



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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ATF REMINDS PUBLIC TO CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY SAFELY

BALTIMORE — As Independence Day approaches, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) wishes to remind the public to exercise caution when dealing with fireworks and to only purchase legal fireworks through licensed retailers.

ATF is the federal law enforcement agency charged with enforcing federal explosives laws. ATF actively works with other federal agencies, state and local agencies through its fireworks enforcement program, to prevent trafficking and possession of illegal fireworks, which are technically classified as illegal explosive devices.

Special Agent in Charge Gregory K. Gant advises, “ATF not only investigates the possession and/or use of illegal explosives, but we also work to educate the public on the dangers of fireworks and explosives. We would like everyone to have a safe Independence Day, and encourage everyone to enjoy the fireworks exhibitions presented by professionals.”

Illegal explosive devices meet neither safety nor quality standards of legally manufactured consumer fireworks. Federally banned fireworks include M-80s, M-1000s, Silver Salutes and Cherry Bombs. Mail-order kits designed to build these fireworks also are banned. The manufacture, sale, and receipt of these illegal explosives devices can result in federal felony and misdemeanor charges.

State and local fireworks laws and regulations differ from jurisdiction to

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jurisdiction. Before purchasing or using any fireworks, check with the authorities in your area to find out what is allowed.

The public is urged to report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks or explosives devices to local law enforcement or by calling the toll-free ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).

More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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