

A GUIDE TO Fireworks IN MINNESOTA



Fireworks are often a source of entertainment and delight for many Minnesota residents. Whether it's the 4th of July or some other exciting holiday, who doesn't enjoy seeing sparks fly and hearing the squeals, whistles, and booms of some fireworks? There are many types of fireworks! Some shoot high into the air while others dazzle crowds with fountains of sparks. If you're using fireworks at home, it's important to not only consider the type of fireworks, but how and where to light them, too.

Become a firework expert with this guide! Find out which fireworks are legal (and which ones aren't), where it's safe to light them, how to safely set them off, and more.

TYPES OF FIREWORKS

There are tons of types and varieties of consumer fireworks out there, from simple sparklers to intricate Roman Candles. Here's a brief break down of which types of fireworks are legal and illegal in Minnesota, and how each type of firework acts:



LEGAL FIREWORKS IN MINNESOTA



SPARKLERS

Sparklers are hand-held sticks that, when lit, emit sparks (wouldn't you know it!) They burn for a few minutes and then die off. Be careful though! They are very hot, even after they are extinguished.



FOUNTAINS

These are cone-shaped packages that you set on the ground and, when lit, shoot off a fountain of colorful sparks.



SNAKES

These are small little pellets that, when lit, emit a snake-like stream of delicate carbon ash. They don't emit any colorful sparks, but they're fun to watch.



POPPERS

These are just little bottles that have a string attached to them and when you pull the string it makes a popping noise and shoots out confetti.



SNAPS

These are tiny paper packets filled with material that reacts on impact. When thrown on the ground, they make a small popping noise.



GROUND SPINNERS

These little guys, when lit, spin around and around super fast on the ground and send sparks flying from each end.



ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN MINNESOTA



FIRECRACKERS

These are loud, explosive fireworks, typically wrapped in paper and lit with a fuse. They go off as a series of loud pops and mini-explosions.



BOTTLE ROCKETS

These are miniature rockets that shoot off into the sky with a loud whistle and then explode at the peak.



ROMAN CANDLES

These fireworks are like wizard wands. It shoots out colorful balls and sparks from its end when lit.



ARTILLERY SHELLS

These resemble professional fireworks seen at shows. You light the fuse of a small projectile and drop it into a launcher tube.



AERIAL REPEATERS

These are like having a miniature fireworks display right in front of you. They are made up of several tubes bundled together, each of which contains a small aerial shell that explodes in a colorful display in the sky.

There are several more types of fireworks not included in these lists. If you're not sure if a certain type of firework is legal or not in Minnesota, a good rule of thumb is that any fireworks that are explosive or aerial are not legal. There may be certain exceptions for types of permissible fireworks depending on whether or not you have a specific permit. For a more complete list of fireworks that are acceptable and not acceptable under Minnesota law, refer to [this document](#).

WHERE CAN I GET FIREWORKS IN MINNESOTA?

Your best bet most of the time would be to search online for places close to your particular city that legally sell fireworks. But here are a few places you can look out for:

RENAISSANCE FIREWORKS

27 fireworks stores and tents throughout Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the greater Twin Cities area.

FIREWORKS FOREVER

Located in St. Croix Falls, WI - 2.2 miles east of Taylors Falls, MN.

PHANTOM FIREWORKS OF ROBERTS

Located in Roberts, WI, less than 35 miles from Minneapolis.

Just as a disclaimer, keep in mind that if you shop for fireworks in a different state, such as Wisconsin, what you buy may or may not be considered legal in Minnesota, as each state has different laws.



HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE FIREWORKS

Fireworks are fun and exciting, but they are also fairly dangerous by their very nature. From the moment you buy them all the way until after you light them off, there is potential for disaster. Here's how to handle fireworks in a way that no one will get hurt, and everyone can enjoy them:

1. POINT FIREWORKS AWAY FROM PEOPLE, ANIMALS, & HOMES

Lighting off a firework in the direction of any of these can easily lead to injuries and damages.

2. NEVER CARRY FIREWORKS IN YOUR POCKET

A firework could get jostled and unintentionally go off if carried in a pocket.

3. STORE FIREWORKS IN A COOL, DRY PLACE

This will help ensure that nothing accidentally ignites or sets off the fireworks.

4. ALWAYS HAVE A BUCKET OF WATER AND/OR WATER HOSE NEARBY

This is in case of an emergency, but it's also to extinguish and dispose of fireworks after they've been used.

5. DON'T SHOOT FIREWORKS FROM A METAL OR GLASS CONTAINER

These can easily explode or shatter, injuring anyone too close.

6. DON'T LIGHT FIREWORKS IN YOUR HAND

The majority of firework related injuries occur to the hands and fingers.

7. DON'T TRY TO RELIGHT A DUD

If you light a firework and it doesn't go off that means that it is defective. Trying to light it again could lead to an unexpected reaction and serious injury.

Always read and follow the instructions and directions on your fireworks before using them. They often contain helpful safety tips for handling them. Adult supervision for the young ones is a definite must. Don't try to modify the fireworks, and definitely don't try to make your own. And if you're thinking of taking a flight somewhere, don't try to bring any fireworks with you through the airport, as that is illegal and you could be suspected of criminal intent.

SAFE (& NOT SO SAFE) PLACES TO USE FIREWORKS

The first half of the word fireworks is *fire*, which is precisely what they can cause if they are set off in certain environments. Where is it safe to set off fireworks? First, never set fireworks off *indoors*. You only want to use fireworks outdoors, in a clear area away from buildings and vehicles. You also want an area away from trees, brush, grass, leaves, or any other flammable substances. Find a location that is hard and flat, like concrete, dirt, sand, or stone. Consider empty parking lots or non-busy streets, as long as they also abide by the previously mentioned guidelines.

WHY IS FIREWORK SAFETY SO IMPORTANT?

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year. Of these fires, 1,300 are structure fires, 300 are vehicle fires, and 16,900 are outside or other fires. These fires led to some 40 injuries, 3 deaths, and \$43 million in property damage. U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated approximately 11,900 individuals for fireworks related injuries in 2015 based off estimates derived from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's fireworks report. Children younger than 15 years old seem to be particularly at risk, accounting for 26% of the reported fireworks injuries.

In Minnesota, between June 22 and July 15 of 2015, 89 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks related injuries. That's just emergency room visits, in only a 23 day time frame.

All this being said, could you guess which day of the year has the most reported fires than any other? You guessed it! The 4th of July. Independence day consists of firework displays of all sizes taking place all over the US., so it shouldn't come as a big surprise. By following this guide you can avoid becoming part of these statistics.



ENJOY FIREWORKS SAFELY!

We hope that this guide on firework safety has shown you how to safely go about obtaining and using fireworks, as well as understanding the different types and what is considered legal or not. We at Rapid Restoration want everyone to be free of injury or property damages whenever using fireworks. But should your home, business, or any other property in Minnesota experience any firework-related damages, don't hesitate to [contact us](#) immediately. We'll restore and repair any fire damage so it's like it never even happened.

[Complete Guide to Fire Damage](#) | [The Process of Fire and Smoke Restoration](#)

