

Illegal Fireworks in the District of Columbia and Penalties

In general, any firework or firecracker that explodes is illegal in the District of Columbia. Any person found using or in the possession of illegal fireworks in the District of Columbia could face fines and penalties of up to \$2,000 and/or arrest for further prosecution. The Fire/EMS Department seizes illegal fireworks products that are discovered in the District and destroys them after 30 days.

To report the use or sale of illegal fireworks, contact the DC Fire/EMS Department Fire Prevention Division at (202) 727-1600 or (202) 727-1614.

Illegal Fireworks Characteristics

- Any fireworks that move.
- Any fireworks that explode.
- Any fireworks that emit a spark or flame greater than 12 feet.
- Any fireworks that have a side mounted fuse or a fuse inserted at any point along the length of the product's surface.
- Any fireworks that contain mercury, arsenic, magnesium, phosphorus, or any other highly oxidizing agent.
- Any fireworks that the Fire Marshal considers to be dangerous to the safety of any person or property.

Examples of Illegal Fireworks

- Firecrackers
- Cherry Bombs
- Roman Candles
- Salutes
- Floral Shells
- Artillery Shells
- Helicopters
- Sparklers greater than 20 inches long
- Bottle Rockets
- Parachutes
- Buzz Bombs
- Pinwheels
- Jumping Jacks
- Anything that is similar to these products.

For additional information about legal and illegal fireworks in the District of Columbia, or any other fireworks related information, contact the Fire/EMS Department Fire Prevention Division at (202) 727-1600 or (202) 727-1614.