



Fireworks Information for Citizens

The City of Clayton would like to provide its citizens with detailed information regarding fireworks displays. It is our hope that all holiday celebrations this coming weekend, July 3-5, are enjoyable as well as injury free.

Current Ohio law states that the only items that can legally be purchased by the public AND used in Ohio are what are called 'trick and novelty' fireworks. These include anything that smokes, snaps, snakes or sparkles. Please refer to the Ohio Department of Commerce for a number of legal options to use in Ohio.

All other fireworks, including items like bottle rockets, fire crackers and roman candles are illegal for the general public to use. Ohio's laws on fireworks can be confusing. Persons can legally buy products in Ohio that cannot be legally used here. State lawmakers are currently debating a bill to change this law however; current laws remain in effect.

Even legal fireworks can be dangerous as sparklers can burn at temperatures well over 1,500 degrees. In 2017, sparkler injuries sent nearly 1,200 children to the emergency room and more than 10,000 people are treated for fireworks-related injuries every year.

Mishandled fireworks can also cause fires. Fireworks started an estimated 19,500 fires last year according to the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Fireworks may also be a source of stress for many, especially for those who suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) as loud noises can be a trigger for individuals. Dogs that are scared of fireworks might hide, tremble, pace, whine or even attempt to run away, especially if left outside.

Because of the limited number of professional displays this year and social distancing requirements, we anticipate more novice firework usage. We are urging everyone to please avoid this temptation and enjoy the holiday safely."

The discovery of illegal fireworks or any fireworks incident which results in injuries or property damage should be reported immediately. Citations can be issued for any violation of the fireworks ordinance. Citations for illegal use of fireworks is a first-degree misdemeanor, requires a court appearance and fine of up to \$1000.

To contact the Clayton Police Department with questions call (937) 836-3500. As always, if there is an immediate danger, fire or injury call 911.