



Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards



Indoor use of Pyrotechnics and Fireworks

**Joint Position Statement from - Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and
Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards**



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards is of the opinion that Pyrotechnics and Fireworks should not be used indoors due to the significant fire and safety risks. Following a series of tragic incidents in entertainment venues worldwide, including the recent event at a bar in Switzerland on New Year's Eve, there is an urgent need to review and strengthen safety measures to protect the public.

Surrey Fire & Rescue's priority is ensuring our businesses and communities in Surrey are safe, and similar incidents do not occur.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service urge all businesses and licensed premises to:

- **Never** use regular garden or display fireworks indoors, on balconies, or in communal gardens or spaces.
- **Never** use sparklers indoors. Hot sparks can ignite furniture and linings, cause toxic smoke and make escape routes unpassable.
- **Follow All Instructions** supplied with fireworks and pyrotechnics to ensure they are suitable for the intended use, and they are being used in accordance with safety instructions. This includes keeping to the required safety distances.
- **Review and update Fire Risk Assessments** particularly in venues holding or participating in celebrations or events where fireworks or pyrotechnics are being used.
- **Occupancy Numbers** should be reviewed and calculated correctly according to the risk level, use of space, and the number and widths of exits.
- **Escape Routes** must be unlocked, obvious, and always kept clear of obstructions.
- **Inspections of venues** must be made by competent people to ensure that materials such as furnishings, decorations, ceiling and wall linings are made of fire-retardant materials, if not they should be removed before the event takes place.
- **Only competent** and trained companies must be used for events where fireworks or pyrotechnics are in use. Any concerns of competency must be addressed and potentially reported to local authorities. **E.g. Surrey Fire and Rescue / Environmental Health**
- **Only** purchase fireworks and pyrotechnics from licensed premises that meet the required safety standards. All fireworks sold must have labels indicating compliance with safety regulations – **e.g. BS EN 15947 and CE/UKCA markings.**
- **Storage** of Fireworks and Pyrotechnics in a licensed premises should not exceed their explosive amount. Fireworks should be secure and stored in their transport packaging and away from sources of ignition.
- **Inform** local authorities, including councils and local fire services, of events in Surrey which may impact on public safety or Surrey Fire and Rescue Service response, such as large gatherings where fireworks or pyrotechnics are to be used.
- **Managerial oversight and training** must be provided to all staff, whether they are paid or volunteers. This includes supervision and confirming arrangements in preparation for events. This is to ensure that during events they know what to do in an emergency, which must include an understanding of the evacuation procedures.
- **Community members** attending these events should ensure they are aware of the nearest safe exit, and to report any dangerous occurrences to the venue management immediately.

Policies and guidance are available that provide information on storage, purchasing, and the consumer. Please follow the links:

[Consumer Information - British Fireworks Association](#)

[Fireworks: age restrictions | Business Companion](#)

[Fireworks: storage and supply | Business Companion](#)

[Pyrotechnic Articles \(Safety\) Regulations 2015 - GOV.UK](#)