

Department of Home Affairs  
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# News Release

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## **BONFIRE NIGHT SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

### **Safety advice on using fireworks**

FIREWORKS will go on sale at licensed premises in the Isle of Man on Thursday (October 25).

Available only to people over 18, they have the potential to cause injury or even death if not used responsibly.

Sub Officer Carl Kinvig said: 'Fireworks should ideally be stored in a metal container and the person lighting the fireworks should not consume alcohol. Sparklers should not be given to any child under the age of five – this is actually one of the main causes of Bonfire Night injury. Always make sure you have a bucket of water to place used sparklers in – children have been known to pick them up and burn their hands.

'If a firework fails to go off do not approach it or attempt to re-light or pick it up. A firework which has not successfully operated can be unpredictable and is potentially extremely dangerous.'

Sub Officer Kinvig added: 'You should make sure that any fireworks you buy conform to British Standard BS 7114, which they should do if purchased from one of the

Island's licensed suppliers. Old or out of date fireworks should be disposed of – they can be handed in at fire headquarters at Elm Tree House in Onchan on weekdays between 9am and 5pm.'

In addition, the campaign highlights that it is an offence, at any time, to let off a firework in a public place within the hearing or sight of a person or domestic animal likely to be caused harassment, annoyance, alarm or distress thereby.

Devices that are not classed as fireworks for the purposes of the Fireworks Act include caps, cracker snaps, sparklers and party poppers.

More fireworks information is available on the OFT website <http://www.gov.im/oft/tradingstandards/agerestrict/fireworks.xml> or can be obtained by contacting the Department of Home Affairs, on 694300 or on [www.gov.im/dha/fire](http://www.gov.im/dha/fire).

The Fireworks Act 2004 states fireworks can be bought between October 25 and November 5, plus between December 26 and New Year's Eve. Anyone planning a fireworks display outside the permitted dates must inform the Department of Home Affairs, and advertise when the display is to be staged. Any private or public displays planned for outside permitted dates, notified to the Department, are advertised on the website at: [www.gov.im/dha/ceo/fireworks.xml](http://www.gov.im/dha/ceo/fireworks.xml).