

# Organising Firework Events

If you are organising an event with fireworks the safety of your audience is of the highest priority.

You should have three areas, a firing area (50m x 20m) with a dropping zone (100m x 50m) behind. The spectators area should be on the opposite side of the firing area at least 25m from the dropping zone.

Metal bins should be used throughout the site and you should have at least one adequately trained steward for every 250 spectators.

You should check with the Trading Standards office as to whether you will need a storage licence and for large events the fire service and police should be informed, and first aid facilities provided.

Experienced people should be recruited to light the fireworks and spectators should not be allowed to bring their own. Spent fireworks can be burnt but should be left until spectators have gone as this may be potentially dangerous. If a firework has failed to go off it should be doused in water.

It is also illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except in the following cases:

- Bonfire Night - 5 November - until midnight.
- Diwali - until 1am the following morning.
- New Year's Eve - until 1 am on the following day.
- Chinese New Year - until 1 am on the following day.



Fireworks should not be sold to persons under 18 years of age. Bangers are now illegal and throwing fireworks is an offence. Despite this there are still many injuries occurring every November.

Sparklers in particular are still thought of as fairly harmless although they account for the largest number of injuries every year.

- Only buy fireworks that comply to current standards from a licensed retailer
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never throw fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five; and
- Keep pets indoors

## Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

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