

DIY Displays – Safety First

Checklist for a safe display:

BEFORE THE DISPLAY

Please take a few minutes to read through the following guidelines. As in any event good preparation is vital. You're planning and actions could help prevent an injury, DO THING'S RIGHT whatever the size of the show:

- **Buy Safe** - Dodgy fireworks mean trouble. Only buy fireworks that meet the British Standard kite mark BS 7114: Part 2: 1988.
- **No Fooling** - Putting fireworks in your pocket is stupid and dangerous. Throwing a firework is stupid and dangerous and illegal. It is a criminal offence to do so in a street or public place, with a maximum penalty of a £5,000 fine.
- **Plan Safe** - Ensure your display area is free from hazards. Before you start, make sure you'll be giving yourself enough room in a safe place to get to and from your box of fireworks while the display is going on. If you have the chance to get together with some other families, try to go to the biggest garden and safest surroundings.
- **DO NOT** tamper with fireworks - Unpack fireworks with great care and well away from an open fire, naked flames or flammable material. Remember they are fragile and can easily be damaged.
- **Different fireworks mean different hazards** - Read the instructions in daylight (if studying them at night, use a torch, NEVER with any sort of naked flame) and follow the instructions. Rockets, for instance, should be launched from a rocket launcher, not from a bottle. Take special notice of where to stand each firework before it is lit. If the ground is too hard for some fireworks, use deep containers of earth or sand. If it is uneven, place them on a flat board or in a flat box. ·
- **Pet safe** - Keep pets indoors with the curtains closed.
- **Drink Safe** - Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. None of the organisers should have any alcoholic drinks until after the fireworks have all been lit.
- **Have a plan for who lights the fireworks** - Light fireworks in a logical order, (i.e. right to left) and go to one side of the site after lighting.
- **Watch what you wear** - loose clothing (like shell-suits) can very easily catch alight and should never be worn near any fire. Long, dangly scarves can be risky too.
- **Warn neighbours** - especially the elderly and those with animals about your display.
- **One person** - Clearly identified and responsible for the fireworks.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED ON THE NIGHT

- Metal box, with a lid for safe storage.
- Torch for checking instructions (a spare torch would be handy).
- Bucket of water, better still a fire extinguisher.
- Protective hat, eye protection and gloves.
- First aid kit.
- Bucket of soft earth to stick small fireworks in.
- A board for flat-bottomed fireworks (e.g. cakes).
- Suitable supports for catherine wheels, proper launchers for rockets.
- Use stakes (up to 3 feet) & cable ties to prevent fireworks falling over.
- Plastic tubes (up to 4 feet) to fire rockets.
- A good sledgehammer.
- A mobile phone in case of an accident.
- A good pair of boots and some kind of luminous jacket, so that people know where you are.

DURING THE DISPLAY

- For lighting display fireworks, a device called a portfire is often used. Use portfires when available and always light fireworks at arm's length. Keep unused portfires in a metal or wooden box and never carry them in your pockets.
- Stand well back.
- Never go back to a firework that hasn't gone off, it could still be live and could go off in your face. Half an hour is the absolute minimum time to wait before you should consider approaching it again.
- Do not allow smoking by your team when fireworks are being handled or at any time during the display.
- Keep storage boxes closed between use.
- Keep children under control and away from the fireworks.

AFTER THE DISPLAY

- If any fireworks look as if they haven't gone off after at least half an hour, douse them in a bucket of water & leave overnight.
- Use tongs or gloves to collect spent fireworks.
- Next morning, check again and remove firework debris.
- Don't allow any children to collect firework cases.

Contact us for advice on lay-out and our unique firing system for a garden display.