



Have a cracker of a Halloween

For many of us, fireworks are a common Halloween sight. They are great to look at but devastating if mishandled. **Fireworks are illegal in Ireland** without a license. Legal firework displays require a permit from the Department of Justice.

Last October a Fireworks Research study was presented to the Department of Justice (available on <http://www.justice.ie>). This research stated that most adults in Ireland have an understanding that fireworks are currently not legally available in Ireland. While public firework displays appear to be welcome and appreciated by a lot of people, fireworks are regarded as a public nuisance by most, although this is generally limited to specific periods of the year, such as Halloween. Their impact on children, the elderly, and on animals is also a particular concern.



If you have obtained a permit please be careful and abide by all necessary safety precautions.

The Fireworks Safety Code

- Purchase fireworks from a reliable source and ensure that they have been manufactured to meet all necessary safety standards (BS 7114.)
- A site must be suitable and large enough for the display. Is there space for the fireworks to land well away from spectators?
- Think about who will operate the display. Certain types of firework may only be used by professional firework display operators. In untrained hands these fireworks can be lethal.
- Think about what you would do if things go wrong. Make sure there is someone who will be responsible for calling the emergency services.
- Where fireworks are being used, keep them in a closed box and use one at a time. Follow the instructions carefully.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes away from fireworks.



- Keep the firework at arm's length and stand well back.
 - Never return to a firework once it has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
 - Have a bucket of water handy in case of an emergency.
 - Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
 - Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
 - Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
 - Never give sparklers to a child under five years.
 - Keep pets indoors.
- The morning after....Carefully check and clear the area of fireworks, including any misfires, i.e. those that should have gone off but didn't, and dispose of fireworks safely.