FIREWORKS RELATED STATUTES AND GUIDANCE

4th JULY OPERATIONS

1) OVERVIEW

ALL FIREWORKS (with the exception of sparklers and fountains) ARE ILLEGAL in Connecticut and may NOT be sold, purchased or used, with the EXCEPTION of regulated fireworks displays by state licensed, professional pyrotechnicians at sites which have been approved by state and local officials. Fireworks are defined by law as "any combustible or explosive composition prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation." Novelties, and trick noise makers such as smoke bombs, party poppers and snappers and the "snake", are also banned by Connecticut General Statute 29-357.

Larger so-called "fire crackers" are actually explosive devices which are banned by both state and federal law. They include M-80’s, M-100’s, M-250’s and larger, cherry bombs, quarter sticks, block busters and other similar devices. Possession of these devices is prohibited by Connecticut General Statute 29-348, Illegal Possession of Explosives; manufacture of these devices is prohibited by Connecticut General Statute 53-80a., Manufacture of Bombs. The only exceptions to the fireworks statute are paper caps which contain less than .025 grains of explosive material.

Transportation to Connecticut of fireworks which have been privately purchased out-of-state is illegal. The fine for violation of transportation regulations is not more than $1,000 for a first offense; persons found guilty of subsequent offenses will be fined not less than $1,000 and not more than $2,000, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both. If injury or death results from such violation, the fine shall not more than $10,000 or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both. To order and purchase fireworks by mail is illegal in Connecticut.

Generally speaking all fireworks, except the type you can buy at Walmart, are illegal in CT. It is also illegal to buy fireworks out of state and bring them to CT. With the proliferation of Walmart type "fountains", it can be difficult to differentiate what is legal and illegal. It is even harder for the general public to tell the difference, especially if all the see is smoke and all they hear is noise. This creates a great amount of confusion. A good benchmark is: if it is a "ground display" (emitting sparks/ showers/ noise etc. only several feet above ground level) it is legal. If the device detonates/ explodes and/or is a projectile, it is illegal.