

Fireworks Safety Tips

Stay away from illegal explosives.

It is very important to know the difference between a legal consumer firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are not fireworks they are federally banned explosives that can cause serious injury or even death.

Don't purchase or use unlabeled fireworks.

Stay away from anything that isn't clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer's name and instructions for proper use. If you are aware of anyone selling devices that are not labeled, contact your local police department or sheriff's office.

Don't make fireworks at home.

Homemade fireworks are deadly. Never attempt to make your own devices, and do not purchase or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks. Mixing and loading chemical powders is very dangerous and they can kill or seriously injure you.

General Safety

- Make sure only adults use fireworks.
- Never give young children fireworks. Even sparklers can be unsafe if used improperly.
- Do not point or throw fireworks at people or animals.
- Use fireworks in an open area away from dry grass and other flammable materials.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies.
- Do not re-ignite extinguished fireworks.
- Do not attempt to repair broken fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Keep fireworks out of your pockets.

Remember: Fireworks are not toys.



Fireworks Permit Process

233 West Broaddus Ave.
Bowling Green, VA
22427

Phone: 804-633-9831
Fax: 804-633-9832

Caroline County Department of Fire and Rescue



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What are Fireworks?

The term "Fireworks" refers to any object that contains any explosive, flammable compound or substance, which explodes, rises into the air, travels laterally, or fires projectiles into the air.

Do all Fireworks need a permit?

This process does not apply to the use or sale of sparklers, fountains, Pharaoh's serpents, caps for pistols, or to pinwheels commonly known as "whirligigs" or "spinning jennies."

However, the fireworks listed in the preceding sentence may only be used, ignited or exploded on private property with the consent of the property owner.

How does the Fireworks Permit process work?

1. Fireworks Permits are issued by the Fire Official.

2. Applications for permits may be obtained from

- The Caroline County Fire Rescue Website:
<http://www.carolinefirerescue.org>
- Caroline County Fire Rescue Administration Offices located at:
233 West Broaddus Ave.
Bowling Green, VA 22427
804-633-4303

3. Application Process

- Must be received at least 30 days prior to the date of the fireworks display
- A non-refundable \$100 permit application fee shall be paid at the time of application.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Fire Official or his/her designee. If the application meets all requirements, then it shall be approved and returned to the applicant.
- Once all requirements have been met and the approved application has been issued, the Fire Official will perform a site visit to ensure compliance with State and County Code. Prior to, but not later than the day of the display, the permit will be issued.



4. Important factors affecting the Application and Permit process

- Applicant must be properly qualified under state law
- The applicant must provide the Fire Official evidence of a bond or certificate of commercial general liability insurance that:
 - ◇ Policy must be in the amount of at least \$1,000,000
 - ◇ Must be available to cover any damages resulting from the fireworks display.
 - ◇ All insurance policies shall be with insurers qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - ◇ The Insurance Companies must have an "A+" or better rating of insurance by Best's Key Rating Guide, Property/Casualty Edition.
- Location of Display
 - ◇ Fireworks displays can only occur four (4) times per calendar year on any one parcel of land or any contiguous parcels held under common ownership.
 - ◇ The display can be held without endangering persons or property.
 - ◇ Consideration shall be given to the topography of the site
 - ◇ Considerations will be given to the proximity to forested, business, historical, and agricultural areas.

5. Terms and Conditions

- Any permit issued by the Fire Official shall be subject to the minimum terms and conditions set forth by:
 - ◇ The Statewide Fire Prevention Code
 - ◇ The Code of Caroline
 - ◇ Additional terms and conditions as prescribed by the Fire Official
- Display Time frames
 - ◇ Fireworks use or displays are permitted only between the hours of 8:00am and 11:00 pm
 - ◇ On December 31st, fireworks are permitted from 12:00 midnight and 12:15 a.m. and from 8:00 am and 11:00 pm.
 - ◇ Displays shall not exceed 30 minutes in duration.
- All permit holders shall provide advanced written notice of fireworks displays to:
 - ◇ All abutting property owners
 - ◇ Owners of all properties across the street from the display location
 - ◇ Notice must be given at least ten (10) days prior to the event.
- No fireworks use or displays shall be permitted closer than 1,000 feet to a residential use structure unless the owner of the property grants express written permission .
- If the Fire Official requires the use of Fire, Rescue or Law Enforcement personnel and equipment, the applicant shall be responsible for reimbursing the County for the cost.
- The Fire Official may also revoke the permit when necessary to prevent danger to persons and/or property.
- The issuance of a Fireworks Permit does not in any way negate or supersede the County Noise Ordinance.