

# Independence Day Firework Safety: 9 Tips For Fireworks On The Fourth

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Did you know that according to Florida Statutes, any fireworks that leave the ground or explode are illegal for recreational use, unless handled by a professional?

So, “Why is it that almost anyone can buy exploding professional type fireworks all year long in Florida?” you ask.

Florida law allows anyone over 18 to purchase fireworks by signing a waiver, where the customer agrees to use the purchase under an exemption. The exemption found in Florida Statute 791.07, says “fireworks can be used solely and exclusively in frightening birds from agricultural works and fish hatcheries.”

We all know that people are not buying fireworks to scare off birds so why isn't anyone doing anything about this? Local law enforcement officials have their hands tied on this one. In order for them to cite someone, they have to actually witness the violation. Obviously when a marked police car pulls up, the fireworks stop. Practically speaking, unless the sale of fireworks is prohibited, or this “bird” loophole is closed, recreational fireworks will continue to be prevalent in Florida, especially around this time of year.

As we approach this July 4th weekend, let us not forget why we are celebrating. On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from Britain and Democracy was born.

This weekend, many of you will be celebrating with family and friends. Please remember to be safe, whether you are boating, cooking out, swimming, or shooting off fireworks

### COMMON SENSE SAFETY TIPS FOR FIREWORKS

1. Check the laws in your state and obey
2. Never drink alcohol and use fireworks
3. Read the caution labels before igniting
4. Wear safety goggles while igniting the fireworks
5. Keep children at a safe distance from the ignited fireworks
6. Keep your own safe distance once fireworks are ignited
7. Never throw fireworks at people
8. Remain standing while using sparklers
9. Never throw sparklers

**SINCLAIR LAW OFFICES HAS BEEN HELPING FOLKS IN THIS COMMUNITY FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS.**

## Have a Happy & Safe Fourth of July.



*“Going the extra mile for you”*