

# "Sparklers" Safety Tips



**Gwinnett County Department of Fire & Emergency Services**  
**Office of the Fire Marshal**  
 446 W. Crogan Street, Suite 100 Lawrenceville, GA 30045-2475  
 (678) 518-6100 [www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com](http://www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com)

In May of 2005 the Governor of Georgia signed Senate Bill 133 into law. The passing of this legislation allows the sale and use of certain fireworks in the State of Georgia. The fireworks that are allowed for sale and use in the State of Georgia are referred to as "Sparklers". In general, "Sparkler" type fireworks are usually fountains, sparklers, smoke balls, snakes, ground spinners, pinwheels, and most novelty fireworks including crackling ground items. "Sparklers" can emit showers of sparks over 20 feet in the air and some make whistling and 'firecracker' type audible sounds. "Sparklers" are usually labeled with a notice '*EMITS SHOWERS OF SPARKS*'. In general fireworks that are **not** considered "Sparklers" are aerial shells, roman candles, bottle rockets, rockets, and firecrackers. Generally, any firework that is labeled as 'with report' or 'shoots flaming balls' are not considered "Sparklers" and are still **illegal** for sale and use in the State of Georgia.

**ILLEGAL FIREWORKS:** Any item that explodes or rises in the air. Pictured below are examples of *illegal fireworks that should not be used.*



Statistics show that in 2001 there were an estimated 9,500 injuries caused by fireworks treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. Children under the age of 15 accounted for nearly half of those injuries. The hands and eyes accounted for the highest percentage of injuries.

To help make your use of "Sparklers" the safest it can be, the Gwinnett County Fire Marshal's Office offers the following safety rules:

- Always read the directions carefully in a brightly lit setting and follow them. Inspect fireworks for any defects.
- **NEVER** give fireworks to children.
- Always keep a bucket of water, a garden hose, or fire extinguisher close by.
- Store them in a cool, dry place, out of the reach of children and away from any open flames.
- Ignite outdoors, away from buildings, vehicles, combustible vegetation and light on a firm stable ground.
- Never attempt to fix or re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them in a bucket of water.
- Allow enough room for proper functioning and never light fireworks in windy or stormy conditions.
- Light one firework at a time and use a punk or BBQ lighter.
- Keep a safe distance away.
- Before going in for the night, inspect the area of the firework use and surrounding area to double check that no fires have started from falling debris.

***As always, be safe, be courteous, and use good common sense.***