

By Order of the Fire Chief of the City of Jacksonville

Fireworks Ordinance and Safety Tips

Ordinance No. 1429 (#17-2011) states the following:

It is prohibited for any person to discharge, explode, fire, manufacture, possess, sell, or allow to be discharged, exploded, fired, manufactured, possessed, or sold any bombs, firecrackers, roman candles, squids, torpedoes, or other such items containing powder or combustible explosive material within the corporate limits of the City of Jacksonville.

There are exceptions; however, you're responsible to ensure there is no Pulaski County burn ban before the following "Exceptions" may be authorized. You must view the following website: <http://www.arkfireinfo.org/index.php?do:showBurnBans>

NOTE: County burn bans apply to the use of fireworks.

Exceptions:

1. With proper and prior approval from the Jacksonville Fire Marshall, public fireworks displays may occur on public property. Said displays and discharges shall comply with all state and federal regulations and safety provisions.
2. Private land owners and or organization may provide a **July 4** (Independence Day) fireworks display under the following conditions: a) Obtain approval / permit for each such display from the Jacksonville and State Fire Marshalls; b) Comply with all state and federal regulations and safety provisions; c) Provide payment for and or provide sufficient security personnel so as to provide adequate traffic, safety control, and timely trash removal needs created by said fireworks display; d) Insure said display is completed within the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 pm.; and, e) Provide notice to the Jacksonville Fire and Police Departments of said fireworks display(s) plans no less than Seventy two (72) hours prior to said display event(s).

EXPIRED Exception:

For any business or individual selling fireworks at the time of annexation into the City limits on or about June 14, 2011, said business or individual may continue to sell fireworks subject to the limitations contained in the State Fireworks Code **until** January 1, 2013.

CONCLUSION: Private land owners are authorized to conduct fireworks display **ONLY on July 4th**, and when permitted to do so. Remember, this Ordinance is written so that a person in the City of Jacksonville may not even possess fireworks within the corporate city limits of the City of Jacksonville. If you purchase, possess or use fireworks prior to obtaining a permit, you will be in violation of the ordinance and shall be cited or arrested and brought before the Jacksonville District Court for hearing on the matter. Any person(s) pleading or pronounced No Contest or Guilty of any of the above provisions shall be deemed guilty of a violation and, upon such conviction, punished by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) nor more than Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) for each such offense, together with applicable court costs. Permits may be picked up at the Police Station at 1400 Marshall Road, or Central Fire Station at 900 North Redmond Road.

Fireworks Injury Stats and Safety Tips

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) provides advice on fireworks safety and statistics about fireworks injuries. If you plan to use fireworks this Fourth of July, read this first.

From the CPSC:

Fireworks Injuries

Fireworks. They are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain, and even death. In 2011, CPSC staff conducted a study of fireworks injuries from June 17 to July 17. Here's what we learned.

- 200 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.
- 65% of these fireworks injuries in 2011 occurred during the month surrounding July 4th.
- Illegal and homemade fireworks were involved in all 4 fireworks-related deaths reported to CPSC in 2011

Most Injured Body Parts

- 46%: Hands and fingers
- 17%: Eyes
- 17%: Heads, faces, and ears
- 5%: Trunk
- 4%: Arms
- 11%: Legs
- More than half the injuries were burns.

Injuries by Fireworks Type

- 17%: Sparklers
- 14%: Reloadable Shells
- 13%: Firecrackers
- 7%: Roman Candles
- 6%: Bottle Rockets
- 6%: Novelties
- 2%: Multiple Tubes
- 1%: Fountains
- 3%: Public Display
- 29%: Unspecified

Injuries by Age

- 40%: 25-44
- 14%: 45-64
- 10%: 10-14
- 10%: 15-19
- 9%: 20-24
- 9%: 5-9
- 7%: 0-4

- 1%: 65+

Injuries by Gender

- 68%: male
- 32%: female
- Males were most injured from firecrackers, sparklers, bottle rockets, novelty devices, Roman candles, and reloadable shells.

Fireworks Safety Tips

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

[Find more fireworks safety tips.](#)

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2011 Fireworks Annual Report