

INFORMATION SHEET

Firework Displays Safety Assessment Form - guidance

Advice and information to help complete the application form (the numbers relate to those on the application form).

1. The co-ordinator/contact should be the person able to make decisions and have the control and final responsibility for health and safety at the event.
2. The category of firework will indicate the safety zones necessary for safe viewing

Class 1	indoor are safe from 1m
Class 2	garden are safe from 5m
Class 3	display are safe from 25m

The category should be clearly marked on the fireworks and boxes.

3. The person should be competent and be familiar with the safety rules for the use of fireworks. If there is any doubt, then use a competent display operator.
4. Police may be contacted regarding crowd control, access, local traffic or parking arrangements.
Fire service for advice (28 days prior to the event).
Environmental Health for health & safety, food and noise.
It would be a good idea to let nearby neighbours, care homes, hospitals and animal homes know about your display.
5. Whether access by ticket only or pay at gate.
6. The bonfire should be sited more than 15m from buildings, roads, rights of way and downwind of spectators.
7. The site plan should show the following:

Details of Site	
Spectator Area -	distance from firing area
Safety Area -	size detailed
Firing Area -	size detailed
Fallout Area -	distance detailed

Slopes, buildings, nearby houses, prevailing winds, overhead power cables.

8. Site facilities - These should be detailed on the form and you should be aware of the following:

First aid point should be sign-posted, accessible to ambulance

Litter receptacles should be Metal

Car parking - totally segregated from pedestrians

Clearly signpost the car park and access points. Floodlight the site if possible.

Place a clear sign at the entrance asking people not to bring their own fireworks to the display (including sparklers). Stewards to be instructed to confiscate any found.

Signage - public access and prohibition of own fireworks

9. Stewards - The following should be considered when deciding about stewards:

Easily identifiable - Fluorescent jackets

Training

Instruction

Experience

Radios, etc

Electric torch

Whistles

They should watch the spectators and not the display.

10. These should cover the following:
What action will be taken and by whom

1. Cancellations - adverse wind conditions
2. Accident from a firework - First-aiders, ambulance, etc
3. Bonfire out of control
4. Disorderly behaviour by spectators
5. Spectators breaking through barrier
6. Announcements to spectators
(Preparing in advance in the event of an emergency)
7. Communications - two way radios

11. Bonfire Advice

Provide sufficient fire blankets/sand buckets/water buckets/hose/water extinguishers.

Ensure that all staff know where they are.

Keep blanket near fire.

Designated staff/helpers/persons.

Structure, non-combustible/dangerous, eg flammable materials producing light ash, unsuitable for burning.

Clothing - substantial and low flammability, strong boots or shoes.

Supervise the building of the bonfire.

Ensure bonfires are not left unattended when set up. Check it for children, animals and aerosols prior to lighting.

12. Storage advice

Away from flammable substances and sources of ignition.
Secure, dry cool place.
Metal/timber box with lid away from public.
Security/stewarding.

13. Setting up fireworks

Manufacturers instructions must be read in advance.
Display should be set up in daylight and sequence practised.
Operator training - Safe working practices and arrangement
No bottles as launch tubes
Protect them from damp prior to firing.
Not left unattended once set up.

Types of Fireworks

Shells - banned.
Rockets - position and angle to ensure fallout into fallout zone.
Sparklers - not to children < 5 years (better to prohibit all spectators fireworks on site).
Roman candles - firmly staked with candle behind to ensure it falls away from crowd.

14. Firing Display

Only firers in firing area.
Restrict numbers to a minimum (one to identify problems "eyes and ears").
Who has overall responsibility?
Ensure close fitting clothing is worn - no nylon, ie no shell suits due to flammability.

Hard hat
Goggles
Gloves

Ear defenders
Torch
Whistle/radio link

Experience required.
Training.
Knowledge.
Awareness of safety principals.

Fallout zone

Stewards.
Personal Protective Equipment/head protection/high visibility jacket.

Setting off the fireworks

Slow burning wick.

Portfire.

Electronically.

15. Procedure to deal with fireworks that fail to go off.

16. Advice on clearing the site

Extinguish bonfires.

Spent fireworks - into metal bins.

Disposal of misfires or partly spent fireworks - contact the manufacturer for advice.

Guidance Produced by HSE

HS(G) 124 Giving your own firework display (smaller events)

HS(G) 123 Working together on firework displays (Competent operators - larger events)

HSE's leaflet - Managing Crowds Safely - IND(G)142L