



An Educated Minute

from the Human Resources Department

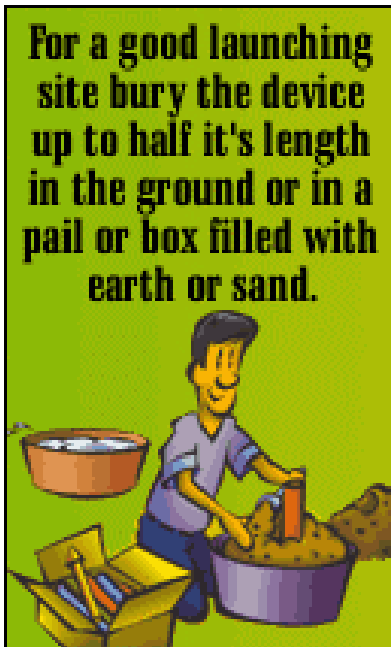
June 2003

Fireworks Safety

Fireworks have been around since the 6th century and consumer fireworks continue to be popular today. The tonnage of all fireworks consumed increases by 5-10% annually, however, not all types of fireworks are approved. Fireworks in this country are strictly regulated through the *Explosives Act*, which is administered by the Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD) of *Natural Resources Canada*. ERD also provides professional safety and legal awareness training and certification for Display Fireworks Supervisors and Special Effects Pyrotechnicians. ERD only permits safe performing fireworks to be manufactured, imported and sold in Canada. Trick fireworks such as snap caps and dangerously powerful items are prohibited. In addition, the *Aeronautics Act*, administered by *Transport Canada*, specifies requirements for launching high power rockets, including those used in fireworks displays.



Every year, fireworks used by amateurs cause many injuries serious enough to require emergency room treatment. Severe injuries caused by fireworks can include burns, lacerations, amputations, and blindness. Strict regulations and enforcement have resulted in Canada having far fewer fireworks incidents. Canadians consider control of fireworks to be an important public health and safety issue. Canada allows fireworks in only two categories: **Display**; and **Family or Consumer**.



The Corporation of the County of Renfrew

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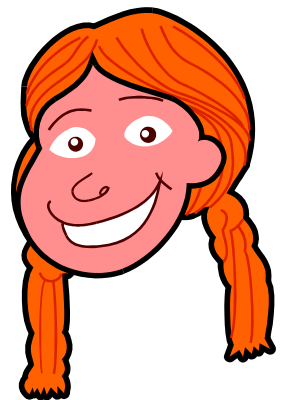
Natural Resources Canada has developed the following table regarding popular types of fireworks and their safety precautions:

Item	Effect	Safety / Precautions
Firecracker	Produce sound and heat	Restricted to approved purchasers only, Not for sale to general public
Roman Candle	Emit balls or stars at intervals	Setup - must be buried half way, Projectiles, Burns
Wheels	Fireworks mounted on wheels rotate at high speed due to rocket effect	Setup, Burns, Emits sparks
Fountains	Produces a shower of sparks, sometimes called a volcano	Burns, Setup, Emits sparks
Barrages	A multiple fountain or multiple roman candle May explodes high in the air or may produce star burst	Burns, Setup, Projectile
Sparklers	Produce intense heat and light high temperature degrees for approx. 2 min. still hot after expulsion	Burns, setup, projectile, fire, first aid

Tips for the Safe Use of Fireworks

- Always read and follow the label directions.
- An adult should always be present to supervise fireworks activities.
- Always have water nearby (garden hose and bucket).
- The fireworks shooter should always wear eye protection.
- Ignite the fireworks from a bucket of sand.
- Ignite fireworks outdoors, away from vehicles and buildings.
- Ignite fireworks one at a time.
- Never re-ignite a dud!
- Dispose of fireworks responsibly by soaking them in water and putting them in a trash can.

Sparklers are often considered harmless fun but did you know that they can burn as hot as 650 C (1200 degrees Fahrenheit) and can ignite clothing?



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