



Bexar County Public Information Office
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

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Contact: Tom Peine
210.335.0073/o
210.420.8694/m

**Bexar County Fire Marshal's Office Reminds Residents
of Fireworks Safety Tips For a Happy New Year**

As we welcome the new year 2023, the Bexar County Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind all residents of the importance of safely using fireworks.

We know that many of our residents like to use fireworks to celebrate the new year. At the same time, it is important to follow safety guidelines to prevent accidents and injuries.

Here are a few tips for using fireworks safely:

1. Make sure you only purchase fireworks from properly licensed vendors.
2. Follow all local laws and regulations regarding the use of fireworks. In Bexar County, it is illegal to
 - a) Use fireworks within 600 feet of a church, hospital, a licensed childcare center, nursing home, or school.
 - b) Use fireworks within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids or flammable compressed gases are stored or dispensed.
 - c) Use fireworks within 100 feet of a place where fireworks are stored or sold.
 - d) Ignite or discharge fireworks in, or throw fireworks at a motor vehicle.
(Violations resulting in property damage of less than \$200 are a Class C misdemeanor.)
3. Only use fireworks outdoors, and make sure to have a clear, open area for lighting them. Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of any mishaps.
4. Never allow children to handle fireworks. An adult should be present to supervise and ensure safety.
5. Do not use fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
6. If a firework does not light, do not try to relight it. Instead, move away and dispose of it safely by submerging it in water. You should do the same with all debris left over after the use of fireworks. Smoldering fireworks debris in a trashcan is often the cause of residential fires.

We also remind all pet families to make sure their furry friends are inside and have a place to shelter should they be afraid of fireworks. You can help make this is a safe and less stressful night for them.

By following these simple guidelines, you can help ensure a safe and enjoyable new year celebration for everyone. Happy New Year!

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