Home Safety: Firework Safety

In Northern Ireland it is a legal requirement to obtain a licence before purchasing display fireworks.

Fireworks are safe if you use them properly. Here are some simple steps to make sure that everyone has a good time without getting hurt.

Firework Top Ten Safety Code

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

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Holding a fireworks display

Keep Kids Safe

We want children to enjoy fireworks but they need to know that they can be dangerous if they are not used properly. Each year, over half of all firework injuries are suffered by children. **Always** supervise children when near fireworks.

Think of your Neighbours

Let your neighbours know if you are planning a firework party, they may have pets which should be kept indoors. In rural areas this could include larger animals such as horses and donkeys in stables nearby.

In addition, it would be kind to let elderly neighbours and families with young children know there may be some loud bangs.

Protect Your Animals

Most animals get very scared by the lights and noise, so you should take precautions to protect your pets during the times of the year when fireworks are likely to be set off.

Bring in all pets. This includes pets that are normally kept outside, such as rabbits or guinea pigs.

Close all of your windows and doors and try to drown out the noise as much as possible. Make sure that cats and dogs have name tags on them in case the noise scares them and they run off.