



Fire work safety!



We all love to celebrate the independence of America. Picnics and Fireworks are synonymous with these celebrations. By using only legal Fireworks and following basic safety tips, you can enjoy a safe holiday with your friends and family.

Fireworks in Bernalillo County

Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners has adopted Firework regulations to protect both public and private property. **Aerial and ground audible fireworks are not legal to purchase or use in Bernalillo County.** Use only Fireworks purchased in Bernalillo County to ensure they are legal to use. Using illegal Fireworks can result in a fine of up to \$300.

Permissible fireworks are:

Ground and hand-held sparkling devices:

Cone fountains;

Crackling devices;

Cylindrical fountains;

Flitter sparklers;

Ground spinners;

Illuminating torches; and

Wheels

Illegal fireworks in Bernalillo County:

Aerial and ground audible fireworks:

Aerial shell kit-reloadable tubes;

Aerial spinners;

Helicopters;

Mines;

Missile-type rockets;

Multiple tube devices;

Roman candles;

Shells; and

Stick-type rockets;

Chasers; and

Firecrackers.

Fireworks can cause injuries

In 2019 alone, there were at least 12 deaths and 7,300 injuries from fireworks-related incidents, with more than 36% of injuries involving children younger than 15 years old, according to the most recent figures from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think. Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fire-works injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Safety Tips

Follow these safety tips to help ensure a safe holiday. Always keep the audience (particularly children) a safe distance from the Fireworks. Light the fireworks in a clear, open area away from buildings, vehicles overhead obstructions and shrubbery. A minimum clear distance between the launch site and your audience of 35 feet is recommended. You should avoid lighting your fireworks in any area where there is dry grass, dry brush or any flammable items that could catch fire. Always use fireworks outdoors.

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Always use fireworks on a hard, flat and level surface to insure the stability of the items.
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision

- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lit fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Never use illegal fireworks

