

FIREWORKS: RULES & REGULATIONS

Michigan's Fireworks Law, MCL 750.243a et seq., prohibits the sale, possession, transportation and use of most fireworks - such as firecrackers, bottle rockets and roman candles - without a permit. The only fireworks devices allowed without a permit are snap-pops and other trick noisemakers, toy smoke devices, sparklers, flitter sparklers, flat paper caps, cone and cylinder fountains that shoot showers of sparks and toy snakes.

It is the Township's responsibility to grant permits for fireworks displays and storage. MCL 750.243b states that, "the township board of a township, upon application in writing, on forms provided by the director of state police, may grant a permit for the use of fireworks otherwise prohibited by Section 243a, within their political jurisdiction." It is important to note that any group or township resident age 18 or older wishing to conduct a fireworks display, must apply to the Township for a permit in order to legally conduct that display.

Michigan's Fireworks Law also states that the sale, possession, transportation and/or use of the following are prohibited by any person, firm, partnership or corporation (except as provided in 243b, 243c and 243d) shall not offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, keep with intent to sell at retail, possess, give, furnish, transport, use, explode, or cause to explode any of the following: firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrocketes, roman candles, daygo bombs, bottle rockets, whistling chasers, rockets on sticks or other fireworks of like construction. Also prohibited under Michigan Law are fireworks containing explosive or inflammable compound or a tablet or other device commonly used and sold as fireworks containing nitrates, fulminates, chlorates, oxalates, sulfides of lead, barium, antimony, arsenic, mercury, nitroglycerin, phosphorus, or a compound containing these or other modern explosives.

The upshot of all of this technical language is that very few devices commonly referred to as "fireworks" can be legally used in Michigan without having first received a fireworks permit from the local unit of government. So, what's a person to do if they want to legally conduct a fireworks display?

Contacting the Township office to learn about the standards that must be met in order to receive a fireworks permit is a good place to start. Another is to obtain a copy of the National Fire Protection Association Pamphlet 1, 2000 edition at www.nfpa.org or call (800) 344-3555.

It is also a good idea to check with your property and liability insurance provider to determine whether or not your insurance coverage would remain in effect if fireworks are used without a permit and property damage or personal injury results.

Please be informed, be safe and be legal.