28 October, 2019

Staying safe with fireworks this Bonfire Night

As Bonfire Night approaches, Jersey Fire and Rescue Service (JFRS) is providing fireworks safety advice to ensure Islanders enjoy displays and events without incident. With all the sparkle and excitement, it is easy to forget that fireworks can be dangerous if not used correctly and responsibly.

Fireworks are explosives which burn at extremely high temperatures and can cause serious injuries.

Crew Commander John Le Cornu said: “we want Islanders to enjoy Bonfire Night celebrations safely and without accident, whether at an organised display or hosting their own, and are therefore running a social media campaign during the selling period to provide advice on how to stay safe. We also want to remind people to keep their pets indoors, so they are scared and distressed by the fireworks.”

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to go to a professionally organised event. However, not everyone can attend these, so if you’re having a fireworks display and/or bonfire at home, always follow the firework code:

Firework code:

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.
- Light the firework at arm’s length with a taper and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks (until you are ready to light them).
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Don’t put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

Bonfires:

- Build your bonfire downwind and well away from buildings, trees, bushes or other flammable materials.
- Tell your neighbours so they can prepare.
- Clear away grass to form a circle of earth around the fire.
• Build the fire stack so that it collapses inward when burning.
• Watch for flying embers and sparks.
• Don't use petrol or paraffin to start the fire.
• Don't leave the fire unattended.
• Never throw aerosol or LPG containers on the fire.
• Ensure the fire is put out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.