

**City of Port Orange Department of Fire & Rescue
Fire Marshal's Office**

**SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR CONSUMER SPARKLER PRODUCTS and USE
OF FIREARMS for CELEBRATING**

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The fourth of July means a special time to celebrate with family, friends, music, and of course, fireworks. The City of Port Orange Department of Fire & Rescue would like to ensure that if you plan to use fireworks/sparkler products for your July 4th celebration, you do so safely and apply good common sense when dealing with this potentially dangerous material. Firework products are beautiful to look at when they are properly discharged. However, fireworks are unpredictable, and more times than not, they are often overlooked as what fireworks truly are; a potentially dangerous and sometimes lethal explosive material. When misused, or abused, the consequences are tragic. Listed below are guidelines for ensuring a safe happy holiday for all involved. Please have a safe and health Fourth of July! Of course, the best and safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional display handled by a competent, licensed pyrotechnic company.

DEFINITIONS

Consumer Fireworks: Florida State Fire Marshal Approved pyrotechnic devices that emit a shower of sparks and that such products are not propelled from the ground, nor explode. Sparkler products as approved per Florida Statute 791.

Illegal Fireworks: Any pyrotechnic device that explodes, or is propelled in the air is unlawful per Florida Statute 791.

CONSUMER SPARKLER SAFETY TIPS

- Have a designated, responsible adult of firework/sparkler products. Alcohol and Fireworks are an invitation to disaster.

- Firework/Sparkler products shall be placed on a hard surface. Please see instructions on the firework/sparkler product for safe placement.
- Make sure an ample fuse is showing from the sparkler product. If the fuse is not visible, do not light the product.
- Always display firework/sparkler products in an open surrounding and away from trees, canopies, any and all flammable/combustible liquids, and structures.
- Always keep spectators, **especially children**, at a safe distance. **Children should never be encouraged to ignite firework/sparkler products.**
- Have a bucket of water and a charged garden hose available for “duds” or small fires. Make sure the unlit sparkler product is cooled prior to picking up the product and submerging in water.
- Never attempt to re-ignite “duds”, or firework products that failed to activate. Failure to adhere to this provision will cause severe burns to the face, chest, and hands.
- If a firework/sparkler product burns you, immerse the burn in cool water and seek medical attention immediately. Never place butter, oils or greasy products on a burn! This promotes infection of the burn area!
- Above all use common sense, and be safe!

DISCHARGING OF FIREARMS IN THE AIR:

Please remember that what goes up, must come down. This is no truer than when a firearm is fired, sending deadly bullets into the air. In past years innocent victims celebrating festive holidays such as July 4th have been killed or injured when hit by falling bullets caused by the insensitivity of people using guns as a party favor. It is the utmost of importance that all people refrain from using firearms as a celebration device.