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Illegal Fireworks and Safety

About one-third of all fireworks injuries are caused by **illegal** fireworks. In addition, many fires in our beach vegetation are caused by illegal fireworks. While many Atlantic Beach citizens will celebrate Independence Day at a permitted, commercial fireworks display, many people prefer to purchase their own for home celebrations. But the Atlantic Beach Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents that many consumer fireworks are not legal in North Carolina (N.C. General Statutes 14-410 through 14-415).

Illegal Fireworks:

Any fireworks that explode, spin, leave the ground, jump or fly through the air are **ILLEGAL** in North Carolina. This includes firecrackers, ground spinners, roman candles, bottle rockets, and mortars.

Purchasing banned fireworks and bringing them into North Carolina is also **ILLEGAL**

Examples of **LEGAL** fireworks are sparklers, fountains, "glow worms", and snap pops.

Enforcement:

Violation of fireworks laws is classified as a Class 2 Misdemeanor, which may be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and/or imprisonment for up to six months, depending upon the level of violation. The fireworks laws cover transport, display, storage, sale, possession and use of fireworks. Illegal fireworks are strictly enforced within the boundaries of the Town of Atlantic Beach.

Safety:

Fireworks are not toys and should only be handled by responsible adults. Even sparklers can burn as hot as 1200° F and cause hundreds of injuries every year.

Pay close attention to your surroundings when using fireworks and never point them at people, pets, cars, or buildings.

Read and follow all directions before lighting fireworks. If a firework does not have instructions clearly stated in English, don't use it.

Only use fireworks outdoors on a paved surface, away from dry grass, wooded areas, dwellings, or anything that could catch fire.

Never alter fireworks or attempt to make your own.

Always keep a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of a fire emergency.

Never re-light or pick up fireworks that have not fully functioned.

Light one item at a time, then move back quickly.

Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them in metal or glass containers.

Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can. Miss-fires and duds should be left alone for at least 30 minutes and then soaked in water for 30 minutes prior to disposal.

“Let’s keep Independence Day safe! Follow the law and keep these basic safety tips in mind if you choose to celebrate with fireworks.”