

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RIC L. BRADSHAW, SHERIFF



FIREWORKS SAFETY

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is urging Palm Beach County residents and visitors to think about safety as they make plans to celebrate December 2023 holidays.

Every year thousands of people are seriously injured or even killed by fireworks, and many of those are children. Unsafe handling of Fireworks can result in severe burns, scars and disfigurement that can last a lifetime. For that reason, with limited exception, FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL TO USE WITHOUT A PERMIT.

Note – Currently, *Per Florida State Statute 791.08, the only days fireworks are allowed to be used without a permit are New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and Independence Day.*

Some examples of restricted fireworks:

- Bottle Rockets, Roman Candles
- Exploding Fireworks
- Firecrackers, Chery Bombs or M-80's
- Aerial Rockets with Stands

(The above listed items are only a few common samples that are prohibited for use most of the year.)

- WARNING -

SIGNING A "*Waiver*" to purchase fireworks will not clear you of responsibility or possible liability should you be caught using fireworks illegally. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office will be enforcing the use of illegal fireworks throughout the year. Using fireworks illegally is a first degree misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

If you are using fireworks on one of the days exempted by law, or using "legal" sparklers, novelties and trick noisemakers there is still a risk of injury. When lit, fireworks, including sparklers can reach temperatures between 1000 – 2000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Follow these precautions to celebrate safely:

- Use fireworks and other novelties in an open area on a flat, hard surface.
- Be aware of the area where your fireworks are being launched towards, and any hazards present there, such as people or flammable materials.
- Keep children and pets away and keep in mind that livestock such as horses, cows, etc. can also be frightened by fireworks.
- Light only one item at a time and **never attempt to re-light a dud.**
- Do not purchase or use "Homemade" devices or fireworks that have been tampered with or altered.
- Keep a fire extinguisher, water hose or bucket of water on hand for emergencies.



The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office wishes you a happy and safe holiday.