



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
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## **ATF ALERTS PUBLIC TO UNSTABLE 'M-80' FIREWORKS**

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office want to alert the public that they are investigating the sale of devices commonly referred to as M-80's and categorized as explosives by ATF. It has been determined that approximately 1,000 of these M-80's were manufactured and sold illegally in the Des Moines area and in Iowa, Mahaska, Polk and Poweshiek counties.

**THESE DEVICES ARE UNSTABLE:** The few devices recovered were not manufactured properly, causing explosive flash powder to leak out. The devices are tan cardboard tubes measuring three inches in length and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter with a hole punched in the center of the cardboard device with a red, white, and blue hobby fuse attached.

**CAUTION:** Flash powder is extremely sensitive to shock, friction, heat, vibration or flame contact. **DO NOT HANDLE THESE DEVICES.** If you encounter any of these devices, please contact your local law enforcement agency for proper recovery and disposal.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for regulating the explosives industry and investigating explosives incidents. More information on ATF and its programs is available at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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