

THE CURRENT LAW ON FIREWORK USE

Current legislation allows for public use of fireworks at least 16 hours a day, every single day, making it impossible for vulnerable groups to take precautions against the distress they can cause.

Fireworks are heavily regulated around manufacture, sale and storage but once the fireworks have left the shop there is little or no control over use.

THE FIREWORK CAMPAIGN WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE:

A system whereby a licence would be required to buy and use fireworks. The named licensee would be responsible for advertising the event locally, ensuring suitability and be accountable for any accidents and incidents as a result of the display.



The Firework Campaign



Association for Firework
Legislation Reform

THE HIDDEN EFFECTS OF FIREWORKS

The headlines talk of misuse of fireworks, animals dying from stress, dogs running in front of cars and horses running through fences in fear BUT what isn't documented is what goes on behind closed doors because of legally used fireworks. People have to change the way they live.

The impact of fireworks is underestimated until you've been forced to experience it personally. The emotional and financial stress is enormous. Families struggle with the loss of routine which can go on for weeks. People are afraid to go out and feel isolated. Animals take months to return to their normality from a state of high alert.

These are some of the changes people make to their lives to survive "firework season"; when the safe home they have created no longer feels safe:

- Walk dogs before dark
- Change feeding routine
- Calming medication/sedation
- Camp out in freezing weather with horses
- Book a holiday cottage in the middle of nowhere
- Move horses away from their home environment
- Play loud music, taiko drums and/or have fans running
- Put the dog in the car and drive away from built up areas
- PTSD sufferers wear ear plugs/headphones to block out noise
- Black out blinds/blankets over windows to deaden sound
- Stay home because of feeling vulnerable out on the street
- Black out blinds/blankets over windows to deaden sound
- Cancel any social life to be home with the vulnerable
- Build dens and safe places for pets and children
- Change work hours to be home before dark
- Bring rabbits, guinea pigs etc into house
- Headphones for children with autism
- Create soundproof room
- Sit up late into the night
- Take time off work

Calmers need to be built up over several weeks. Sedation needs to be given an hour or more before the animal becomes stressed but can't be given too early or the effects don't last as long as the fireworks. Animals need to be moved in plenty of time to adjust to their new surroundings. Dens and safe spaces need to be built in advance.

The above only applies to when it's known fireworks will happen. When they are set off with no warning there is nothing that can be done to try to prevent the suffering.



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HOW PEOPLE HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES FOR FIREWORKS

SR: I wear earplugs around that time as they trigger my PTSD

LM: I am frightened to go out as you hear fireworks going off all of the time round here and you never know whose hands they are in

AB: I book a week off work and sit out with the ponies every night for a month. I put them away if any unexpected ones are set off. Don't always work broke two fingers in 2023 when we were surprised by the people next door

SB: My daughter and Daughter in law have to sit up at their stables from October 30th until November 30th until 10pm most evenings as the fireworks are so sporadically set off it distresses the horses so much - on the organised events they spend on average £100 to have the vet administer sedation for them

HJW: My dog will not leave the house as soon as it starts to turn dark and won't sit near any windows. He's from Romania and already suffered severely at the hands of homemade firecrackers being thrown at his head, so every time one goes off nearby now, he SCREAMS thinking he's been hit again. He's having to take gabapentin and trazadone costing me £48.50 a WEEK.

JA: I don't leave my home passed 3pm, shut all curtains, radio on, take additional medication as suffer with PTSD. Use plug inside and calming tablets for my dog and cats. Walk my dog in the mornings and literally shut myself off.

GS: My other half has to take two weeks off work (Diwali and bonfire week) because I have panic attacks and don't cope well with the loud noises

TH: Spend evenings sat in my bathroom as it's the room with least windows.

All quotes (and many more) can be found on The Firework Campaign FB page



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(Cont/d ...)



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HOW PEOPLE HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES FOR FIREWORKS

MB: I have to hook my earphones up to the TV. I have anxiety and get very alarmed by sudden loud noises. When the bangs go off, I get bad anxiety and my heart palpitates. With the earphones on, I can watch TV without worrying about the bangs. My plan for the future is to get a soundproof room in my house so I can retreat there with my animals.

JW: My son used his precious leave from work to take our dogs to a place in the countryside. He didn't really want to use his leave & it cost a fortune as Diwali was during half term week (booked week to cover Guy Fawkes & Diwali) but had to - one of our dogs is so petrified, his heart races, he trembles uncontrollably & nothing works to calm him - tried everything & I mean everything (my sons girlfriend is a dog behaviourist). I stayed at home to look after my 92 year old Mum with dementia who didn't understand what all the loud bangs were (she lived through WW2 so was unsettled).

TJ: This has been the worst year by far for triggering my PTSD. Loud music/Radio and ear plugs help but after 2 weeks of fireworks every night, I had very little sleep making it even harder to function during the day.

CAD: I am forced to evacuate my home taking my border collie in the car to a quieter place and parking up til my family inform me it's safe to return.

KC: Camp out with the horses as far away from fireworks as possible and use a calming supplement.

MK: I am autistic and find unannounced and often loud bangs stressful and wish I could actually go away on certain dates around the firework season but not always practical or affordable.

SJ: I have to sedate my 27 year old horse and put her in the arena as my fields are steep and there is a huge risk that she would panic and break a leg. She is far worse stabled and having stood in the stable myself the vibrations are terrible.

KA: I've waited over 3 years to get my shoulder sorted, finally got a date for my operation: New Year's Eve. Unfortunately due to fireworks and a fearful dog I have to go to the country over 2 hours away to escape them so I've had to decline this very important operation

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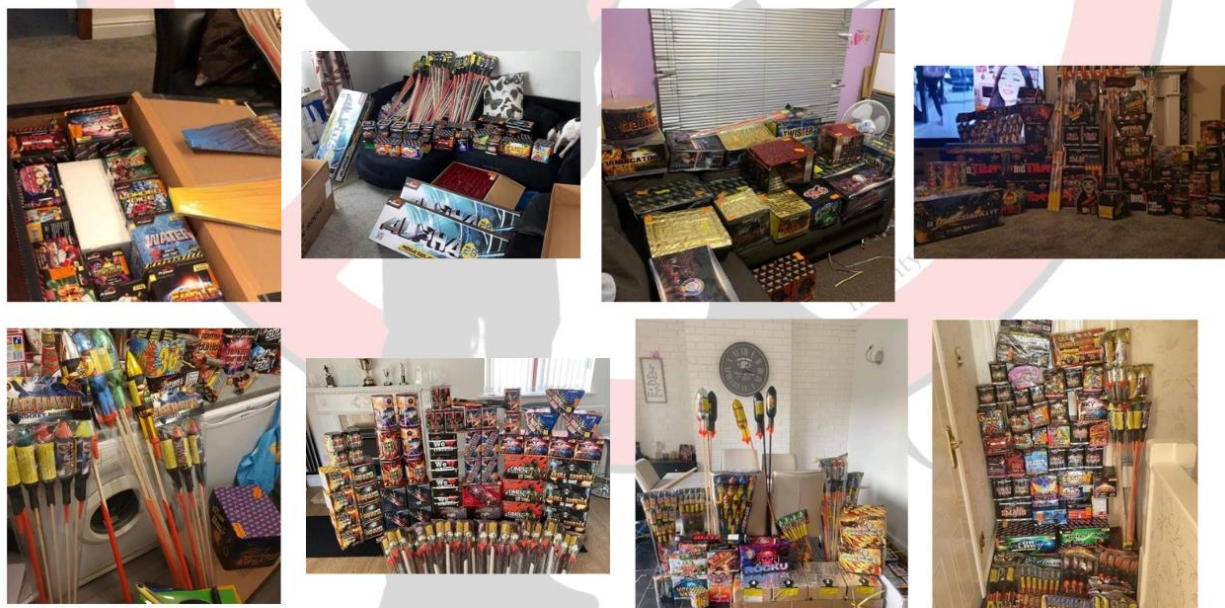
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These are just a few of the “stash” photos proudly displayed on one retailer’s Facebook page. There is a competition every year to see who has the “best stash”

Driven home in the family car:



and stored in private homes:



For more go to our website: <https://fireworkcampaign.com/archive/is-this-acceptable/>



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#everyfireworkleavesitsmark

People lost

RIP

Tony Nicholls
November 2017

RIP

Josephine Smith
October 2021

RIP

Robert Price
July 2024

Thousands of people
and pets
are affected by

LEGAL
fireworks whilst
IN
THEIR
OWN HOMES
where they
should feel safe!

In the last **2 years**
601 UK firework
petitions have been
started on
change.org

Over **100**
Government firework
petitions were
submitted in less than
2 weeks in Nov 2024

Animals lost

Red Panda
Hawk
Marmosets
Farm animals
Zebra
Rabbits
Guinea Pigs
Birds
Dogs
Horses

#everyfireworkleavesitsmark



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