

A Few Words on the Public Use of Fireworks in Cheltenham Township

There have been many inquiries made to the Fire Marshal's Office regarding the use and sale of fireworks within Cheltenham Township. You may have noticed the large retail displays of 'Fireworks' at many locations. You probably have seen tents set-up in local shopping areas that sell 'Fireworks' or see these items for sale even in grocery stores.

There are two types of fireworks, Display and Consumer. **Display fireworks** are those that you see during large shows. They are not available to the general public. **Consumer fireworks** are available to the public in many states. However **they are illegal to use or possess in Pennsylvania** unless you are a dealer. Associated with consumer fireworks are other items that are considered sparkling devices, novelties and caps. **These are not Consumer Fireworks. They may say fireworks on the package to entice you to buy them but they are not considered Consumer Fireworks by Pennsylvania law.**

While these items used to be regulated and banned in many Pennsylvania municipalities, a 2004 change in the law prohibited local municipalities from regulating these novelty items. **The law still makes it illegal to use or possess Consumer Fireworks in Pennsylvania.**

Consumer fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets, skyrockets, and Roman candles among others and use or possession is a misdemeanor summary offense.

The two following pages go into a bit more detail on what is considered Consumer Fireworks and what is not.

The last page depicts drawings of novelty items. At the bottom of the page is depicted various illegal Consumer Fireworks. The bottom line is that if it leaves the ground or is a firecracker it is still illegal to possess or use in Pennsylvania and can be confiscated and a citation issued.

Finally, keep in mind use of these sparklers, fountains and novelty devices can cause severe burns and eye injuries. **They burn hot!** They have caused and will cause damage to buildings and cars. If you use these items use common sense. (The lack of some individuals using common sense is why most municipalities regulate these items) You could be libel for any injuries or damage resulting from their use.

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Consumer Fireworks

The term "consumer fireworks" shall mean and include:

(1) Any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances intended to produce visible and/or audible effects by combustion and which is suitable for use by the public that complies with the construction, performance, composition and labeling requirements promulgated by the Consumer Products Safety Commission in 16 CFR (relating to commercial practices) or any successor regulation and which complies with the provisions for "consumer fireworks" as defined in the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) Standard 87-1, or any successor standard.

(2) The term does not include devices as "**ground and hand-held sparkling devices**," "**novelties**," and "**toy caps**" in APA Standard 87-1, the sale, possession and use of which shall be permitted at all times throughout this Commonwealth.

Legal for sale and use in Pennsylvania without a license or permit.

Exempts from the definition of "consumer fireworks"

1) **ground and hand-held sparkling devices**, 2) **novelties**, and 3) **toy caps**. These items are **not** considered a "fireworks" under state statute and are **not** regulated.

Ground and hand-held sparkling devices produce a shower of sparks or a cloud of smoke, do not rise into the air or shoot projectiles into the air, and do not explode or produce a report. They include: cylindrical fountain, cone fountain, illuminating torch, wheel, ground spinner, flitter sparkler, toy smoke device and wire sparkler / dipped stick (the larger type wire sparkler, up to 100 grams of pyrotechnic composition per item).

Novelties include small items such as party popper, snapper, toy smoke devices (not more than 5 grams of pyrotechnic composition), snakes / glow worms (less than 2 grams of composition), and wire sparklers / dipped sticks (up to 100 grams of composition).

Toy caps are plastic or paper caps for toy pistols in sheets, strips, rolls or individual caps containing not more than 16 milligrams of composition per cap.

The above mentioned classes of "non-fireworks" are the only types allowed to be sold from tents, stands, convenience stores, retail establishments and other various outlets.

Penalties

The following shall apply:

(1) Any person, copartnership, association or corporation using consumer fireworks in violation of the provisions of the fireworks act commits a summary offense.

(2) Any person, copartnership, association or corporation selling consumer fireworks commits a misdemeanor of the second degree. (Unless properly licensed to do so)

(3) Any person, copartnership, association or corporation selling federally illegal explosives such as devices as described in 49 CFR 173.54 (relating to forbidden explosives) or those devices that have not been tested, approved and labeled by the Federal Department of Transportation, including, but not limited to, those devices commonly referred to as "M-80," "M-100," "blockbuster," "cherry bomb" or "quarter or half stick" explosive devices, in violation of the provisions of this act commits a felony of the third degree.

SPARKLERS AND NOVELTIES LEGAL FOR SALE & USE IN PENNSYLVANIA

SPARKLERS



Sparklers

Morning Glory Sparkler

Sparkler Tree

Sparkling Devices: Morning Glories

CAUTION FLAMMABLE

USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT TOUCH HOT WIRE. HOLD IN HAND WITH ARM EXTENDED AWAY FROM BODY. KEEP BURNING END OR SPARKS AWAY FROM WEARING APPAREL OR OTHER FLAMMABLE MATERIAL. HOLD AND LIGHT ONE DEVICE AT A TIME. AFTER USE PLACE WIRE IN WATER.

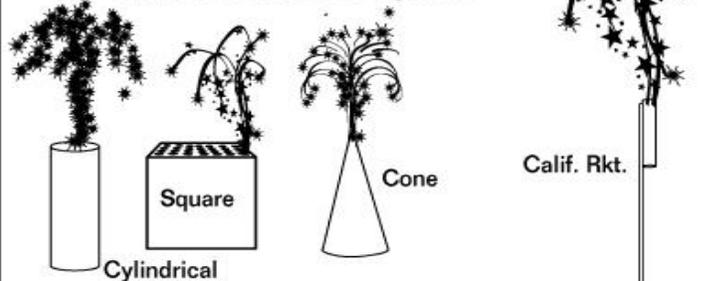
Sparkling Devices: Wire Stick

CAUTION FLAMMABLE

USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT TOUCH GLOWING WIRE. HOLD IN HAND WITH ARM EXTENDED AWAY FROM BODY. KEEP BURNING END OR SPARKS AWAY FROM WEARING APPAREL OR OTHER FLAMMABLE MATERIAL. HOLD AND LIGHT ONE DEVICE AT A TIME. AFTER USE PLACE WIRE IN WATER.

GROUND BASED SPARKLERS

-Emits Showers of Sparks-



Cylindrical

Square

Cone

Calif. Rkt.

CAUTION Emits Showers of Sparks

USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. PLACE UPRIGHT ON GROUND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND.

CAUTION Emits Showers of Sparks

USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. STICK FIRMLY IN GROUND IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION. REMOVE CAP FOR LIGHTING. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.

GROUND SPARKLING DEVICES



BALL & DISK

SPINS ON GROUND. EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS.



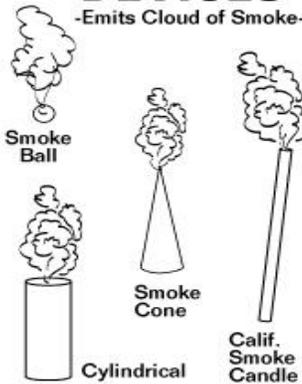
CYLINDRICAL

Ground Bloom Flowers/ Crazy GroundHogs
SPINS ON GROUND. EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS.

**CAUTION
SPINS ON GROUND
EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS**
USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. PLACE ON HARD, FLAT SURFACE. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.

SMOKE DEVICES

-Emits Cloud of Smoke-



Smoke Ball

Smoke Cone

Calif. Smoke Candle

Smoke Balls, Toy Smoke Devices

**CAUTION
FLAMMABLE**
USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. PLACE ON HARD LEVEL SURFACE. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.

NOVELTIES



SNAKES

(BLACK PELLETT EMITS BLACK ASH)

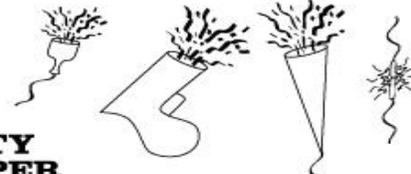
CAUTION FLAMMABLE

USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT SET IN GRASS. LAY ON GROUND. LIGHT PELLETT.



SNAPPERS / DROP POPS

**CAUTION
FLAMMABLE**
USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT SET IN GRASS. LAY ON GROUND. LIGHT PELLETT.



PARTY POPPER EMITS SHOWERS OF CONFETTI

PARTY POPPERS - BOTTLE TYPE

**CAUTION
FLAMMABLE**
USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. DO NOT POINT EITHER END TOWARD FACE OR OTHER PERSON. HOLD IN HAND - ZINK W/32ND

PARTY POPPERS - PISTOL TYPE

**CAUTION
FLAMMABLE**
USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. DO NOT POINT EITHER END TOWARD FACE OR OTHER PERSON. HOLD IN HAND - PELLETT/32ND

MAY NOT HAVE MORE THAN 0.25 GRAINS OF EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE.



ALL OTHER FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

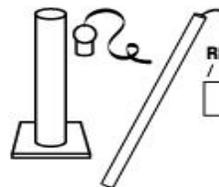
except as part of a Permitted Public Fireworks Display.



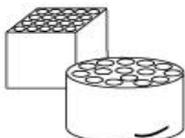
SKY ROCKETS / BOTTLE ROCKETS
WARNING
FLAMMABLE ROCKET



FIRECRACKERS
WARNING
EXPLOSIVE



RELOADABLE SHELL DEVICE / ROMAN CANDLES
WARNING
SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS



AERIALS
WARNING
SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS w/REPORTS



SINGLE TUBE DEVICE WITH REPORT
WARNING
SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS w/reports