

Emergency Response and Action for the Fire Service

A fire or explosion can have serious consequences at a fireworks manufacturing plant or warehouse, or if a vehicle transporting fireworks is involved in an accident. Therefore, knowledge of the appropriate emergency action to be taken by the fire service or emergency response personnel in the event of an incident is critical.

In the event of fire or explosion at a fireworks manufacturing plant, all employees are instructed to immediately evacuate the site.

Fire service and emergency responders should never attempt to fight a fire that has reached buildings used for manufacturing.

Consumer fireworks (1.4G) contain limited amounts of powder per item. A fire involving sealed shipping cartons of consumer fireworks will burn for an extended time, as the fire spreads through the unburned cartons. Individual items will ignite and burn, and the fire may get quite intense, but large-scale testing by the government and the fireworks industry has shown that there should not be a mass explosion.

In the event of a fire involving consumer fireworks, the fire service or emergency responders should direct their efforts primarily to preventing the spread of the fire, although a fire involving only consumer fireworks can normally be extinguished by water deluge, if necessary. Keep all non-emergency personnel away from the fire area.

As with any fire, avoid breathing the smoke from a fireworks fire. The smoke, however, should not pose an unusual health hazard.

When display fireworks or aerial shells (1.3G) are involved in a fire situation, it is very serious and could result in a mass explosion. Fire service and emergency responders must evacuate the plant and/or warehouse and surrounding area immediately.

Never attempt to fight a fire involving display fireworks.

For additional information, refer to Emergency Response Sheets for Consumer and Display Fireworks.

Information courtesy of The American Pyrotechnics Association