



MECKLENBURG COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

FIREWORK SALES REQUIREMENTS:

The North Carolina general statute – Chapter 14 Article 54, [GS 12-414](#) defines which consumer fireworks are actually allowed in North Carolina. Pyrotechnics, commonly known as ‘Safe and Sane’ fireworks, are the only ones allowed in North Carolina. These devices include:

- Explosive caps designed to be fired in toy pistols, provided that the explosive mixture of the explosive caps shall not exceed .25 of a gram for each cap.
- Snakes and glow worm composed of pressed pellets of a pyrotechnic mixture that produce a large, snake-ash when burning.
- Smoke devices consisting of a tube or sphere containing a pyrotechnic mixture that produces white or colored smoke.
- Trick noisemakers which produce a small report designed to surprise the user which include:
 - A party popper, which is a small plastic or paper item containing not in excess of 16 milligrams of explosive mixture. A string protruding from the device is pulled to ignite the device, expelling paper streamers and producing a small report.
 - A string popper, which is a small tube containing not in excess of 16 milligrams of explosive mixture with string protruding from both ends. The strings are pulled to ignite the friction-sensitive mixture, producing a small report.
 - A snapper or drop pop, which is a small, paper wrapped item containing no more than 16 milligrams of explosive mixture coated on small bits of sand. When dropped, the device produces a small report.
- Wire sparklers consisting of wire or stick coated with non-explosive pyrotechnic mixture that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. These items must not exceed 100 grams of mixture per item.
- Any other sparking device which emit showers of sparks and sometimes a whistling or cracking effect when burning, do not detonate or explode, do not spin, are hand-held or ground-based, cannot propel themselves through the air, and contain not more than 75 grams of chemical compound per tube, or not more than a total of 200 grams if multiple tubes are used.

Illegal fireworks include devices that leave the ground, such as bottle rockets and mortars, and have a report or ‘bang’. Examples of these include firecrackers and M80’s. These types of devices are not legally available in North Carolina.

NOTE: Violation Made Misdemeanor: Any person violating any of the provisions of this Article, except as otherwise specified in said Article, shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

NOTE: It is illegal for children under the age of 16 to buy or possess fireworks in North Carolina.

PER THE NORTH CAROLINA FIRE CODE:

Sale and Retail Display: No person shall construct a retail display nor offer for sale *explosives, explosive materials* or fireworks upon highways, sidewalks, public property or in Group A (Assembly) or E (Educational) occupancies.

NOTE: If firework sales is to be conducted in a tent an application for tent permit from the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal’s Office is required. [Tent Permit](#). After the submittal of a tent permit, a tent inspection will be required by the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal’s Office.

If you have any questions in regards to firework sales contact the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal’s Office at (704) 366-2154.