

North Carolina laws is as follows

**GS 14-414. Pyrotechnics defined; exceptions.**

For the proper construction of the provisions of this Article, "pyrotechnics," as is herein used, shall be deemed to be and include any and all kinds of fireworks and explosives, which are used for exhibitions or amusement purposes: provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the manufacture, purchase, sale, transportation, and use of explosives or signaling flares used in the course of ordinary business or industry, or shells or cartridges used as ammunition in firearms. This Article shall not apply to the sale, use, or possession of the following:

(1) Explosive caps designed to be fired in toy pistols, provided that the explosive mixture of the explosive caps shall not exceed twenty-five hundredths (.25) of a gram for each cap.

(2) Snake and glowworms composed of pressed pellets of a pyrotechnic mixture that produce a large, snake-like ash when burning.

(3) Smoke devices consisting of a tube or sphere containing a pyrotechnic mixture that produces white or colored smoke.

(4) Trick noisemakers, which produce a small report, designed to surprise the user and which include:

a. A party popper, which is a small plastic or paper item containing not in excess of 16 milligrams of explosive mixture. A string protruding from the device is pulled to ignite the device, expelling paper streamers and producing a small report.

b. A string popper, which is a small tube containing not in excess of 16 milligrams of explosive mixture with string protruding from both ends. The strings are pulled to ignite the friction-sensitive mixture, producing a small report.

c. A snapper or drop pop, which is a small, paper-wrapped item containing no more than 16 milligrams of explosive mixture coated on small bits of sand. When dropped, the device produces a small report.

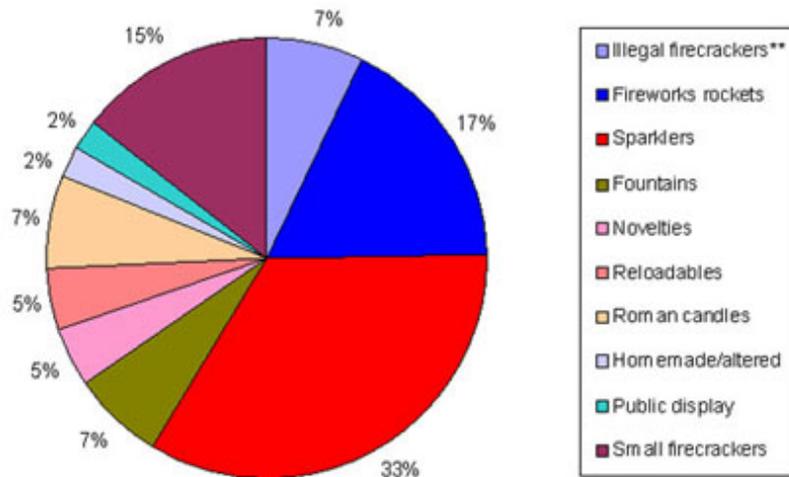
(5) Wire sparklers consisting of wire or stick coated with nonexplosive pyrotechnic mixture that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. These items must not exceed 100 grams of mixture per item.

(6) Other sparkling devices which emit showers of sparks and sometimes a whistling or crackling effect when burning, do not detonate or explode, do not spin, are hand-held or ground-based, cannot propel themselves through the air, and contain not more than 75 grams of chemical compound per tube, or not more than a total of 200 grams if multiple tubes are used. (1947, c. 210, s. 5; 1955, c. 674, s. 1; 1993, c. 437.)

The  
**Gastonia Fire Department**  
encourages you to be Safe  
during the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
celebrations.



**Don't loose a fifth on the 4<sup>th</sup>.**



- In 2002, an estimated 3,000 reported structure or vehicle fires were started by fireworks. These resulted in no deaths, 60 injuries and \$29 million in direct property damage.
- In 2003, 9,300 people were treated at hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. Burns were the leading type of fireworks injury (63%). Contusions and lacerations were second (18%), and were equal in share to burns when the injury was to any part of the head or face, including the eye. Hands or fingers were the part of the body injured in 26% of the incidents. In 20% of the cases, the eye was involved, and other parts of the face or head accounted for 17% of the injuries.
- Pre-teens and teenagers face the highest risk of fireworks injuries. In 2003, 60% of people injured by fireworks were under the age of 20, with 45% of the injuries incurred by those under age 15. The highest injury rate relative to population was for ages 5 to 9, with 8.9 times the risk for the entire population.
- Males accounted for nearly three-fourths (72%) of fireworks injuries.
- From 1997 to 2001, an annual average of eight people were killed in fires started by fireworks. An annual average of seven people were killed directly by fireworks.
- In 2002, fires started by fireworks caused \$26 million in direct property damage to structures. Fireworks-related fires have caused roughly \$20 million in property loss to structures per year in inflation-adjusted dollars in the past decade.

- Based on the amount of time and quantities in use, fireworks pose a higher risk of fire death than any other consumer product. Although cigarettes are the leading cause of fire death, the risk that someone will die from fire when fireworks are being used is three times the corresponding risk when cigarettes are burning.
- On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks cause more outdoor fires in the United States than all other causes of outdoor fire combined.
- Six states ban the use of fireworks by consumers (AZ, DE, MA, NJ, NY, and RI). The other 44 states and the District of Columbia permit some or all consumer fireworks. [The American Pyrotechnics Association has compiled a helpful map and directory of state-by-state fireworks control laws.](#)

The types of fireworks permissible for use in North Carolina include sparklers, fountains and novelty fireworks that do not explode, such as "snap and pops" and "glow worms." Fireworks that are illegal include:

- Firecrackers
- Ground spinners
- Roman candles
- Bottle rockets
- Mortars
- Any pyrotechnic that is intended to spin, leave the ground or fly through the air.

Should you choose to use legal fireworks at home, keep the following tips in mind:

- Fireworks are not toys and should only be handled by responsible adults. Even sparklers burn as hot as 1200(F and cause hundreds of injuries every year.
- Never point or throw fireworks at people, pets, cars or buildings.
- Always use fireworks outdoors on a paved surface, away from dry grass, wooded areas and dwellings.
- Never alter fireworks or attempt to make your own.
- Light one device at a time and move away from it quickly. Never approach fireworks that have not functioned or have "fizzled."
- Have a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of a fire emergency.
- Read and follow all directions before lighting fireworks. Do not buy any devices that lack instructions written in English.
- **If you have questions about fireworks legality, contact your local city or county fire marshal.**