



# Township of Lower Makefield

## OFFICE OF THE FIRE SERVICE DIRECTOR

1100 Edgewood Road Yardley, PA 19067  
(267) 274-1127 firesafety@lmt.org

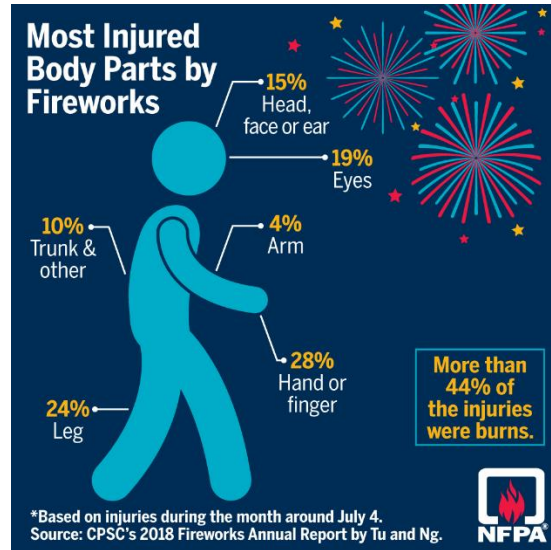


## Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. It is important to know that fireworks are not safe in the hands of consumers. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year.

Fireworks started an estimated 19,500 fires in 2020, including 1,900 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and 17,100 outside and other fires. These fires caused five deaths, 46 civilian injuries, and \$105 million in direct property damage.

In 2020, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,100 people for fireworks related injuries; half of those injuries were to the extremities and 34% were to the eye or other parts of the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for more than one-third (36%) of the estimated 2020 injuries.



## What type of fireworks can I purchase?

Pennsylvania consumers above the age of 18 can purchase and use “Class C” or “consumer-grade” fireworks such as firecrackers, Roman candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material.

Sparklers are legal for private use, however, children should never play with them. Sparklers appear safe but can burn as hot as 1,200 to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. They can easily ignite clothing and cause severe burning.



“Display fireworks,” which are classified as including salutes that contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials, and professional-grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, are still only to be used by professionals with a permit from Lower Makefield Township where the display will take place.



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**Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks**

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks
- Cannot be ignited or discharged on public or private property without express permission of the property owner.
- Cannot be discharged from or directed at a building or vehicle.
- Cannot be discharged within 150 feet of a building or vehicle regardless of if the building or vehicle is owned by the user of the consumer fireworks.



Illegal explosives associated with fireworks are inherently dangerous because of their composition and unpredictability. Homemade explosives can pose a particular risk for injury because the people making them often lack knowledge and experience in manufacturing fireworks.



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Law enforcement agencies consider devices such as M-80s, M-100s, quarter sticks, cherry bombs, silver salutes, etc., to be illegal because they exceed the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) limits for consumer fireworks, in addition to being banned by many states.

These devices meet no safety standards and often have a coating of dangerous explosive dust. Friction, heat, or being bumped can cause these devices to detonate. The U.S. Department of Transportation has classed these items as "forbidden explosives" because they have not been submitted for appropriate testing and evaluation.



### **Some indicators that a device may be an illegal explosive:**

- It resembles a roll of coins with a fuse.
- It consists of a cardboard tube or oddly shaped item wrapped in brown paper and filled with an explosive material.
- It is red, silver, or brown in color
- It may be 1 to 6 inches long and up to an inch or more in diameter.
- It is sold on the street or out of the back of someone's vehicle.

If you have any questions about any fireworks, please reach out to the Office of the Fire Service Director at 267-274-1127.