

## FIREWORKS AND PROPER DISPOSAL

Summer is a fun time of year. Many municipalities host festivals, events, and celebrate two holidays-Independence Day and Pioneer Day. During these holidays the public is allowed to discharge fireworks according to local parameters and rules set by Utah's Department of Public Safety. In Orem, the following fireworks guidelines must be followed:

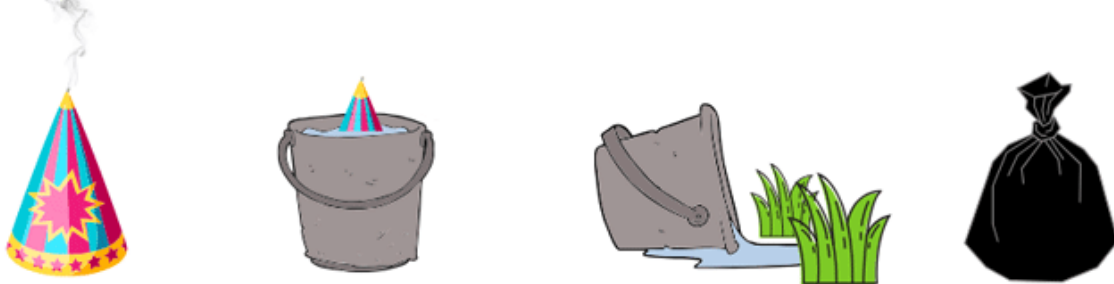
1. [Discharge dates](#): July 2-July 5, 11am-11pm  
July 22-July 25, 11am-11pm  
December 31-January 1, 11am-1am
2. It is unlawful to discharge fireworks in any public park or within 100 feet of any undeveloped areas of the City. ([Orem Code 7.2](#))
3. It is unlawful to place or spill without immediately cleaning up any material or debris on a public street. The owners or other occupants of all real property must keep public sidewalks, curbs, and gutters abutting the property free from debris. Debris includes firework casings! ([Orem Code 16.1](#))
4. It is unlawful for any person to contribute to the obstruction of the flow of water in the storm water system. If firework casings are left on streets or in gutters they can and often do end up in the City's storm water system. ([Orem Code 23.3.2](#))



### What do fireworks have to do with storm water?

The areas where fireworks are often discharged are on impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and most often-public streets. All of these areas are graded to drain towards the curb and gutter which route storm water and all pollutants in it to the City's storm water system. Fortunately, our storm water system is often equipped with pretreatment devices that can help capture debris before storm water is discharged into bodies of water or into the ground. Unfortunately, [materials inside fireworks](#) such as potassium nitrate, sulfur, carbon, and metal salts cannot be captured effectively by structural pretreatment devices. These components are harmful to water quality/aquatic life and can pollute our groundwater.

## SAFE FIREWORKS DISPOSAL



So, as the saying goes- prevention is better than cure. It is easy to clean up firework casings and dispose of them in a dumpster. Doing so will ensure that those harmful chemicals are processed appropriately. Please help keep our storm water clean by disposing of all firework materials into a receptacle headed for a waste management facility. All water used to soak fireworks should be dumped on grass or other vegetated surfaces. Safe practices for ensuring fireworks will not reignite can be found [here](#) or at <https://firemarshal.utah.gov/fireworks/>. Thank you for helping to build a better Orem!