



Effective July 1, 2015, consumer fireworks sales will be legal in Georgia

House Bill 110 amended several Georgia code sections to allow for the sale, purchase and use of consumer fireworks. The new Georgia law covers any small fireworks intended to cause a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, and deflagration, detonation that includes blank cartridges, firecrackers, torpedos, skyrockets, bombs, sparklers, and other combustibles like construction including Roman candles. Refer to Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) for specific details.

Based on Title 25, Chapter 2 O.C.G.A., the following items are part of the new state law legalizing consumer fireworks:

- Fireworks can only be sold or used by persons 18 years of age or older.
- Fireworks cannot be used indoors.
- Fireworks can be used daily between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and midnight. On January 1, July 3, July 4 and December 31, fireworks can be used from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
- Fireworks cannot be exploded within 100 yards of a nuclear power facility or a gas station, or a facility that refines, processes, or blends gasoline.

If you enjoy watching fireworks, the Hinesville Fire Department recommends you attend one of the many professional shows put on at various locations around the area each 4th of July and New Year's holiday.

In addition to the lawful prohibitions above, if you choose to use fireworks, be sure to follow the recommendations below by the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks. Only those 18 and older can legally use fireworks in Georgia.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees which is hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.

- ❑ Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- ❑ Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- ❑ After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.

WARNING: Persons choosing to use fireworks should be cognizant of their responsibility to discharge them safely without endangering other persons or property. Please be advised that you have a legal duty to exercise reasonable care in using fireworks and are presumed to intend the natural and probable consequences of your acts. As a result, you may be subject to potential criminal and/or civil liability for any damage to persons or property resulting from your use of fireworks.

If you have any questions concerning consumer fireworks, please contact the Hinesville Fire Department at (912) 876-4143. You can also visit our website at www.cityofhinesville.org/fire, or go to the Fire Department page and submit your question through the Contact Us link.

