



Fire Department

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Are fireworks legal in Anne Arundel County?
A. No. The possession and discharge of fireworks without proper permits is illegal in Anne Arundel County. However, the term "fireworks" does not include devices that contain twenty-five hundredths grain or less of explosive compound, provided they are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap in place for use. Also, sparklers that do not contain chlorates or per chlorates are not defined as fireworks by the law (Anne Arundel County Code, Article 18 Public Safety, Title 2 Fire Prevention Code, and Section 3101). (See attached definitions)
- Q. Can I receive fireworks through the mail?
A. No. The use of the mail for transportation of fireworks is illegal in Anne Arundel County.
- Q. Can I have a private fireworks display at my residence with the proper permits?
A. Yes. You can have a public display conducted by a licensed pyro-technician who has the proper permits and insurance.
- Q. Are sparklers legal in Anne Arundel County?
A. Yes. Sparklers do not contain any chlorates or per chlorates, they are legal. Although legal, sparklers can still be dangerous and should only be **used outdoors, under adult supervision, and kept away from the body**. Remember sparklers can heat up to 1200 degrees F and pose a serious danger if used improperly.
- Q. Are toy caps legal?
A. Yes, if the explosive content is fewer than .25 grains and designed so the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in use.

FIREWORKS (Excerpts from COMAR as listed on the State (MD) Fire Marshall web site

<http://www.firemarshal.state.md.us/>

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, TITLE 10. FIREWORKS AND SPARKLERS SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 10-101. Definitions.

(f) Fireworks.-

- (1) "Fireworks" means combustible, implosive or explosive compositions, substances, combinations of substances, or articles that are prepared to produce a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, implosion, deflagration, or detonation.
- (2) "Fireworks" includes 1.3 G fireworks, 1.4 G fireworks, firecrackers, squibs, rockets, Roman candles, fire balloons, and signal lights.
- (3) "Fireworks" does not include:

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- (i) toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices that use paper caps that contain 0.25 grains or less of explosive composition if the devices are constructed so that a hand cannot touch the cap when the cap is in place for use;
- (ii) toy pistol paper caps that contain less than 0.20 grains of explosive composition;
- (iii) sparklers that do not contain chlorates or perchlorates;
- (iv) ground-based sparkling devices that are non-aerial and non-explosive, and are labeled in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission;
- (v) paper wrapped snappers that contain less than 0.03 grains of explosive composition; or
- (vi) ash-producing pellets known as "snakes" that do not contain mercury and are not regulated by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

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