

BONFIRE SAFETY

Fire can spread easily, so where and how you build your bonfire is important.

Before...

- Warn your neighbours that you will be having a bonfire – they are much less likely to complain.
- Build the bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees.
- Check there are no cables – like telephone wires – above the bonfire.
- Only burn dry material not damp, which causes more smoke.
- Don't burn aerosols, tyres, canisters or anything containing foam or paint – many produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode, causing injury. Burning plastic, rubber or painted materials creates poisonous fumes and can have damaging health effects for people who have asthmatic or heart conditions.

During...

- Don't use petrol or paraffin to get the fire going – it may get out of control quickly.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby – in case of emergencies.
- Don't leave the bonfire unattended.
- Keep children and pets well back.
- Don't throw any fireworks into the fire.
- Take care around bonfires – all clothes, even those labelled 'low flammability', can catch fire.

After...

- Once the bonfire has died down, spray the embers with water to stop it reigniting.

See over for Bonfires and the Law.



BONFIRES AND THE LAW

There aren't any specific laws against having a bonfire, but there are several that deal with the nuisance bonfires can cause.

To be considered a nuisance in the eyes of the law, bonfires need to be a regular occurrence and seriously interfere with your well-being. If the bonfire is only occasional, eg a couple of times a year, it is unlikely to be considered a nuisance.

Anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road faces a fine if it endangers traffic. If this happens, call the police.

For advice on holding an organised fireworks display, contact your local fire station.

For more information on fire safety, visit www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

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NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



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FIREWORK & BONFIRE SAFETY

Safety advice for bright sparks

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk



THE SIMPLE FACTS...

Fireworks often play a big part in celebrations. However, fireworks are explosives and burn at high temperatures, so they need careful handling and storage to avoid injury or death. There are laws about when fireworks can be sold, and to who – as well as the times fireworks can be set off.

FIREWORK SAFETY

Get ready...

Once you've decided to have a display:

- Only fireworks marked with BS 7114 are safe, so purchase your fireworks wisely.
- Make suitable supports and launchers if you're setting off Catherine wheels or rockets.

Steady...

As your display draws closer:

- Find a closed metal box to store the fireworks – take them out one at a time.
- Prepare a bucket of water – to cool sparklers and put out any small fires.
- Make sure you have eye protection and gloves.
- Prepare a bucket of earth to stick fireworks in.
- Follow the instructions on each firework – read them in daylight or by torchlight, never by a naked flame.

Go...

On the big night:

- Ensure your pets are kept indoors – most animals get very scared by the lights and noise from fireworks.
- Make sure everyone stands well back.
- Only one person should be responsible for letting off fireworks.
- Don't drink alcohol if you are setting off fireworks.
- Light fireworks at arm's length, using a taper.
- Never go back to a firework that has been lit – even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Always supervise children with sparklers and never give them to a child under five.
- Put used sparklers hot end down into a bucket of sand or water.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Never throw spent fireworks on a bonfire.

If you are planning a fireworks display for the general public, or would like further information, please contact your local fire station.



FIREWORKS AND THE LAW

- Under 18s can't buy the standard fireworks intended for adults, or have fireworks in public places. Those breaking the law can receive an on-the-spot fine of £80.
- You can't set off or throw fireworks in the street or other public place.
- You can't set off fireworks between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am – except on Bonfire Night when the allowance extends to midnight, and on New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when allowance extends to 1.00am. If found guilty by the courts, you could be fined up to £5,000 and can be imprisoned for up to three months. You may be liable for an on-the-spot fine of £80.
- Fireworks for private use, and from a registered seller, can only be sold:
 - between 15 October and 10 November – around Bonfire Night
 - between 26 December and 31 December – for New Year's Eve
 - three days before Diwali and Chinese New Year.

See over for Bonfires and the Law.