



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

Leeds Partnerships
Elland Road Police Station
LS11 8BU

Website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk

Leeds District

9th October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: Firework Safety and Legal Responsibilities

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am a Chief Inspector working for West Yorkshire Police and I am the Strategic Partnership Lead for the Leeds area. A lot of my work involves working with schools and young people to keep them and the wider community safe.

As we approach the Bonfire season, I want to take a moment to discuss an important matter that concerns the safety and well-being of your children. Fireworks, although thrilling, can pose serious risks when handled irresponsibly or without proper supervision. It is crucial for you, as parents and guardians, to ensure your children's safety and prevent them from misusing fireworks.

The use of fireworks is regulated by various laws and regulations to minimise the risks associated with them. The primary legislation governing fireworks is the Fireworks Regulations Act 2004, which restricts the sale, possession, and use of fireworks, especially among individuals under the age of 18. It is essential that you familiarise yourselves with these laws and regulations to uphold your responsibilities as parents and guardians.

Here are some key points to consider:

1. **Age Restrictions:** Under UK law, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess category 2 and 3 fireworks in public places. Retailers are also prohibited from selling category 2 and 3 fireworks to individuals under this age limit.
2. **Responsible Supervision:** If your child is under 18 and wishes to enjoy fireworks, please ensure that they are always under the supervision of a responsible adult. Fireworks should never be left in the hands of children or teenagers.
3. **Noise and Nuisance:** Fireworks should not be used in a manner that causes distress to others or constitutes a nuisance. Misuse can lead to noise complaints and potential legal consequences.
4. **Legal Consequences:** The police take firework-related offences seriously. Robust action will be taken against anyone found committing offences such as underage possession, antisocial behaviour, or misuse of fireworks.

This Bonfire season let's work together to ensure children enjoy fireworks safely and responsibly. By doing so, we can help prevent accidents, protect our communities from unnecessary disturbances, and avoid any legal repercussions.

If you have any questions or concerns about firework safety or UK legislation, please visit the West Yorkshire Police website - www.westyorkshire.police.uk

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable Bonfire season.

Sincerely,

Lucy Leadbeater
Chief Inspector
Leeds Partnerships