



National Safety Council

Position/Policy Statement

Use of Fireworks

POLICY

The National Safety Council opposes the use of fireworks by adults and children, except by professional pyrotechnicians under controlled conditions.

BASIS

The misuse of fireworks by adults and children continues to cause several thousands of needless injuries and hundreds of deaths each year. Such accidents occur in spite of legislation banning the sale of certain types of fireworks in many states, as well as recently enacted federal regulations concerning the inter-state shipping and labeling of all except Class C (common) type fireworks.

Enforcement of state and local laws is exceedingly difficult, and “bootlegging” of fireworks into states having restrictive legislation is a common practice. Mail order sale of fireworks themselves, or of the ingredients necessary for “do-it-yourself” manufacturing of same, continues to be an easily available source.

IMPLEMENTATION

The National Safety Council supports the NFPA No. 494-L Model State Fireworks Law. The principles of this law permit public displays of fireworks under controlled conditions, but prohibit the sale and indiscriminate use by adults and children. It is very evident that this model law works because, despite “bootlegging,” there has been a remarkable reduction in fires and in deaths and injuries to children and adults from fireworks where such laws have been enacted and enforced.

The National Safety Council strongly urges that those state governments that have not already adopted the Model Law without amendments to seek enactment of this law for control of the sale and use of fireworks.

The National Safety Council strongly urges appropriate federal agencies to rigidly enforce existing regulations prohibiting mail-order sales of fireworks or their ingredients. It recommends that current federal regulations be expanded to

prohibit the inter-state shipment of Class C (common) fireworks. And it encourages local and state authorities to more diligently enforce existing legislation banning the sale and use of fireworks by the general public.

The National Safety Council calls upon all organizations and agencies concerned with the safety of the American public to intensify their educational efforts to inform adults and children regarding the hazards inherent in the use of fireworks.

This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Approved by the Home Conference, October 9, 1968

Approved by the Board of Directors, October 29, 1968