

**** REMINDER TO ALL RESIDENTS ****

**Township Code Book Chapter 3, Police Regulations, Section 3-26
Manufacturing, Selling, Transporting or Using Fireworks**

“Any person who shall manufacture, sell, transport or use fireworks, or permit the use of fireworks on premises under ones ownership or control, shall be adjudged in violation of this chapter. "Fireworks," as used herein, shall include any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances, or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation. Persons having ownership or control of premises at which fireworks have been used in violation of this subsection shall give rise to a rebuttable presumption to having permitted the use of fireworks on such premises. Such presumption may be rebutted by submitting evidence that such person took affirmative action to stop or prevent such use, or was not physically at or in close proximity to the premises at any time during such use. It shall be a defense to a charge hereunder if the person shall have been issued a permit by written resolution of the Township Committee pursuant to the provisions of the State Fire Prevention Code.”

Any person who shall violate any provisions of this Code shall upon conviction thereof, be punishable by one or more of the following: a fine not exceeding \$2,000.00 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days or community service not exceeding 90 days or a combination of the above.

FIREWORKS

consumer *brief*

On the 4th of July, Independence Day, Americans celebrate their patriotism with family reunions, picnics and beautiful displays of fireworks nationwide. Unfortunately, every year, this happy celebration turns into tragedy for many Americans due to the unsafe and illegal use of fireworks.

Fireworks displays must be enjoyed responsibly – and within the confines of the law. In New Jersey, it is unlawful to sell, possess, or use fireworks, other than certain sparkling devices and novelties, without a valid permit.

STATISTICAL INJURIES

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, the federal agency tasked with protecting the public from defective products, in a special study about fireworks found that in the year 2016:

- **68% of all fireworks injuries** were sustained during the 30-day period surrounding the **Independence Day holiday**;
- **1,100 injuries occurred nationwide due to fireworks**, most often with burns to the hands and head, including to the eyes, face, and ears;
- **31% of the injuries** reported occurred to **kids under the age of 15**; and
- There were **four reported deaths**.

The majority of fireworks injury reports involve emergency room treatment and release, but the more severe and fatal injuries were associated with the consumer's use of professional-grade and homemade fireworks. In the four reported deaths involving fireworks, the victims were killed when the illegal devices exploded causing severe bodily trauma.

FIRES

Fires are another result of the use of fireworks by inexperienced people. According to the National Fire Protection Association, on Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other causes of fire.

The Association reports that on average each year, fireworks cause an estimated 18,500 reported fires:

- 1,300 total structural fires;
- 300 vehicle fires; and
- 16,900 outside and other fires.

These fires cause an annual average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries and an estimated \$43 million in direct property damage.

NEW JERSEY AND FIREWORKS

Under the New Jersey Explosives and Fireworks Act (N.J.S.A. 21:2-1 et seq., as amended by P.L.2017, C.92):

– **It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, possess, or use fireworks** anywhere in the State without a valid permit. However, recent changes to the law now permit persons 16 years of age or older to lawfully buy, possess and use certain sparkling devices and novelties. These permissible fireworks are limited to hand held or ground based sparklers, snakes, and glow worms; smoke devices; and trick noisemakers, including party poppers, snappers, and drop pops. The sale, possession and use of all other fireworks requires a valid permit.

A person is **guilty of a crime of the fourth degree** if he or she sells, offers or exposes for sale, or possesses with intent to sell, any fireworks, other than sparkling devices and novelties to persons 16 years of age or older.

A person is **guilty of a petty disorderly person's offense** if he or she purchases, uses, discharges, causes to be discharged, ignites, fires or otherwise sets in action, or possesses fireworks without having the required permit.

Millstone Township Residents:

Call New Jersey State Police for firework complaints at (609) 584 - 5000.

800-242-5846 › New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov

