



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



Bonfire Night Advice - Guy Fawkes Night (5th November)

Having your own Bonfire Night party or celebrating with family and friends can be great fun, but by far the safest way to enjoy these seasonal activities is to attend a professionally organised event. If, however, you are holding your own fireworks party, please don't put your family and friends at risk.

The law and fireworks:

- It is an offence to throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare, or public place.
- It is illegal for under 18s to be sold fireworks, or to possess fireworks in a public place.
- It is illegal to set fireworks off between 11pm and 7am, except in the following cases:

November 5th – until midnight, New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year – 1 am the following day.

Advice for staying safe:

- Always buy from a reputable shop and make sure that they conform to British Standards, they should have BS7114 written on the box, never buy individual fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and never carry in your pocket.
- Light fireworks at arm's length, using a taper and never go near a firework that has been lit, even if it has not gone off, it could still explode
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. If your guests are drinking alcohol keep them well away from fireworks and the bonfire, and never drink alcohol if you are setting off fireworks or tending to a bonfire. Consider limiting the availability of alcohol until after your fireworks have been set off.
- Never give sparklers to children under 5 and light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves. Sparklers get five times hotter than cooking oil!
- Supervise children at all times around fireworks.

Advice for keeping your pets safe:

- Keep all pets inside when fireworks are being let off. Close all the windows and doors, and block off cat-flaps to keep noise to a minimum and to stop pets escaping. It's also a good idea to draw the curtains, and if the animals are used to the particular sounds of TV or radio, switch them on (but not too loudly), in order to block out some of the noise of the fireworks.
- Make sure your pet is wearing some form of easily readable identification (ID) - even in the house. Think about fitting them with a microchip, so that if they do run away they have a better chance of being returned to you.

Note: From April 2016 it has been a legal requirement for ALL dogs to be microchipped and contact details kept up-to-date.