



Routt County Office of Emergency Management

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LEGAL VS. ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO

Routt County, Colorado — According to Colorado law the only fireworks allowed for personal use in the state cannot explode, nor can they leave the ground and fly through the air. Firecrackers, rockets of any kind, and mortars are also illegal everywhere in Colorado. On top of that, many cities in the counties in the state have even more strict rules, some going so far as to ban *all* fireworks.

If you do plan on lighting off some fireworks, make sure to check your area's fireworks regulations for this year.

LEGAL CONSUMER FIREWORKS:

- Cylindrical fountains
- Cone fountains
- Wheels
- Ground spinner
- Illuminating torches and colored fire in any form
- Dipped sticks and sparklers
- Explosive auto alarms, toy propellant devices, toy smoke devices, cigarette loads, trick matches, and trick noise makers
- Snake or glow worm
- Novelties consisting of two or more devices enumerated in this section

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS:

Fireworks that leave the ground, explode or fragment, such as pop bottle rockets, mortars, roman candles, firecrackers, cherry bombs, and similar more powerful fireworks are illegal in the State of Colorado.

As we head into the Independence Day holiday, it is important you take steps to keep your family and pets safe. The three (3) types of fireworks that cause the most injuries are bottle rockets, firecrackers, and sparklers. Bottle rockets and firecrackers can fly in any direction prior to exploding and sparklers burn at temperatures hot enough to melt gold (1,800°F). When using legal fireworks, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Kids should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are dangerous. If you give kids sparklers, make sure they keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair

- Buy only legal fireworks, and store them in a cool, dry place. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarterpounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others – fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket – the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush and leaves and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one (1) firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and never relight a dud.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Keep pets indoors – Fourth of July is the #1 day in which pets get lost and end up in shelters. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed by the sound of fireworks. Frightened dogs will jump fences and run in an attempt to get away from the noise.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately call 911.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety: www.fireworkssafety.org

The Routt County Office of Emergency Management encourages you to celebrate our nation's heritage on the Fourth of July, but celebrate safely!

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