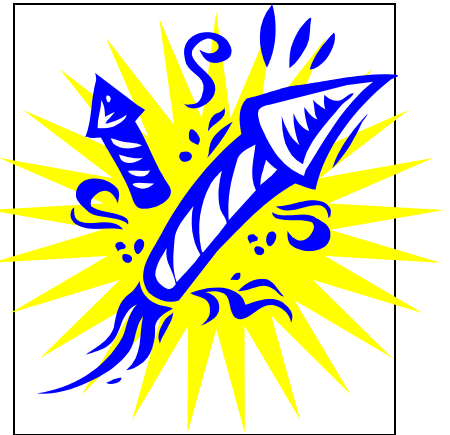


## FIREWORKS AND THE LAW

[www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)

### What is the law on the supply of fireworks?

Under the *Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997* all fireworks for use by the public must meet British Standard BS 7114. Under the *Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005* it is an offence to keep fireworks (except those for private use\*) on premises that have not been registered for this purpose. This is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive and Trading Standards



### What laws control public use of fireworks?

Fireworks sold to the public are covered by the *Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997*. Under these regulations the sale of fireworks to anyone under **18** is banned, and of caps, cracker snaps and party poppers to anyone under **16**.

The supply of bangers, mini rockets, fireworks that fly erratically (squibs, helicopters etc) aerial shells, maroons, mortars and large powerful display fireworks are banned from supply to the public.

These regulations are enforced by Local Authority Consumer Protection/Trading Standards Officers. Suppliers who breach these regulations (including shopkeepers) face a fine of up to £5,000 and/or up to 6 months in prison.

*\*Individuals can store fireworks for private use for up to 14 days, provided they are kept in a safe place. Under these regulations it is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under 18 and caps, cracker snaps and party poppers to anyone under 16.*

### What laws cover nuisance and danger caused by fireworks?

The throwing or setting off of fireworks in a highway or street is an offence under the *Explosives Act 1875*. This is enforced by the police, with a fine of up to £5,000. A scheme for fixed penalty notices of £40 for letting off fireworks in the street is being piloted in



four Police areas – Metropolitan Police in Croydon, West Midlands Police, North Wales Police Force – Central Division and Essex Police.

It is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to animals under the *Protection of Animals Act 1911*. A penalty of up to £5,000 and/or 6 months in prison is enforceable by the police, trading standards or RSPCA. If a Local Authority officer judges noise from fireworks to be a statutory nuisance under the *Environmental Protection Act 1990*, they can issue an abatement notice – however as firework noise is short lived, in practice it is often difficult to locate the source of noise. Some local authorities have enforced the *Noise Act 1996* – which gives them powers to enforce a fixed penalty notice for noise above the permitted level emitted from premises (including gardens) between 11pm and 7am. Under this a warning notice has to give offenders 10 minutes to comply – so this is effective only for prolonged displays. Also, under the *Crime and Disorder Act 1998* local authorities have the power to issue an antisocial behaviour order to anyone causing “harassment, alarm or distress”. Disobeying an order carries a prison sentence of up to five years.

If you require more information please contact:

Environmental Health Services  
Environmental Protection  
Charnwood Borough Council  
Southfields, Southfield Road, Loughborough LE11 2TX

Tel: 01509 634636  
Email: env.health@charnwood.gov.uk  
Web: www.charnwood.gov.uk

We have more information about asbestos on our website at:-

<http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/environment/asbestosintheenvironment.html>

This information is available in different formats. To access these please phone (01509) 634560.

এ তথ্যাদি অন্যান্য মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যায়। এসব পেতে হলে দয়া করে (01509) 634560 এ নাম্বারে টেলিফোন করুন।

這資料具不同的格式，請致電 (01509) 634560 索取。

આ માહિતી જુદી જુદી પદ્ધતિઓમાં ઉપલબ્ધ છે. તે મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો (01509) 634560.

यह जानकारी अलग-अलग प्रारूपों में मिल सकती है। इनको पाने के लिये कृपया यह नंबर डायल कीजिये (01509) 634560.

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਸ਼ਕਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਹਾਮਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ (01509) 634560

