



City of St. Marys, PA
Public Relations & Code Enforcement Officer

June 21, 2018

FIREWORKS SAFETY

ST. MARYS, PA - With the July 4th celebration just around the corner, the City of St. Marys would like to take this opportunity to explain the new Pennsylvania Fireworks Law, as well as a safety reminder when handling fireworks.

A new law was passed in the fall of 2017 completely replacing the Fireworks Act and its regulations. The current law allows purchase and display of what is considered **“Consumer Fireworks”** within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without a permit. All **“Consumer Fireworks”** must be purchase, possessed, and used by someone who is at least 18 years of age and of a “sober mind” (i.e. not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any controlled substance). **“Consumer Fireworks”** may not be ignited or discharged at a person or within a building or motor vehicle. **Consumer Fireworks** cannot be ignited or discharged within 150 feet of any structure. **“Consumer Fireworks”** are also considered “Class C” or “1.4G”. **“Display Fireworks”**, or anything more than 50 milligrams of explosive material and are 1.75’ or larger, ARE STILL REQUIRED TO HAVE A MUNICIPAL PERMIT AND A LICENSE THROUGH THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND FIREARMS IN ORDER TO IGNITE OR DISCHARGE. **Display Fireworks** are also referred to as “1.3” G.

Consumer Fireworks include firecrackers, Roman Candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks that contain a **maximum** of 50 milligrams of explosive material. This also includes fireworks up to 1.75” in diameter.

Penalties for using Consumer Fireworks in violation of the provisions of this article, could face a \$100.00 fine. Persons selling or using the larger **“Display”** type fireworks in violation of the provisions of this Act, commits a third-degree felony.

If you have any questions regarding the new Fireworks Law, you can contact the City’s Code Enforcement Office at (814) 781-1718 ext. 239.

An estimated 7,600 of the total 11,000 fireworks-related injuries in 2016 were treated in hospital emergency departments during the period between June 18, 2016 and July 18, 2016, according to a report on 2016 by the Consumer Products Safety Commission and its National Electronic Injury Surveillance System.

According to an NFPA report, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 18,500 fires caused by fireworks between 2009 and 2013. These fires included 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, 16,900 outside and other fires, and killed two people per year.

The City of St. Marys wishes a happy and safe Fourth of July to everyone, and please be safe.