



Guidance For Organised Firework Displays

Firework displays should be enjoyable and spectacular occasions – but they obviously need some responsible planning. The good news is that there is straightforward guidance to help competent organisers.

Firework displays typically fired by competent display operators vary widely in their nature and scale, for example:

- displays held around 5 November attracting thousands of spectators, often run by local authorities;
- displays held by businesses, for example to celebrate a special event, an invited audience where the number of spectators may be no more than a hundred or so, or open to the public;
- displays for celebrations such as weddings and birthdays.

The publication below gives advice on safety for outdoor firework displays where the fireworks are to be fired by a competent display operator). This edition provides an update on relevant legislation, training, risk assessment and competence. It does not cover displays where the fireworks are to be fired by people without specialised knowledge or training.

Click for more info on [Organising Large Firework Displays](#).

Home Firework Displays - Firework and bonfire safety advice

We would always recommend attending a organised display rather than doing your own fireworks, as this greatly reduces the risk of harm.

However, if you are organising fireworks display at your home please follow this advice:

- Store fireworks in a sealed box
- Do not drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Stand well back when the firework has been lit and ensure others are far back as well
- Never go back to a firework that has already been lit
- Keep a bucket of water nearby
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Keep pets indoors
- If you are using sparklers, make sure you wear gloves and have a bucket of water nearby to put them in when you have finished. Never let children use sparklers unaccompanied.

Organising a firework display?

This guidance will provide you with the information you need to have a safe display [HSE Explosives - Organising firework displays](#)

Bonfires

- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, fences, and hedges
- Never use flammable liquids to start a bonfire, or burn dangerous items such as aerosol cans, paint tins, or batteries
- Don't leave bonfires unattended - even for a minute!
- Always keep a buck of water or hosepipe nearby in case the fire starts to get out of control
- Call 999 immediately if you start to lose control of the fire