



PUGET SOUND REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

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Fireworks Ordinance Update

Public Safety and Justice Committee

Goal

- To allow the sale, use, and possession of certain consumer fireworks



Prohibited Devices

- Consumer fireworks with the following characteristics are prohibited:
 - Aerial
 - Airborne
 - Discharged
 - Launched
 - Explode
- Federally legal fireworks
- Explosive devices



Prohibited – Consumer Fireworks

Helicopters, Aerial Spinners

A propeller or blade is attached, which, upon ignition, lifts the rapidly spinning device into the air. A visible or audible effect is produced at the height of flight.



Roman Candles

Heavy paper or cardboard tube containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, up to ten “stars” are individually expelled at several-second intervals.



Parachutes

Upon ignition, one or more parachutes are propelled into the air with stars, smoke, and other effects being discharged as the parachute floats downward.



Shells/Cakes

Shell – A shell is an aerial item that is fired into the sky.

Cake – Dense-packed collection of mine/shell tubes that are fused together.



Reloadable Mortars

A shell consisting of a container, a lift charge, a time fuse, a burst charge, and stars/effects. The lift charge propels the shell out of the tube igniting the burst charge at the right altitude, igniting the effects.



Source: Washington State Fire Marshal's Office



Prohibited – Federally Legal Fireworks

Federally Legal Consumer Fireworks: These items are legal to purchase, possess, and discharge only at an Indian Reservation. Possession and/or use off the reservation is illegal.

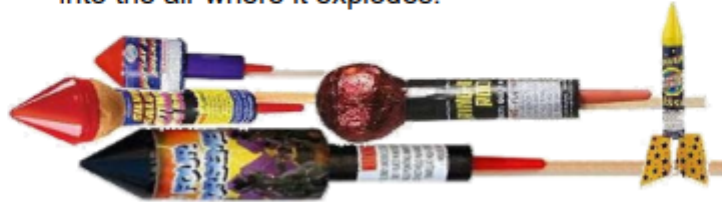
Firecrackers

Generally 1/4" x 1 1/2" or less that come in packs to large bricks. A firecracker makes a single "pop" sound. Many firecrackers strung together will make repetitive "popping" sounds.



Sky Rockets and Missiles

Similar to the Bottle Rocket, a Sky Rocket is attached to a stick or has fins and may have a plastic cap. A missile will have fins rather than a stick. Once lit, it ascends rapidly, high into the air where it explodes.



Bottle Rockets

A firecracker type (tube) attached to a 12" long wooden stick. The stick is placed in a bottle and once lit, it rises into the air, travelling laterally before exploding.



Source: Washington State Fire Marshal's Office

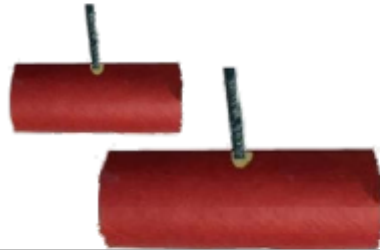


Prohibited – Explosive Devices

Illegal Explosive Devices: The possession, manufacturing, or using of illegal Explosive Devices is a criminal offense.

M-80's, M-100's, etc.

Illegal since the 70's, an M-80 can contain flash powder, black powder, or a composition of materials that are sensitive to shock and can injure or kill people. Can do serious permanent damage to fingers, hands, and eyes.



Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

A pipe bomb is an improvised explosive device, consisting of a tightly sealed section of pipe that is filled with an explosive material. The pipe provides containment, meaning that a low explosive can be used to produce a relatively large explosion.



A tennis ball bomb is an improvised explosive device consisting of a tennis ball filled with combustibles or pyrotechnic material with a fuse producing a loud explosion.



Altered Firework

Sparklers are bound together in electrical or duct tape to contain the ignition of the sparklers, providing for a loud "whoomp" sound with a flash of light.



Source: Washington State Fire Marshal's Office



Allowed Consumer Fireworks

Cylindrical Fountain

Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect, is produced.



Cone Fountain

Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect, is produced.



Smoke Devices

Tube or sphere containing pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces a white or colored smoke as a primary effect.



Novelties

"Trick and Novelty Devices" means any small firework device not classified as a Consumer of Display Firework. Items contain a small amount of pyrotechnic composition that is friction sensitive.



Wheels

Pyrotechnic device attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. A wheel may contain up to six "driver" units; upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect.



Ground Spinners

A small device similar to a wheel in design and effect. When placed on the ground and ignited, a shower of sparks and color is produced by the rapidly spinning device.



Dipped Stick, Sparkler

Stick or wire coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. Total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed 100 grams per item.



Source: Washington State Fire Marshal's Office



Discharge – Dates and Times

- Will follow RCW 70.77.395

12:00 noon to 11:00 p.m., June 28th

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., June 29th – July 3rd

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. midnight, July 4th

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., July 5th

6:00 p.m. December 31st to 1:00 a.m. January 1st



Sales

- Limited to 4 applications for sales annually
- Filing period between April 15th and June 1st
- 2023 filing period between June 8th and June 21st
- No fees established for 2023
- Fees will be established during 2024 Fee Resolution



Enforcement

- Gross Misdemeanor
 - Sales or offers to sell without a license or permit
 - Reckless use or discharge of fireworks with injuries or property damage
- Fireworks may be seized if ordinance is violated
- Civil infractions may be issued by law enforcement or the fire code official



Housekeeping

- Cleaned up terminology
- Deleted redundant firework display language covered in the adopted International Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association Standards



Questions?

