

Office of the State Fire Marshal

A Bureau of the Washington State Patrol

Celebrate Legally Fireworks Enforcement Campaign

Descriptions of Legal Fireworks Devices and Illegal Explosive Devices

Legal Fireworks

RCW 70.77.136 "Consumer fireworks" means any small firework device designed to produce visible effects by combustion and which must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the United States consumer product safety commission, as set forth in 16 C.F.R. Parts 1500 and 1507 and including some small devices designed to produce audible effects, such as whistling devices, ground devices containing 50 mg or less of explosive materials, and aerial devices containing 130 mg or less of explosive materials and classified as fireworks UN0336 by the United States department of transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec. 172.101 as of June 13, 2002, and not including fused set pieces containing components which together exceed 50 mg of salute powder.

SPARKLER:	Stick or wire coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition.
CYLINDRICAL FOUNTAIN:	Cylindrical tubes containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks and sometimes a whistling effect are produced. This device may be provided with a spike for insertion into the ground (spike foundation) or a wood or plastic base for placing on the ground (base foundation).
CONE FOUNTAIN:	Cardboard or heavy paper cone containing pyrotechnic composition. The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain.
ILLUMINATING TORCH:	Cylindrical tube containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, colored fire is produced.
WHEEL:	Pyrotechnic device attached to a post or tree by means of a nail. Each wheel may contain up to six driver units containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves producing a shower of color, sparks and sometimes a whistling effect.
GROUND SPINNER:	Small device similar to a wheel in design and effect, placed on the ground and ignited. The rapidly spinning device produces a shower of sparks and color.
FLITTER	Narrow paper tube containing pyrotechnic composition, which produces color and sparks upon ignition.
SPARKLER:	This device does not have a fuse for ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function.
MINE/SHELL:	Heavy cardboard or paper tube attached to a wood or plastic base and containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, "stars" or other devices are propelled into the air. The tube remains on the ground.
COMBINATION ITEMS:	Firework devices containing a combination of two or more of the effects described in this section.
SMOKE DEVICE:	Tube or sphere containing pyrotechnic composition which, upon ignition, produces white or colored smoke as the primary effect.
HELICOPTER	A tube containing pyrotechnic composition. A propeller or blade is attached which, upon ignition, lifts the rapidly spinning device into the air. A visible or audible effect is produced at the height of the flight.
AERIAL SPINNER:	
ROMAN CANDLE:	Heavy paper or cardboard tube containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, up to ten "stars" (pellets of pressed pyrotechnic composition that burn with bright colors) are individually expelled at several-second intervals.

Fireworks Legal on Tribal Land

Firecrackers, bottle rockets, missiles and rockets are legal to possess and discharge on tribal lands. These items are illegal in Washington State and become illegal fireworks when possessed off tribal lands.

Illegal Explosive Devices

M-80's and larger, dynamite and any improvised, homemade or altered explosive devices such as tennis balls or cherry bombs are illegal explosive devices. Persons in possession or using illegal explosive devices can and should be charged with a felony.