In the past, identifying legal and illegal fireworks was fairly simple. The rule of thumb was: If the firework had a label with “Warning...” the firework was illegal. If the firework had a label with “Caution...” it was legal. This isn’t always the case anymore, so reading the label to see what the firework does is how to determine if it’s legal or not. If in doubt, call us!

**Examples of Illegal Fireworks**

**Labels**

- WARNING
  - SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS WITH REPORT
- WARNING
  - FLAMMABLE WITH REPORT
  - SHOOTS WHISTLE IN AIR
- WARNING
  - FLAMMABLE ROCKET WITH REPORT

**Examples of Legal Fireworks**

**Labels**

- CAUTION
  - EMITS SHOWERS OF SPARKS
  - USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY
- WARNING
  - FLAMMABLE
  - USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY

**BE SAFE:**

- ONLY ADULTS SHALL LIGHT FIREWORKS
- KEEP IGNITION SOURCES AWAY FROM CHILDREN
- USE FIREWORKS ONLY OUTDOORS
- LIGHT ONLY ONE FIREWORK AT A TIME & MOVE QUICKLY AWAY FROM THE FIREWORK
- KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS AWAY FROM FIREWORKS
- NEVER LIGHT FIREWORKS IN YOUR HAND
- EVER THROW FIREWORKS

**BE RESPONSIBLE:**

- SOAK USED FIREWORKS IN A BUCKET OF WATER
- CLEAN UP DEBRIS FROM FIREWORKS
- NEVER ATTEMPT TO RE-LIGHT A FIREWORK THAT DID NOT GO OFF WAIT 15-20 MINUTES IF A FIREWORK DID NOT GO OFF THEN SOAK IN A BUCKET OF WATER

**BE PREPARED:**

- STORE FIREWORKS OUT OF CHILDREN’S REACH
- ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS
- ALWAYS HAVE GARDEN HOSE OR BUCKETS OF WATER IN THE AREA OF WHERE FIREWORKS ARE BEING USED
- PLACE PETS INDOORS SINCE THE LIGHT AND SOUNDS FRIGHTEN THEM

_Only purchase fireworks from approved retail sites in Maryland_

CONTACT THE MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL’S OFFICE AT 1-800-525-3124 OR VISIT http://www.mdsp.org/firemarshal