

**FIREWORKS  
BE SAFE  
NOT SORRY  
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CODE**

**dti**

**FIREWORKS SAFETY**

Toolkit



The DTI drives our ambition of 'prosperity for all' by working to create the best environment for business success in the UK. We help people and companies become more productive by promoting enterprise, innovation and creativity.

We champion UK business at home and abroad. We invest heavily in world-class science and technology. We protect the rights of working people and consumers. And we stand up for fair and open markets in the UK, Europe and the world.

# FIREWORKS BE SAFE NOT SORRY

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CODE

## Be media wise!

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Your campaigning efforts play a great part in raising awareness and promoting the issue of firework safety across the country.

Make sure that your campaign team gets the credit it deserves and spreads its message as far as possible by letting your local media know what you are doing!

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### Ideas to help you get started

If you have run campaigns in the past you will know what works. If, however, you are new to firework safety campaigning these ideas will help.

Remember that the local media like local stories about local people.

- Set up a working group of organisations in your area such as Trading Standards, Fire Officers, Police, the Local Education Authority and PR professionals. Working together with one person appointed as media spokesperson gives continuity and strength to your campaign message.
- Find a local celebrity – perhaps a footballer – who is prepared to make some local school visits to talk about firework safety. And tell the media what’s happening – they always like a celebrity story and your campaign will get good free publicity.
- Speak to your local hospital and see if there is a surgeon who has treated a child with a firework injury, or a parent with an injured child. Arrange a media photocall to get the firework safety message across.
- Speak to your local Trading Standards department. If they are arranging tests on dubious fireworks, ask the media along to watch.
- Talk to your local paper and see if they will get involved with a competition to design a firework safety poster.
- Ask your local Fire Service to set up a demonstration on how easily and fast accidents involving fires and fireworks can happen. Dressing up an old dummy and setting it alight to show how fast clothes burn is always powerful. Remember to ask the media along to cover it.

- Involve local DJs and radio presenters and ask them to promote your campaign message on air. This can include interviews with people involved in firework safety such as fire officers.
  - Try to involve a local sports club in some way. Messages on electronic score boards at sports events are very powerful and can attract media coverage.
  - Use the Speaking Notes fact sheet inside this toolkit to help you when you are giving interviews.
  - Get in touch with your regional Government News Network (GNN) office – they're there to help and will give you any advice you require – free of charge.
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## Reminders

Accident statistics are not just boring tables of figures – they can be used by the media to show how local accident figures relate to the national picture. If a particular area had the highest number of injuries, for example, it could lead to a local newspaper running its own campaign to cut down on the number of people hurt.

Under the provisions of the Fireworks Regulations 2004 it is now illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess fireworks in a public place. It is already illegal to sell fireworks to the under 18s. And remember – sparklers should never be given to the under fives – make sure parents and guardians are aware of this through your campaign message.

Use the media to remind retailers and the public about fireworks and the law by telling them that:

- It is illegal to sell bangers and air bombs
- Retailers have to have a licence to supply fireworks all the year round
- It is illegal to set fireworks off between 11pm and 7am except in the following cases:
  - November 5th – until midnight
  - New Year's Eve – 1am on the following day
  - Chinese New Year – 1am on the following day
  - Diwali – 1am on the following day
- Display the underage sale warning sign.
- As with alcohol, it is the retailers responsibility to actively check that they are not supplying fireworks to under 18s.

Retailers breaking the law could receive a fine of up to £5,000 or six months imprisonment.

# Giving talks?

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## **THEN THESE NOTES MAY HELP YOU GET THE FIREWORK SAFETY MESSAGE ACROSS**

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You may wish to choose sections of these speaking notes if you are planning a talk on firework safety. Please make sure that the sections you pick are relevant to your audience. Pick out those sections which will interest them and involve them in your presentation. For example, ask them to provide information and answers, such as “where should pets be while you’re setting off your fireworks?” or “where did fireworks originate?”

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### **A brief history of fireworks (Audience – any)**

Legend has it that the Chinese made the first fireworks in the 800s, filling bamboo shoots with gunpowder and exploding them at New Year with the hope the sound would scare away evil spirits.

Fireworks became known in Europe during the 1300s, probably after returning Crusaders brought them back from the East.

In this country, fireworks are used to celebrate November 5 – the anniversary of Guy Fawkes’ (failed) attempt to blow up Parliament.

Other countries use fireworks for different celebrations:

- People living in the United States of America mark the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4 with parties and firework displays across the country.
- The French celebrate the French Revolution of 1789 and the storming of the Bastille on July 14 with parties, parades and fireworks.

- In China, the New Year falls about a month after our own and involves a two-week long celebration, with an outdoor festival of lanterns and firecrackers being let off to scare away evil spirits.
  - Many Indians celebrate Diwali, Festival of Light, in the last week of October or the first week of November, with parties and fireworks.
  - The Jewish equivalent is Hanukkah which falls around December or January. Candles, fireworks and the exchanging of gifts are important parts of this festival.
  - Fireworks are let off to mark Canada Day on July 1 and the same country holds an annual World Fireworks Championship.
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### **Fascinating facts about fireworks (Audience – any, particularly schools)**

Does anyone know what temperature a firework burns at? Well, a simple sparkler reaches a temperature of up to 2,000°C. That's 20 times the boiling point of water. That's why we constantly have to remind people to be so careful with any type of firework. It is particularly important to never give sparklers to children under 5 and to supervise the over 5s.

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### **How fast does a firework travel?...Typically a rocket can reach 150 miles an hour.**

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### **And how high can a firework go?...Well, a shell fired from a mortar will go as high as 200 metres.**

A couple more facts from the Guinness Book of Records: The largest ever single firework was a shell which measured one metre across and travelled over 300 metres into the air. It was so big and powerful, it had to be launched from a specially constructed launch pad made of concrete and steel.

And the record for the biggest number of rockets ever let off in one go was set at the Battle of Flowers Moonlight Parade in Jersey on 15 August 1997 when a staggering 39,210 rockets were simultaneously launched at the push of a button.

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## **Injuries caused by accidents with fireworks (Audience – any)**

Fireworks cause hundreds of avoidable injuries every year.

In the last five years (2000-2004) 5,647 people were hurt and required hospital treatment. In the same period there were two deaths, in 2004 there were 1,160 injuries. In 2004 the highest number of injuries – 590 – occurred at family or private parties, followed by incidents in the street or other public places and large public displays.

Government statistics show that the most common firework injuries in 2004 were caused by rockets (283), sparklers (149) and air bombs (121).

Before you start thinking that it's not going to happen to you, consider this. Last year around half of all injuries happened to children under the age of 16 years of age. That's a lot of kids who may have ugly burn scars – for life.

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## **Common sense is important (Audience – any)**

Every year we see injuries that are caused through people not handling fireworks properly. And it's always because simple common sense rules about handling fireworks are forgotten. Here are some of the main causes of injury:

- Not following instructions – if you are going to let off fireworks in the garden follow the instructions very carefully.
  - Lighting too many fireworks at once – this doesn't give you time to get out of the way. Sparklers should only be lit one at a time and, like other fireworks, always by an adult. A bunch of sparklers if lit together can result in a flame travelling up the sparklers and burning your hand.
  - Going back to a firework once it's been lit – everyone has heard of the dangers of going back to a lit firework that you don't think has ignited, but then it flares up as you approach it. But people still chance their luck. So try and remember, it's just not worth the risk.
  - Lack of supervision – in the garden there should be one adult in charge of lighting fireworks. And, don't take your own fireworks to organised events as letting fireworks off in a crowd is extremely dangerous. That includes sparklers.
  - Getting too close to fireworks – there are guidelines about the safe distances spectators should stand away from fireworks. Be aware of this – and remember – nobody should ever be tempted to put them in their pockets.
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## **Remember, remember**

- If you are using sparklers, have a bucket of water nearby. When sparklers have gone out they should be put hot end down in the water.
  - Never throw discarded fireworks onto bonfires. Some spent fireworks still have gunpowder left in them and some fireworks which have not gone off will still contain all their explosives. Throwing them onto bonfires can result in accidents.
  - Make sure you wear the right clothing – you should always wear gloves (especially when holding sparklers). Do not wear nylon clothing, which melts against the skin, and don't wear open neck shirts, T-shirts or shorts where bare skin is exposed to the danger of fireworks. Remember to tuck scarves in so they don't catch alight.
  - Don't fool with fireworks. It's not worth the risk. They are explosives and can really mess you up.
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## **Alcohol and fireworks – an explosive combination (Audiences – only teenage and older)**

Firework parties with family and friends have become increasingly popular in recent years.

Parties, of course, usually involve the consumption of alcohol. In fact, research shows that at 90% of firework parties in back gardens, alcohol is present.

The same research shows that 84% of respondents said that people setting off their fireworks had consumed at least 2-3 units of alcohol (2-3 cans of beer/lager or several glasses of wine). One respondent said he was so drunk that he had to let someone else take over the lighting of the fireworks.

Not only does the consumption of alcohol increase the risk of injury in these circumstances, it also affects the ability of the adults to properly supervise children during the display.

Here's some commonsense advice to add to the well-known Fireworks Code:

- Never drink alcohol if you are setting off fireworks or tending a bonfire.
- Nominate responsible persons who are not drinking alcohol to take charge of firework displays.
- If guests at your party are drinking alcohol, keep them well away from fireworks and the bonfire.

- Consider limiting the availability of alcohol drinks until after all your fireworks have been set off.
  - Don't carry fireworks in your pocket to street parties or celebrations.
  - Have an enjoyable party, but remember, alcohol and fireworks don't mix.
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### **Keep on the right side of the law**

The age limit for buying most fireworks is 18, this includes sparklers. All sparkler packets must carry the words 'Warning: not to be given to children under five years of age.' Since the end of 1997, it has been against the law to sell or supply bangers, aerial shells, mini-rockets and some types of bigger Roman Candles to the public. It is now also illegal to sell air bombs.

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### **Illegal to supply**

No one should buy fireworks other than responsible adults who are going to supervise the use of those fireworks in their own garden. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be sold fireworks including sparklers, apart from some, such as party poppers, which can be sold to persons over 16 years of age.

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### **Illegal to shopkeepers**

It is illegal to break open retail packs of fireworks and sell them individually. Some fireworks are intended to be sold individually, but these do not come in packs. The reason why packs must not be broken open is that many of the instructions for using the fireworks safely are printed on the packet and not on the individual firework.

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### **Illegal to use in a public place**

You may not be aware that it is an offence punishable by fine to let fireworks off in a public place. So how do you define a public place? For simplicity regard it as anywhere other than in your own back garden. The street outside is a public place, as is the council park, the bus station, the schoolyard, the football stadium or the youth centre.

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### **Illegal to sell**

It is illegal to sell fireworks from a premises not registered/licenced with the relevant local authority or Fire Service.

Selling from white vans is illegal.

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## **British Standard (BS 7114)**

Fireworks are safer now than they have been in the past. If used properly and in accordance with instructions there is very little chance of anyone getting injured. In 1988 a British Standard known as BS 7114 was introduced. This is a safety standard which sets out specifications and test procedures for fireworks. For example, fireworks complying with BS 7114:

- are limited as to the explosive content
- have recommended safe distances for viewing them
- have strict times for how long the fuse will burn to enable people to move out of the way.

Never buy or use fireworks which do not show on the labels that they comply with BS 7114.

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## **Follow the clues to fireworks safety (Audience – children over 5 and young people)**

Fireworks are great fun to watch, but every year lots of young people get hurt in firework accidents. Make sure you're not one of them by following clues to firework safety

- Never play with fireworks – they are explosives and can hurt you.
- Only adults should light or hold fireworks.
- When you are watching fireworks, stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.

### **If you are given sparklers:**

- Hold them one at a time
- Always wear gloves
- Hold sparklers at arm's length
- When a sparkler goes out, DON'T TOUCH IT. It could still burn you, so put it hot end down in a bucket of water.

Remember, you have to be 18 years old before you are allowed to buy fireworks in the shops.

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## **The firework safety code for adults**

1. Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
2. Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
3. Keep fireworks in a closed box.
4. Follow the instructions on each firework.
5. Light them at arms length, using a taper.
6. Stand well back.
7. Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
8. Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
9. Always supervise children around fireworks.
10. Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
11. Never give sparklers to a child under five.
12. Keep pets indoors.
13. Don't let off noisy fireworks after 11pm.

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### **And remember...**

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**Fireworks. Be safe not sorry. Always follow the code.**

# Making partnerships work

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## A GUIDE TO NETWORKING

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Many of the most effective local firework safety campaigns around the country are as a result of partnerships between different local organisations.

You can also work with local residents groups to make an impact on specific problem areas. Your organisation is one of around 1500 that take part every year in the drive to ensure safe and responsible use of fireworks, and the numbers are increasing every year. If you have not already done so, set up a coordinated local group and use each other's experience to boost your local initiative around safe and responsible fireworks use.

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If you have any successful partnerships in your local area, we would like to hear about them. Send us details of your local initiatives and campaigns through our website [www.dti.gov.uk/fireworks](http://www.dti.gov.uk/fireworks)

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### **Making it work**

As well as joining up with other organisations in your area, remember that talking through your ideas with colleagues in your own organisations can be helpful. If you have access to a Public Relations or Communications Officer for your organisation, talk them through your campaign – they will be able to help you get publicity in local papers and on regional radio and television.

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## **Remember, remember**

Use the skills and expertise of the following organisations to get the most out of your activities:

- Trading Standards Departments – they can help get retailers behind your Firework Safety campaign.
- Fire Service – they can give advice on dealing with first aid and bonfires. They may be prepared to help by staging demonstrations of the dangers of misusing fireworks. If they do get involved make sure you tell the media – it makes a good picture story!
- Police Forces – will help you if there is a history of hooligan related firework incidents in your area. They may also be prepared to give talks in schools.
- Environmental Health Departments and Health Promotion Units – will also be keen to go into schools to spread the campaign message.
- Communications and Public Relations Officers – will be able to come up with new ideas that will interest the media, and will be able to give professional advice on how to communicate key messages.

## **And finally...don't forget**

The Government News Network (GNN) has offices around the country and employs people who can help you make the most your campaign. This is a free service and GNN officers will be able to give you information on the DTI's initiatives and advice and guidance on PR plans.

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### **The GNN Regional Network:**

#### **GNN North East**

Contact: Val Johnson  
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2nd Floor, Citygate,  
Gallowgate  
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#### **GNN South West**

Contact: Becky Graham  
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**GNN Wales**

Contact: Sam Rae  
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Welsh Assembly Government  
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**GNN Eastern**

Contact: Jenny Thompson  
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**GNN South East**

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**GNN London**

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**GNN Yorkshire & Humberside**

Contact: Alice Insley  
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**GNN East Midlands**

Contact: Iain Fletcher/Matt Hurst  
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**GNN North West**

Contact: Mary Maden  
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**GNN West Midlands**

Contact: Amanda Wood  
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Tel: 0121 352 5512  
Fax: 0121 626 2041

**GNN Scotland**

Contact: Paul Burgess/Val Morgan  
GNN  
1 Melville Crescent  
Edinburgh EH3 7HW  
Tel: 0131 244 9062  
Fax: 0131 244 9063

## Keep on the Right Side of the Law

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Recent regulations, made under the Fireworks Act 2003, form a comprehensive package of measures designed principally to tackle the anti-social and criminal use of fireworks via the regulation of supply and use. The regulations include:

- Making permanent the Firework Regulations 2003, which made it an offence for under 18s to possess adult fireworks in public places and an offence for anyone (other than a firework professional) to possess Category 4 (professional display) fireworks;
- A requirement that suppliers selling fireworks all year round are to be licensed – having the effect of restricting sales to within certain defined periods. The periods where selling without a licence is permitted are:
  - November 5th            – (October 15th to November 10th)
  - New Year                – (December 26th to December 31st)
  - Chinese New Year    – (four days before, including the day of Chinese New Year)
  - Diwali                    – (four days before, including Diwali)
- The creation of a curfew on firework use between 11pm and 7am (in line with Noise Act 1996), with the exception of the “permitted fireworks night” where the curfew will vary:
  - November 5th – until midnight.
  - New Year’s Eve – 1am on the following day.
  - Chinese New Year – 1am on the following day.
  - Diwali – 1am on the following day.

- A requirement that suppliers of fireworks display a large notice/or, in the case of internet/mail order sales – display a notice in a prominent place) informing/reminding consumers of the law in relation to under age sale and possession;
- A requirement that importers supply information at the point of entry (the ports) to help ensure that their fireworks are destined for legitimate storage and distribution. This information will be passed on to the relevant authority responsible for storage licenses to enable checks on deliveries;
- Licensing Authorities may also ask to see information relating to transactions of fireworks exceeding 50kg of net explosive content; and
- The imposition of a maximum decibel limit on Category 3 fireworks (in line with the new harmonized European Standard – BS EN 14035).

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## **THE FIREWORKS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED) BY 2004 REGULATIONS**

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### **Age of Purchase**

- Fireworks (\*except those listed below) must not be supplied to persons under 18
- Caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throwdowns must not be supplied to persons under 16

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### **The following fireworks must not be supplied to the general public:**

- Air bombs
  - Aerial shells, aerial maroons, shells-in-mortar and maroons-in-mortar
  - All bangers (including 'batteries' containing bangers, such as Chinese Crackers)
  - Mini rockets
  - Fireworks with erratic flight (e.g. ground spinners, jumping crackers, squibs)
  - Some Category 2 and 3 fireworks (as defined by BS 7114) which exceed size limits specified in the 1997 Regulations
  - All Category 4 fireworks.
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## **Other measures**

- Packets of sparklers must carry the warning – “Warning: not to be given to children under 5 years of age”
  - Retail boxes of fireworks must not be split
  - All fireworks intended for use by the general public must comply with British Standard BS 7114: Part 2: 1988
  - All fireworks not suitable (as determined by the Regulations) for use by the general public must bear the warning – “This device must not be sold to, or used by, a member of the general public”
  - Under recent changes to the Regulations, it is no longer a legal defence to claim that the person to whom you supplied/sold fireworks to “appeared” to be 18 or over. It is therefore recommended that retailers be more pro-active in determining the actual age of the consumer – if there is any doubt i.e. ask for age verification/identification.
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## **Penalties**

- Failure to comply with these requirements can result in prosecution and a fine of up to £5000 or a prison sentence of up to six months, or both.
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## **THE EXPLOSIVES ACT 1875**

(as amended)

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### **Storage of fireworks**

- It is an offence to keep fireworks (except those for private use) on premises which have not been registered or licensed for that purpose
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### **Throwing fireworks**

- It is an offence to throw or discharge a firework in a street or public place
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## **Penalties**

- Failure to comply with these requirements can result in prosecution and a fine of up to £5000

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## Counting the Costs

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### **ACCIDENT STATISTICS 2004**

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#### **The 2004 Firework Accident Statistics**

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The total number of people treated at hospital accident and emergency departments in Great Britain during the 2004 autumn firework season was 1,160. This is an increase of around 14% on the 2002 figure of 1,017, but it is significantly lower than the overall 2001 figure of 1,362.

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#### **2005**

This year the Department of Trade and Industry will continue to supply its toolkits to all those organisations involved in ensuring the safe and responsible use of fireworks across England, Wales and Scotland.

However, in future years, new material may not be made available in hard copy. Please check our website [www.dti.gov.uk/fireworks](http://www.dti.gov.uk/fireworks) for any updates.

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#### **The 2003 Firework Accident Statistics in Detail**

The main statistics, including a breakdown by region are set out in the following pages.

## Firework Injuries In Great Britain 2004 (4 Week Period In October–November)

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
<b>Place of Accident</b>								
1. Family or private party	590	515	363	598	421	447	320	378
2. Semi public party (e.g scouts, club)	63	48	54	73	56	72	79	56
3. Large public display	96	99	100	158	119	153	132	137
4. Street or other public place	317	287	295	442	279	296	226	256
5. Indoors	18	34	29	17	19	19	20	22
6. Other	15	152	90	40	49	65	44	21
7. Not Specified	61	1	86	34	29	4	10	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>908</b>
<b>Type of Firework</b>								
1. Rocket	283	257	204	264	135	211	168	158
2. Air Bomb/Roman Candle	121	134	148	102	96	90	79	50
3. Sparkler	149	140	132	136	104	134	129	200
4. Other fireworks (please specify)	86	119	128	117	112	110	200	104
5. Home made or extracted powder	14	6	13	14	6	23	27	18
6. Not known (not bonfire)	507	480	392	494	336	207	27	125
Air Bombs were included with Other Proprietary Fireworks prior to 1993.								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>908</b>
<b>Outcome of injury*</b>								
1. No further treatment required	441	379	362	498	366	408	290	359
2. Referred to G.P.	179	130	85	129	114	137	96	115
3. Referred to out-patient dept. of this or other hospital	376	357	365	469	323	342	278	301
4. Detained in this hospital for at least one night	65	57	55	70	40	43	26	49
5. Transferred to another hospital	74	53	51	73	52	31	20	22
6. Died	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
7. Not known	25	160	99	115	52	86	115	23
*Categories changed in 2003.								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>908</b>
<b>Age group of injured</b>								
1. Over 20 years	516	482	380	508	375	404	313	389
2. 18–20	79	66	54	169	93	119	100	91
3. 13–17	197	220	230	235	154	142	119	125
4. Under 13	368	368	353	450	350	391	287	303
5. Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>908</b>

## Analysis of Firework Injuries (By Country) – Year 2004

	England	Scotland	Wales	Total
<b>Place of Accident</b>				
1. Family or private party	523	27	40	590
2. Semi public party (e.g. scouts, club)	59	0	4	63
3. Large public display	84	7	5	96
4. Street or other public place	278	22	17	317
5. Indoors	14	3	1	18
6. Other	7	5	3	15
7. Not Specified	55	2	3	61
<b>Type of Firework</b>				
1. Rocket	239	22	22	283
2. Air Bomb / Roman candle	108	3	10	121
3. Sparkler	127	12	10	149
4. Other fireworks (please specify)	69	9	8	86
5. Home made or extracted powder	13	0	1	14
6. Not known (not bonfire)	465	20	22	507
<b>Outcome of Injury</b>				
1. No further treatment required	398	19	24	441
2. Referred to G.P.	168	7	4	179
3. Referred to out-patient dept. of this or other hospital	330	23	23	376
4. Detained in this hospital for at least one night	55	9	1	65
5. Transferred to another hospital	61	5	8	74
6. Died	0	0	0	0
7. Not known	9	3	13	25
<b>Type of Injury</b>				
1. Eye	242	44	16	302
2. Head	296	48	24	368
3. Hand	308	53	29	390
4. Arm	56	18	4	78
5. Leg or Foot	69	17	2	88
6. Torso	68	14	6	88
7. Other/Not Known	24	0	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1338</b>

### Analysis of Firework Injuries (By Country) – Year 2004

	England	Scotland	Wales	Total
<b>Age of Patient</b>				
1 and under	17	1	3	21
2	16	1	0	17
3	17	1	2	20
4	27	0	3	30
5	35	0	3	38
6	19	5	0	24
7	14	0	2	16
8	29	0	2	31
9	31	1	1	33
10	30	0	3	33
11	46	2	3	51
12	49	4	1	54
13	38	7	2	47
14	33	5	2	40
15	27	2	7	36
16	28	5	3	36
17	31	3	4	38
18	32	1	2	35
19	21	3	4	28
20	16	0	0	16
21 to 25	93	3	5	101
26 to 30	72	4	3	79
31 to 35	75	6	3	84
36 to 40	95	4	6	105
41 and over	130	8	9	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1160</b>

## Analysis of Firework Injuries (By Super Region and Type of Firework) – Year 2004

### Type of Firework

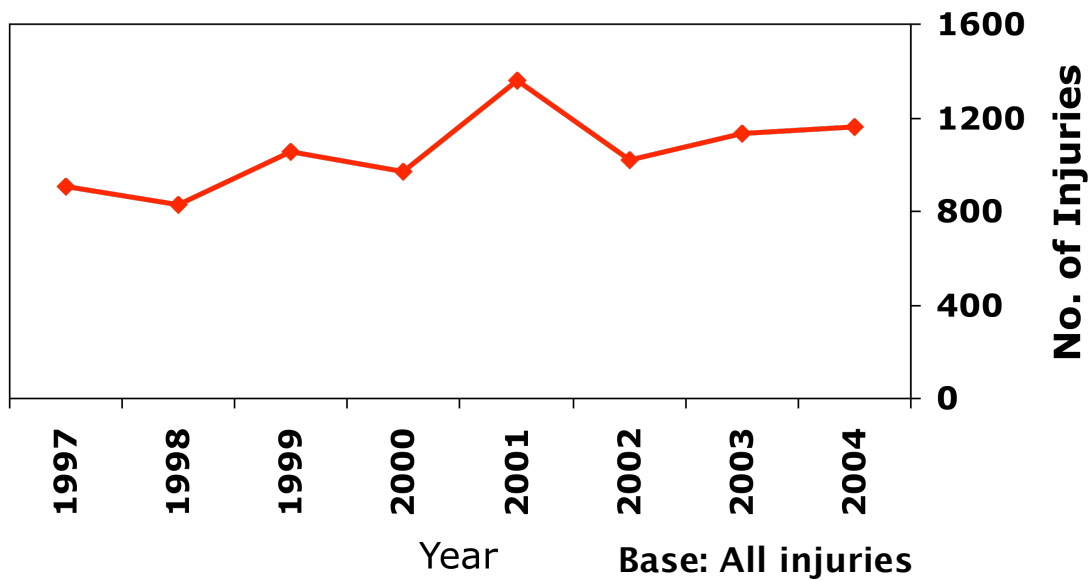
	Total	Rocket	Air Bomb/ Roman candle	Sparkler	Other fireworks (please specify)	Home made or extracted powder	Not known (not bonfire)
<b>Super Region</b>							
North & Yorkshire	170	36	18	19	10	1	86
Scotland	66	22	3	12	9	0	20
Trent	145	41	15	19	9	1	60
Eastern	112	31	9	12	6	4	50
Greater London	66	14	5	11	8	2	26
South East	139	30	15	23	11	0	60
South & West	89	26	8	5	9	1	40
West Midlands	91	21	14	13	8	0	35
North Western	209	40	24	25	8	4	108
Wales	73	22	10	10	8	1	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>507</b>

## Analysis of Firework Injuries (Eye Injuries By Location and Outcome) – Year 2004

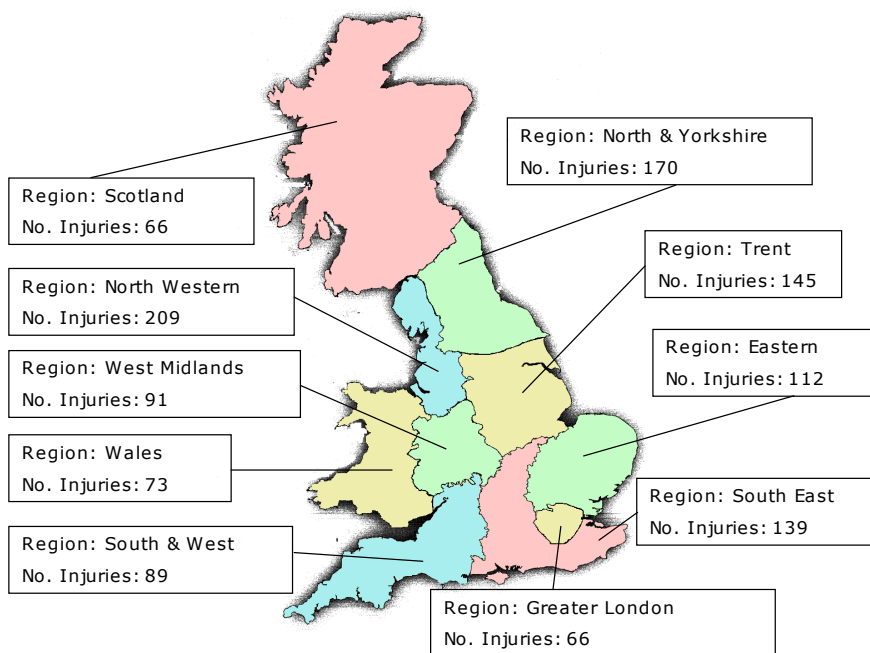
### Outcome of Injury

	No further treatment required	Referred to G.P.	Referred to out-patient dept. of this or other hospital	Detained in this hospital for at least one night	Transferred to another hospital	Died	Not known	Total
<b>Place of Accident</b>								
Family or private party	65	14	35	7	13	0	2	136
Semi public party (e.g. scouts, club)	17	6	3	0	1	0	0	27
Large public display	20	7	11	1	2	0	4	45
Street or other public place	28	9	17	7	7	0	0	68
Indoors	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Other	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Not Specified	9	5	2	1	3	0	1	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>302</b>

## Total no. of Firework injuries 1997-2004 Mid-October to Mid-November

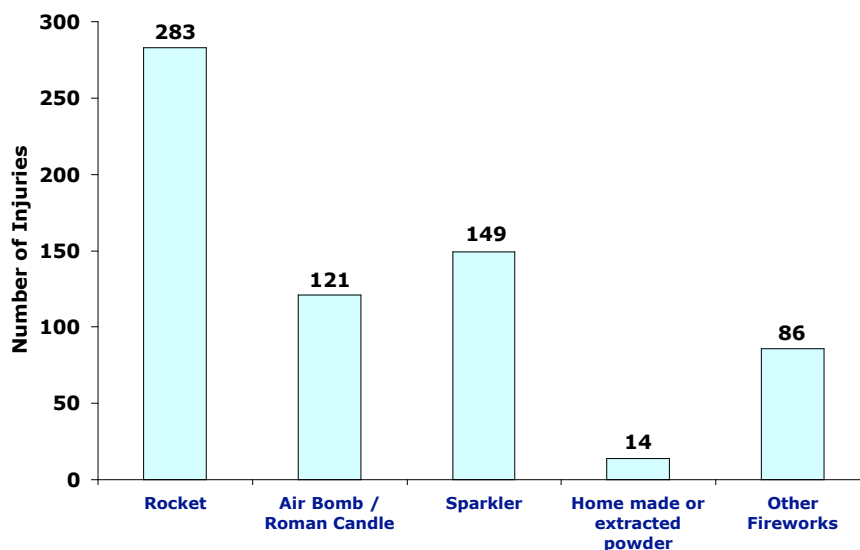


## Firework Injuries 2004 by Regional Health Authority



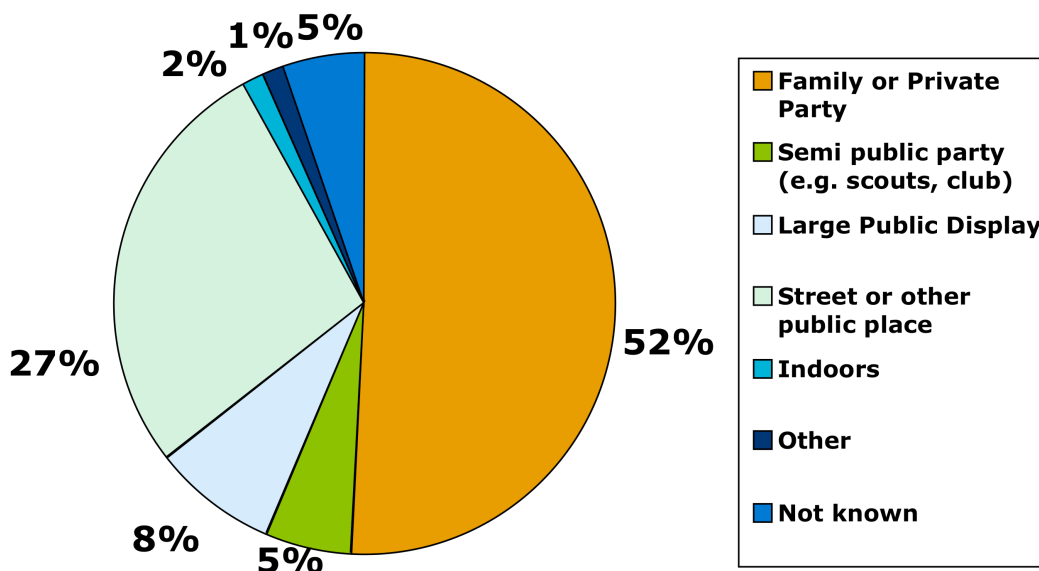
Base: All injuries n=1160

## Type of Firework causing injuries 11<sup>th</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004



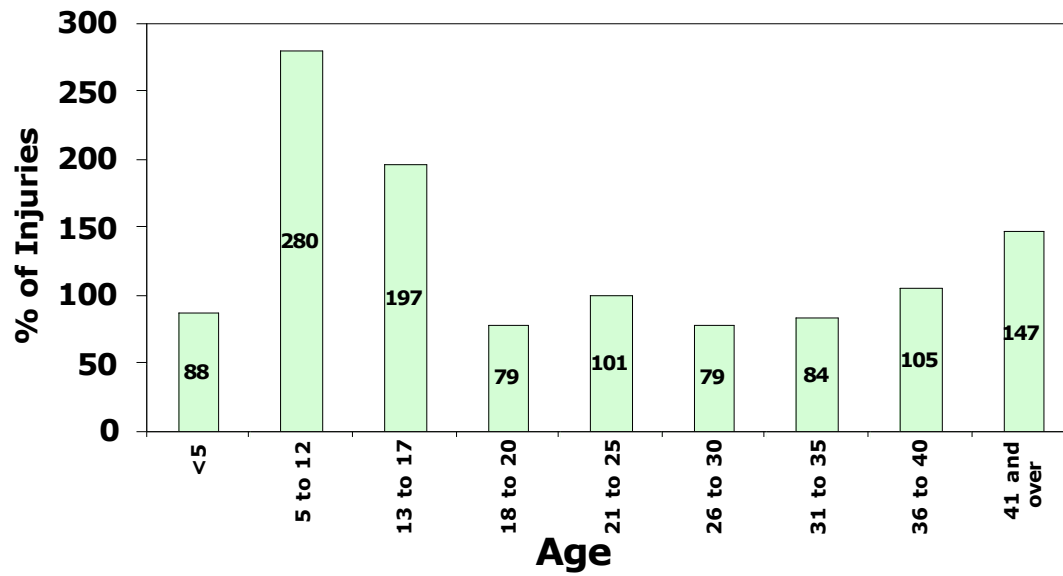
Base: All injuries where Firework Type is known (n=653)  
N.B. There were an additional 507 injuries where the firework type was not known

## Location of Firework injuries 11<sup>th</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004



Base: All injuries n=1160

## Firework injuries 2004 by Age Mid-October to Mid-November



These tables and graphs amongst others can be found at  
[www.dti.gov.uk/homesafetynetwork/fw\\_stats.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/homesafetynetwork/fw_stats.htm)



## The Firework Safety Code

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- Only buy fireworks marked BS7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit.  
Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Don't let off noisy fireworks after 11pm.

**FIREWORKS  
BE SAFE  
NOT SORRY**  
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CODE



## Child Accident Prevention Trust

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National Charity Child Accident Prevention Trust fully supports the Department of Trade & Industry's firework safety work as part of the charity's ongoing commitment to reduce accidental death and serious injury among children and young people.

"Accidents are the greatest single cause of death among UK children and accidental injury is a leading cause of disability and ill health," explains the Trust's Chief Executive Katrina Phillips. "However, most accidents are predictable events that can be prevented by taking the right safety precautions – and firework injuries are no exception."

"Each year hospitals treat dozens of children under the age of five for various firework injuries and sparklers remain a major cause of injury for children of all ages."

"When lit, sparklers can get six times as hot as a pan of cooking oil," explains Katrina. "The fact is that children under five are too young to be allowed anywhere near fireworks – and that includes sparklers – and older children need to learn to respect fireworks to avoid being burnt."

Child Accident Prevention Trust seeks to reduce accidental injury through publicity campaigns, providing information and advice to both practitioners and parents and running community programmes.

Behind the scenes the charity seeks to improve the safety of children's products, facilities and environments by working with government, other key organisations and decision makers. In particular, it participates in the development of safety standards, both British and international.

To find out more about how to prevent children from being hurt in accidents, visit the charity's website at [www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)

Child Accident Prevention Trust  
18-20 Farringdon Lane  
London EC1R 3HA

tel: 020 7608 3828  
fax: 020 7608 3674  
email: [safe@capt.org.uk](mailto:safe@capt.org.uk)  
[www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)

**FIREWORKS  
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## Fight for Sight

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Fight for Sight is the country's leading charity in the battle against blindness, funding first class research into the prevention of blindness and the treatment of eye disease. Most of our researchers are based at the Institute of Ophthalmology, research partner to the world famous Moorfields Eye Hospital.

"Eye injuries from fireworks commonly cause damage to the cornea resulting in ocular surface burns, penetrating injuries with chronic inflammation and an increase in cataract and retinal detachment. These injuries can cause temporary loss of vision and may lead to a permanent reduction and loss of sight. Once an eye has been injured, causing partial or total loss of vision, it is rare to recover the same level of vision as before the accident.

"Therefore prevention is critical and following the Fireworks Safety Code is essential. In the event of an eye injury seek immediate professional medical attention" – Miss Linda Ficker, Head of Cornea Services, Moorfields Eye Hospital.

"Over 300 people were left with eye injuries after last year's firework season. Please don't be blind to the dangers of fireworks" – Mr Simon Well, Chairman, Fight for Sight.

Fight for Sight  
Institute of Ophthalmology  
Bath Street  
London  
EC1V 9EL

Tel: 020 7608 4000  
Fax: 020 7608 4001



## Order form for publicity materials

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

		Quantity	Tick
Fireworks: A guide for organisers of public displays	URN 04/1417	<input type="text" value="50"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selling Fireworks (Retailer Guide and Poster)	URN 04/1418 URN 04/1418P	<input type="text" value="50"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenage Poster A3	URN 04/1415	<input type="text" value="40"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue Cross "Fireworks and Pets" Leaflet	URN 04/1416	<input type="text" value="40"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Firework Safety Code (including asian languages)	URN 05/1439	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Tel: 0845 015 0010 E-mail [publications@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:publications@dti.gsi.gov.uk) Fax: 0845 015 0020

Orders can be placed **now** for all leaflets and posters.



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