

Fireworks in shops

Retailers' risk assessment checklist

This checklist accompanies the leaflet *Storing and selling fireworks safely* (INDG407), which is available online at www/hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg407.htm. It has been written for people who sell fireworks, to help them carry out a risk assessment and plan what actions they need to take to protect the safety of staff and customers.

| How could a fire start? | | | | |
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| Danger | Action | Your actions and notes (record here any specific actions you need to take) | Action taken (✓) | Comments |
| Cigarettes and other naked lights. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Restrict access to area where fireworks are stored. ■ Ensure fireworks are not left unattended in the warehouse. ■ Prohibit smoking anywhere near the items. ■ Keep in a locked store, locked storage cabinet or locked display cabinet. | (eg ensure all staff are aware of no smoking areas and check <i>no smoking</i> signs are displayed in prominent locations.) | | Taking positive action to prevent a fire is the most important of all the control measures you must take. |
| Sparks from electrical sockets and fittings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Disconnect from electrical supply if fitted in display cabinets or use dummy fireworks. ■ In storerooms, remove electrical equipment (other than light fittings and fire detection equipment) and blank off plugs. | | | |

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| Heat causing boxes to catch fire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Remove space heaters or position them well away from the fireworks. ■ In storerooms, leave a clear space between the light fitting(s) and the fireworks. | | | |
| Fire involving other goods spreads to the fireworks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keep in a dedicated storeroom if possible, otherwise in a fire-resistant store cupboard or cabinet or container. ■ Keep well away from flammable or combustible articles. | | | Flammable substances include white spirit and solvent-based paints. Combustible articles include clothing, cardboard, paper and wood (eg pallets). |
| Arson or criminal action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keep in a secure goods yard. ■ Keep under supervision. ■ Review location of the store and security arrangements. | | | A fire might be started deliberately or by thieves using cutting equipment to gain access to the store. |
| How could a fire spread and get worse? | | | | |
| Heat from burning fireworks causes nearby flammable or combustible articles to catch fire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Remove the flammable/ combustible articles if possible. ■ Locate fireworks well away from flammable substances to reduce risk of fire spreading. ■ If fireworks are stored in a container outside the building, ensure it is located well away from parked vehicles, pallets etc. | | | |

| How could a fire spread and get worse? | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------|--|
| Danger | Action | Your actions and notes (record here any specific actions you need to take) | Action taken (✓) | Comments |
| Burning fireworks or fragments are thrown into flammable or combustible articles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keep the fireworks in their transport boxes. ■ Close transport boxes after use. ■ Keep fireworks in a separate storeroom. If this is not possible, keep in fire-resistant cupboards or cabinets. ■ If fireworks are stocked in a warehouse, ensure there is a barrier between fireworks and flammable items (eg a wall, or a wire screen) or enclose items in a wire cage or keep them in an ISO transport container or other suitable construction that will contain the fragment throw. ■ Control the amount of fireworks in the shop area. ■ Ensure the premises are suitable for the quantity of fireworks (and keep the stocks of fireworks within the limits permitted by your licence). | | | Anyone storing large quantities of flammable substances should seek specialist advice. |
| Fireworks are contaminated by other chemicals or by water and become unstable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keep away from caustic substances such as drain cleaners, paint strippers and wood preservatives. ■ Keep away from fertilisers and products containing peroxides (eg fibreglass hardeners). ■ Keep in a dry place. | | | |

| How can people be protected in the event of a fire? | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------|--|
| Danger | Action | Your actions and notes (record here any specific actions you need to take) | Action taken (✓) | Comments |
| Staff or customers are unable to escape because of heat and/or smoke. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keep all fireworks in the sales area in a display cabinet. ■ Ensure the fireworks are located so that escape routes are not affected by smoke and flames in the event of a fire. ■ Ensure escape routes are not blocked by other goods. ■ Ensure all staff are clear what action must be taken if there is fire. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Priority must be for staff and customers to evacuate the shop. ■ Fires should only be fought if people are in danger. ■ You have a legal duty under fire safety legislation to ensure that any person present in your shop can escape to safety should there be an outbreak of fire. |
| Fire spreads to neighbouring or adjoining residential premises. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Locate containers away from neighbouring houses. ■ If there are flats or residential accommodation in the same building, ensure that there is a separate escape route for residents. ■ Install fire detection and alarm system. ■ Ensure that suitable fire doors are fitted etc. | | | |