



STATE OF DELAWARE  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

GROVER P. INGLE  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DOVER OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS

**GUIDELINES FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

1. The discharge, failure to fire, faulty wiring or fallout of any fireworks, or other objects shall not endanger persons, buildings, apartments, structures, forests or brush, nor in case will the point at which the fireworks to be fired be less than 200 feet from the nearest permanent building, public highway, railroad, or other means of travel or 50 feet from the nearest aboveground telephone or telegraph line, tree, or other overhead obstruction. In no case shall a display be fired within 500 feet of a school, theatre, church, hospital or similar institution.
2. Spectators at a display of fireworks shall be restrained behind lines or barriers designated by local authorities but in no case less than 200 feet from the point at which the fireworks are to be discharged. Only authorized persons and those in actual charge of the display shall be allowed inside those lines or barriers during the unloading, preparation, or firing of the fireworks.
3. All fireworks that fire a projectile shall be so set up that the projectile will go into the air as nearly as possible in a vertical direction, provided that where such fireworks are to be fired beside a lake or other large body of water, they may be directed in such a manner that the falling residue from the deflagration will fall into the said body of water.
4. Any fireworks that remain unfired after the display is concluded shall be immediately disposed of or removed in a manner safe for the particular type of fireworks. The debris from the discharged fireworks shall be properly disposed of by the operator before he leaves that premises. The operator, upon the conclusion of the display, shall make a complete and thorough search for any unfired fireworks or pieces which have failed to fire or function and dispose of them in a safe manner. Such search shall be instituted at the earliest possible time following the conclusion of the display but in no event later than the first period of daylight which follows.
5. No fireworks display shall be held during any windstorm in which the wind reaches a velocity of more than 20 miles per hour.
6. All fireworks articles and items at places of display shall be stored in such a manner and in a place secure from fire, accidental discharge, and theft in a manner approved by the State Fire Marshal.
7. Display operators and assistants shall use only flashlights or electric lighting for artificial illumination.

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8. No smoking or open flames shall be allowed in the storage or display area. Signs to this effect shall be conspicuously posted.
9. No person shall handle or be involved in the firing of fireworks after the consumption of alcoholic beverages or under the influence of narcotics or drugs which could adversely affect judgment, movements, or stability.
10. The State Fire Marshal shall have the authority to apply any provision from the Standard for Public Display of Fireworks, NFPA 1123, as adopted and/or modified by these Regulations, as the standards for any provision not specifically covered in this Chapter or in 16 Del. C., Chapter 69.
11. The provisions of §2-3.1.11 shall apply from the time that the fireworks arrive at the display site, and until the completion of the display, removal of all remaining fireworks from the site and the removal of all debris.
12. The sponsoring organization shall arrange with the local fire department to provide fire protection for the display.
13. The level of such fire protection will be decided by the chief of the local fire department.
14. The person to whom a permit has been issued shall arrange for the detailing of one member of the local fire department or such larger number as may be deemed necessary by the chief of the fire department. Fire department personnel shall be on duty from the time the fireworks are delivered to the site until the termination of the display and the removal of all fireworks and debris from the site. The expense of such fire personnel shall be paid by the permittee.