

Portland Fire & Rescue

Fireworks Facts & Safety – Please Celebrate Safely

Fireworks Fact Sheet

- During Fireworks Season 2020 (June 23 through July 6) there were a total of 223 fires and 44 were caused by fireworks in the City of Portland.
- On July 4, 2020 – 18 of 36 fires in Portland were caused by fireworks.
- As reported by the Oregon State Fire Marshal, for the five years through 2019, there were 1,173 reported fireworks-related fires in Oregon, resulting in more than \$4.9 million in property loss and contents damage. During that same period, fires resulting from fireworks resulted one death and 37 injuries.
- According to Multnomah County Animal Services, the 10-day period around July 4th experiences a **25% increase** in dogs and cats entering the shelter when compared with a typical 10-day period in the summer. For more information go to: www.multcopets.org or www.clackamas.us/dogs/.
- **The types of fireworks that produced the most injuries** were mortars (Illegal in Oregon), fountains (legal in Oregon), and sparklers (legal in Oregon). These three types accounted for over two-thirds of the injuries. Over half of the injuries were to fingers or hands.
- Injuries to Oregonians in 2013 included a man who blew his hand into three pieces when a bottle rocket with a 2-inch mortar exploded in his hand; and a group of 4 residents who were injured when an illegal firework fired into a crowd.
- July 4, 2011, a fire at NE 17th and Alberta caused over \$1 million in damage when an illegal aerial rocket landed on the roof and ignited a fast-moving fire. This two-alarm fire displaced three businesses and their employees including a restaurant and a coffee shop.

Fireworks Safety Tips

- Observe the law - Oregon law bans possession, use, or sale of any fireworks that **fly, explode, or travel more than one foot into the air or more than six feet on the ground, these fireworks are illegal.**
- When using legal fireworks, only set them off outdoors, in a clear area, away from homes, dry leaves, or grass and other flammable materials.
- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Older children should be permitted to use fireworks only under close adult supervision.
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.
- Be sure other people and pets are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Ashes & Burned Material should be placed in a metal can with a lid and stored away from combustibles or buildings.

In an Emergency Call: 9 – 1 – 1

Non-Emergency, call:

Multnomah County (503) 823-3333

Clackamas County (503) 655-8211

Washington County (503) 629-0111



www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/fireworks

Legal in Oregon vs. Illegal in Oregon

Possession of illegal fireworks could cost you up to \$1000 and you could be held liable for injuries or property damage.



Cone Fountain and Base Fountain



Wheel



Flitter Sparkler



Novelty Device



Ground Spinner



Smoke Bomb
(Not Explosive)



Party Popper



10 Inch Sparkler
(Wire Core Only)



Snake



Small or Regular Firecrackers and "Crazy Jack" or "Jumping Jack"

Sky and Missile Rockets

Bottle Rocket

Roman Candle

Aerial Shell with Mortar

LEGAL FIREWORKS

Includes: Cone Fountains, Cylindrical Fountains, Flitter Sparklers, Ground Spinners, Illuminating Torches, and other similar items.

Novelty Items: Only smoke or ash or make a small noise, such as Smoke Bombs, Party Poppers, Snakes, etc.

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Includes: Fireworks which explode, fly into the air, or travel more than 6 feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. These pose a significant risk to life and property.

***Turn in illegal fireworks at any area fire station. No citation or fines are issued to people turning these in.**

Professional Fireworks Displays in the Portland Metro Area

IN 2021, DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC -
PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC DISPLAYS
HAVE BEEN CANCELED

For more info go to: www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/fireworks