



Fireworks Safety Checklist

So you are planning a fireworks celebration at home or in your community! First of all, know your local law and which fireworks are allowed. In Florida, legal devices include sparklers, cones, fountains, and some aerial items. Novelties and trick noisemakers, including snakes, smoke devices, poppers, booby traps, and snappers, are also permitted. Florida law **prohibits** the following items: firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, Roman candles, dago bombs, or any fireworks that contain any explosive or flammable compounds.

Next, carefully consider these three safety areas; *personal, property, and environment*.

Personal Safety:

- Do you have a first aid kit on hand? Sparklers can burn up to a temperature of 2,000 thousand degrees (glass melts at only 900 degrees).
- Do you have a fire extinguisher and do you know how to use it?
- Is water available to douse dud fireworks or to put out a fire? Put another adult in charge of dousing dud fireworks and to be on “spark” lookout. Have hoses and water buckets at the ready.
- Are you familiar with the fireworks you plan to shoot? Only handle fireworks you know and heed all warnings. Leave the professional (or illegal) fireworks to the permitted professionals.
- Have you refrained from alcohol? Alcohol and the handling of fireworks is not a good mix.
- How will you ignite the fireworks to protect yourself if it goes off before it should? Make sure to not place your body over a firework when you are lighting it.
- Sometimes fireworks do not go off like they should. Leave it alone for several minutes to be sure it really is a dud. Don’t try to relight it. Douse with water before disposing of it.
- Have you communicated safety ground rules to the guests?
 - Stay in the clearly marked safe zone
 - Adults only should handle all the fireworks
 - It is not recommended that children handle fireworks. If a child is given a sparkler, he should be carefully monitored at all times.

Property Safety:

- Does the launch area have a large enough radius to prevent fireworks from landing on any structures, such as a house, garage, or vehicle?
- Have you informed your neighbors? It is courteous to inform your neighbors when you plan to host an event especially one that involves fireworks.

Environmental Safety:

- Have you checked the weather? Has it been really dry in your area? Is there a temporary ban on burning? Will it be windy?