

## > ORGANISED DISPLAYS

It is safer, better for the environment and often less expensive to attend organised public firework displays. The SFRS website publishes a list of organised displays: [www.firescotland.gov.uk/outdoors/fireworks-and-bonfires/organised-firework-events/](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/outdoors/fireworks-and-bonfires/organised-firework-events/)

SFRS always advise to attend an organised event. If you are unable to attend an organised display we would ask you to consider the impact of fireworks on people and animals. It is often children rather than adults who are injured by fireworks. The noise and lights that fireworks emit can also be overwhelming for people with a sensory impairment and those with neurological differences e.g. Autism. Animals can also find fireworks particularly distressing. Stay safe and follow the fireworks code.

## > SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

You can help the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to reduce the risk of injury to our children and young people by raising their awareness of the serious dangers associated with fireworks and bonfires.

Find PowerPoint presentations and lesson plans designed for young people from P6-P7 and S1-S2 on the SFRS website:

[www.firescotland.gov.uk/outdoors/fireworks-and-bonfires/firework-safety-for-schools-and-community-groups/](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/outdoors/fireworks-and-bonfires/firework-safety-for-schools-and-community-groups/)

The presentation should not be delivered to pupils out with this age range.

Further fire safety information and teaching resources for young people is available from [www.gosafescotland.com](http://www.gosafescotland.com)

For further information please contact your local Community Fire Station.

## > OTHER TIPS ON THE NIGHT

- Keep pets indoors – most animals get very scared by the lights and noise from fireworks
- Never throw spent fireworks on a bonfire
- Take care around bonfires – all clothes, even those labelled 'low flammability', can catch fire

## > FIREWORKS LEGISLATION

It is illegal:

- To use fireworks before 6pm or after 11pm. (This extends to Midnight on the 5th November and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali)
- To throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place.
- To buy or give fireworks to anyone under the age of 18 (with the exception of F1 fireworks).
- To modify, tamper with or misuse fireworks.
- For anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in a public place.
- For anyone other than a fireworks professional to possess display category fireworks.
- To cause unnecessary suffering to any domestic or captive animals. (Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006)



## > DISPOSAL OF FIREWORKS

After your display used fireworks should be disposed of by soaking for at least a few hours in water before placing in a plastic bag then disposing of the soaked, bagged fireworks in your outdoor general refuse bin.

If you have any fireworks which did not work, do not return to them till after your display has finished. At the end of the display the faulty fireworks should also be soaked, bagged and binned.

## > CONTACT US

Visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters.

You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999**.

To book a **FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT**  
Call **0800 0731 999**  
Text '**FIRE**' to **80800**  
or visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)



@SFRSYourSafety



## Fact.

Scotland's fire crews **are up to four times busier** than usual on November 5th, wasting time and resources attending unsafe bonfires.



SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

## > WARNING! FIRE & ALCOHOL DON'T MIX!

Do not go near bonfires or fireworks whilst under the influence of alcohol. Some individuals may be tempted to ignore local bye-laws and drink alcohol in public places. This could lead to Police issuing a fixed penalty ticket or a report being sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

## > BONFIRES & THE LAW

It is an offence under Section 56 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for any person to lay or light a fire in a public place so as to endanger any other person or give them reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance or so as to endanger any property.

If you know anything about fires that have been started deliberately in your area, you can call the **Crimestoppers Scotland hotline on 0800 555 111**. All calls are completely anonymous and do not require names or personal details and you will not be asked to give evidence in court.

Fly tipping during the Bonfire and Fireworks season is a major cause of fire and it is also a criminal offence. If you see fly tipping or know of an area where there is a build up of refuse or combustible material, contact your local authority cleansing or environmental department to arrange uplift.

## > KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

There are two categories of fireworks you can legally buy to use in your garden, CAT F2 and CAT F3. The category will be clearly marked on the outside of the box.

**With CAT F2 fireworks**, everyone in your party must stand at least 8 metres away for safety. That's around 26 ft – or the length of two family cars parked end-to-end!

**CAT F3 fireworks** have a minimum distance of 25 metres, or about 82 feet. You really need a garden the length of a local swimming pool for CAT F3 fireworks.

If you're having friends or family over for your firework display, you must make them aware of the minimum safe distance for the fireworks you're using.

## > BONFIRE SAFETY ADVICE

Advice from the SFRS is to attend a safely organised bonfire and firework display. However if you must have a bonfire at home make sure it is well away from buildings, vehicles, trees, hedges, fences, power lines, telecommunications equipment and sheds and you must ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or flying embers endanger neighbouring property.

- Never drink alcohol if you are tending a bonfire or setting off fireworks – remember it is an offence to consume alcohol in a public place.
- To reduce the emission of harmful smoke and combustion products bonfires should comprise of untreated wood and paper based materials only.
- There is a danger of explosion from pressurised containers or sealed vessels amongst bonfire material or irresponsibly thrown on burning bonfires.
- Never throw fireworks on bonfires.
- Never use flammable liquids to ignite bonfires – use proprietary fire lighters.
- Smoke from bonfires must not pose a public nuisance, affect visibility on roads or otherwise inconvenience vehicular traffic.
- Sparks, flying embers or burning debris must not endanger nearby property.
- Never leave a burning/smouldering bonfire unsupervised – make sure it is completely extinguished.



Any bonfire failing to satisfy safety conditions or where people are behaving irresponsibly may be deemed dangerous and as such, subject to being either removed, extinguished or otherwise made safe.

## > SPARKLERS

Sparklers burn at 1000°C-1600°C, at least 10 times the temperature of boiling water. If you are using them always:

- Supervise children with sparklers and never give them to a child under five.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Place used sparklers in a baking tray filled with water to cool before disposing of them.



## > FIREWORKS CODE

The SFRS recommend attending organised public firework displays. But if you do purchase fireworks, be safe and always follow the fireworks code:

Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used (and remember, alcohol and fireworks don't mix!). Children and young people should be supervised, and watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance.



1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable. Check the time you can legally set off fireworks.
2. Only buy fireworks with which carry a CE marking or the UKCA mark. Keep them in a closed metal box – take them out one at a time. CE and UKCA markings on fireworks demonstrate that the product has been tested to the required essential safety standard.
3. Follow the instructions on each firework – read them in daylight or by torchlight, never by a naked flame.
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit – even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

## > ORGANISING A DISPLAY

Visit [www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks/using.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks/using.htm) for guidance and practical advice.