



ATF News

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ATF REMINDS PUBLIC TO CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY SAFELY

WASHINGTON — As Independence Day approaches, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) wants to remind the public to exercise caution when dealing with fireworks and only purchase legal fireworks through licensed retailers.

ATF is the federal law enforcement agency charged with enforcing federal explosives laws. ATF actively works with other federal agencies, such as the Consumer Products Safety Commission through its fireworks enforcement program, to prevent trafficking and possession of illegal fireworks, which are technically classified as illegal explosive devices.

“The public needs to be aware that playing with illegal fireworks can lead to injury or even death,” said ATF Acting Director Michael J. Sullivan. “That’s why we work with industry and other law enforcement organizations to keep Americans safe by investigating manufacturers and distributors of illegal explosive devices in an effort to keep them out of the hands of consumers.”

Illegal explosive devices meet neither safety nor quality standards of legally manufactured consumer fireworks. Federally banned fireworks include M-80s, M-1000s, Silver Salutes and Cherry Bombs. Mail-order kits designed to build these fireworks also are banned. The manufacture, sale, and receipt of these illegal explosives devices can result in federal felony and misdemeanor charges.

State and local fireworks laws and regulations differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Before purchasing or using any fireworks, check with the authorities in your areas to find out what is allowed.

The public is urged to report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks or explosive devices to local law enforcement or by calling the toll-free ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).

More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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