emergency Arrangements: Documented arrangements put in place in advance to respond to incidents during the event. The emergency arrangements shall be briefed and understood by everyone delivering the event.

Fireworks Safety Code - The firework safety code emphasizes buying UKCA or CE-marked fireworks from licensed retailers, keeping them in a closed box, and lighting them one at a time at arm's length with a taper, following instructions carefully. Always stand well back, never go near a lit firework, and have a bucket of water nearby. Keep pets indoors and be considerate of neighbours and wildlife.

Before the event

- Buy responsibly: Only purchase UKCA or CE-marked fireworks from licensed retailers.
- Know the law: Check local rules for setting off fireworks and be aware of time restrictions.
- Prepare the area: Set out a safety zone between people and fireworks to prevent injuries and ensure safety.
- Clear the area of any flammable materials.
- Keep fireworks secure: Store fireworks in a closed, original box and never put them in your pockets.
- Plan for neighbours and pets: Inform neighbours, especially if they have pets or elderly individuals, and keep pets indoors in a quiet room with extra bedding or the TV on.

During the event

- Designate a responsible person: Only one adult should be in charge of lighting fireworks.
- Use a taper: Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper, not matches.
- Keep everyone back: Ensure all spectators stand well back from the fireworks.
- Never go back: Do not return to a firework that has been lit.
- Handle sparklers safely: Light sparklers one at a time, wear gloves, and never give them to children under five.
- Keep water handy: Have a bucket of water or a hose nearby for used fireworks and to douse any accidental fires.
- Do not throw fireworks: Never throw fireworks.

After the event

- Douse used fireworks: Place all used fireworks and sparklers in the bucket of water.
- Dispose of safely: Never throw spent fireworks on a bonfire.

Reference:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout Firework Safety FS120353 • HSE Organising Firework Displays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout Planning and Assessing Risk • Scottish Fire & Rescue Fireworks & Bonfires • Scottish Government Fireworks Law |
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