

Play your Part to keep fireworks fun

As the dark nights draw in, we can look forward to seasonal events such as Bonfire Night. Traditionally, this is the time to enjoy fireworks, but increasingly they are used all year round to celebrate many occasions

While most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, in the wrong hands they can cause real misery through anti-social behaviour. Many adults and children suffer fireworks injuries either through accidents or intentional attacks.

Letting off noisy fireworks late at night with no regard for neighbours can cause distress by frightening people and pets, while a dangerous minority deliberately use fireworks to intimidate residents and damage property.

The laws against firework misuse have been strengthened to protect communities and provide more powers to tackle the problem locally. Misuse offences relate to throwing, possession and controlling when fireworks are used, and other laws regulate the supply and sales of fireworks.

Did you know?

- It is an offence to set off fireworks in public places such as parks, streets and school grounds and they should not be sold to young people.
- You cannot set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on 5 November, Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year, when the curfew is extended to 1am.
- Offences carry fines of up to £5000, or six months imprisonment and a range of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) may be used to prevent fireworks misuse by persistent offenders.

Fireworks offences should be reported to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by visiting www.safersuffolk.org.uk or telephoning Suffolk Constabulary on 01473 613500.

For safety advice and further information about the laws against fireworks misuse and sales, contact Suffolk County Council Trading Standards on 01473 264859, or visit the county council website at www.suffolk.gov.uk