



STAYING SAFE ON BONFIRE NIGHT

As Bonfire Night approaches, we want to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable experience while celebrating. Fireworks can be a fun part of the festivities, but it's essential to prioritise safety and follow legal guidelines. Here are some important guidance, tips and information to keep in mind.

ENJOYING FIREWORKS LEGALLY

In the UK, it's crucial to adhere to the following regulations regarding fireworks:

- **Age restrictions** – There are various age restrictions on buying fireworks, depending on what category they fall into. You must be 18+ to buy most fireworks. View the different categories and associated age restrictions on the [West Midlands Police website](#)
- **Time restrictions** – Fireworks can only be set off between 7am and 11pm, except for Bonfire Night (where the cut off is midnight) and New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year (where the cut off is 1am)
- **Location** – unless part of an organised event by licensed professionals, **fireworks cannot be used on the street or in a public place**. It's illegal to throw or set off any firework (including sparklers, firecrackers and party poppers) in or onto any highway, street thoroughfare or public space and you will be prosecuted if you do so

CONSEQUENCES OF FIREWORKS MISUSE

You can be fined an unlimited amount and imprisoned for up to 6 months for using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

A criminal record can have a very detrimental impact on you and your studies. Your university might take disciplinary action, restrict your participation in certain activities or even withdraw you from the course.

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A criminal record can also limit career options – especially in fields like teaching, healthcare or law – and impact visa applications and international travel.

FIREWORK SAFETY TIPS

It's recommended to enjoy fireworks at an event being organised by licensed professionals, but if you are setting off your own fireworks, you are responsible to do it safely.

- Only buy fireworks from licensed retailers, or they may be dangerous and also illegal
- Make sure the fireworks you buy comply with current safety standards – check that they have the CE mark
- Read the instructions on each firework carefully before using it
- Keep fireworks in a closed, metal box – use fireworks one at a time and replace the lid immediately
- Secure fireworks on the ground and light one at a time. Make sure to light them outdoors and away from people, property and flammable materials
- Stand well back and never return to a lit firework or try to relight one that has failed to go off
- Never put fireworks in your pockets and keep naked flames – including cigarettes – away from fireworks
- Never throw fireworks or aim them at buildings or other people
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of fire
- Being caught breaking the law can have a detrimental effect on your future life

REPORTING MISUSE OF FIREWORKS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

Remember, misuse of fireworks can result in a fine and prosecution.

- If you see someone using fireworks in a dangerous or irresponsible way, call the police on **101** or **999** in an emergency
- If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, such as noise nuisance or criminal damage, you should also call the police on **101**
- You can also report ASB and fireworks misuse [online](#)
- You can also report planned irresponsible behaviour to CrimeStoppers, before it happens on **0800 555 111**.

The police work closely with universities, students' unions and accommodation providers to keep campuses safe, but it's important that everyone plays their part to keep everyone safe and enjoy the fireworks this season.

All the best,
Safer Students Team