

# Fireworks Safety



West Bloomfield  
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Every Fourth of July, more fires are reported nationwide than on any other day of the year with 50% of them being related to fireworks. Homes, wooded & grassy areas, boats and even automobiles have caught fire because of fireworks. Over the past few years the West Bloomfield Fire Department has responded to many fires that were caused by fireworks. Most commonly these fires are caused by aerial or bottle rocket type fireworks where the projectiles land in dry vegetation, on rooftops, or wedge themselves within structures where they still retain enough heat to cause a fire.

Currently, Michigan is restrictive in what fireworks are allowed to be sold, purchased, used or transported. The information below is being supplied as a guide to help insure any fireworks you purchase, or use, are in compliance with the Michigan Fireworks Law (Michigan Penal Code, Act 328 or 1931, as amended, MCL 750.243a - 750.243e). Know that as of 5-13-2010, it is illegal to sell, possess, transport, or use fireworks in Michigan without a permit, exceptions to this are listed below. Fireworks that do not fit these current exceptions are illegal for sale, use, or transportation without a permit and violators are guilty of a misdemeanor (MCL 750.243e).

In recent years fireworks have been one of the leading causes of serious injuries that require treatment in hospital emergency rooms. Fireworks can cause severe burns, fractures, and can even result in death or life-long disfigurement. The thousands of serious fire work related injuries that occur each year typically involve damage to the eyes, head or hands, with injuries being highest among children between the ages of 5 - 14. Even though novelty fireworks, such as fountains and sparklers, are generally considered to be "safe" and legal in Michigan, they can reach temperatures of more than 1,200° F, and account for 36% of all emergency room fireworks related injuries.

There are safer alternatives to using fireworks on the Fourth of July. Public fireworks displays are the safest, smartest, and even the most economical fireworks alternative. The greater Detroit area hosts many free public fireworks displays every Fourth of July. Check the following listing for Public Fireworks Display locations and times: <http://michiganfireworks.com>. For more information about fireworks facts, safety tips, state and federal fireworks laws, please explore the links below. The West Bloomfield Fire Department wishes you and your family a safe summer and a Happy Fourth of July.



## [Fireworks Fact Sheet](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/fireworksfactsheet.pdf)

[www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/fireworksfactsheet.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/fireworksfactsheet.pdf)

## [Fireworks Safety Tips](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/FireworksSafetyTips.pdf)

[www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/FireworksSafetyTips.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/FireworksSafetyTips.pdf)

## [Michigan Fireworks / Attorney General](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-34739_20942-44662--,00.html)

[http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-34739\\_20942-44662--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-34739_20942-44662--,00.html)



### LEGAL FIREWORKS (No permit required—as of 5-13-2010)

**Flat paper caps** - containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap.

**Toy noise makers** - toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noise makers, toy guns where paper caps are used.

**Sparklers** - containing no more than .0125 pounds of burning portion per sparkler.

**Flitter sparklers** - in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter.

**Cone and cylinder fountains** - emits showers of sparks.

**Toy snakes** - not containing mercury and packed no more than 12 per box.

**Toy smoke devices.**

### EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS/EXPLOSIVES IN MICHIGAN (as of 5-13-2010) (THIS LIST IS NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE)

**Cherry Bomb** - A small red sphere approximately 1" in diameter.

**Comet (or Mine)** - A cylinder containing a star and attached to a wooden base. Upon ignition, the star is thrust 50-100 feet in the air and continues to glow as it falls to the ground.

**Firecracker** - A small noisemaking cylinder up to 1.5" in length, often strung together with a fuse.

**M-80** - Up to 2" in length, usually a red cylinder with a fuse coming out the side. This is not a firework; it is a federally banned explosive.

**Bottle Rockets** - A cylinder, frequently topped by a cone to stabilize its flight, attached to a long stick.

**Roman Candles** - A 6-12" tube containing alternating layers of compacted black powder that shoots single stars out of the top when lighted.

**Silver Salute (M-100)** - A silver cylinder with a fuse coming out of the side containing large quantities of flash powder. This is not a firework; it is a federally banned explosive.

**M-250 and M-1000 (quarter-stick)** - Large versions of the M-80 and M-100 that have extremely high risk factors for crippling and disfiguring injuries. This is not a firework; it is a federally banned explosive.