

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE OPERATIONS



CITY OF TOLEDO

TITLE

Fireworks

PURPOSE

Define legal and illegal fireworks and establish guidelines for handling these types of incidents.

GUIDELINES

“Fireworks” means any composition or device prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, deflagration, detonation, except ordinary matches.

1. **Legal Fireworks** as defined by the Ohio Revised Code 3743.80 Exemptions from provisions.
 - E) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices in which paper or plastic caps containing twenty-five hundredths grains or less of explosive material are used, provided that they are constructed so that a hand cannot come into contact with a cap when it is placed for explosion, or apply to the manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of those caps;
 - F) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of novelties and trick noise makers...;
 - G) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of wire sparklers.

This would include but not be limited to:

- Snap – a small paper-wrapped item that contains a minute quantity of explosive composition coated on small bits of sand, and that, when dropped, implodes.
- Smoke Device – a tube or sphere that contains pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces white or colored smoke as the primary effect.
- Snake or Glow Worms – a device that consists of a pressed pellet or pyrotechnic composition that produces a large, snake-like ash upon burning, which ash expands in length as the pellet burns.
- Punk – a flare like device used to light fireworks.
- Sparklers – a wire or stick coated with a nonexplosive pyrotechnic mixture that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition and that contains no more than one hundred grams of this mixture

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2. **Illegal Fireworks** are basically anything that makes a “boom” which is lit.

This would include but not be limited to:

- Bottle Rockets
- Cones
- Firecrackers
- Helicopters
- Parachutes
- Roman Candles
- Skyrockets

Even though illegal fireworks are a first-degree misdemeanor, the police may not have the staffing to act on every citizen you come across with a pack of firecrackers. It is imperative to remember that if you find large quantities (i.e. a trunk, pick-up, garage, or house full) of illegal fireworks it is your responsibility to secure the scene for the police or arson investigator.

At no time shall a fire crew confiscate illegal fireworks. Special care is required in the handling, transportation, and storage of fireworks. At this time we do not have the capabilities to handle any items confiscated by crews.

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