THE POLICE	
DEPARTMENT	

# HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

**ROLL CALL TRAINING** 

**APPLICABLE FIREWORKS -**

**EXPLOSIVE LAWS** 

TO BE READ FOR 10 DAYS **ROLL CALL #:** 07/2016-01

**ISSUANCE DATE:** 

07/01/16

**PAGE:** 1 of 2

REFERENCE:

CGS 29-356, 357, 348, 349; CGS 53-80a; State Fire Marshall 860-685-8470 APPROVED BY:
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Chief of Police

# I. PURPOSE:

SUBJECT:

This roll call training provides a listing of common CT fireworks/explosive laws. As we approach the Fourth of July weekend, Officers are reminded that **fireworks are illegal**. This includes roman candles, bottle rockets, firecrackers, smoke bombs, party poppers, snappers, glowworms and snakes. The only exception are sparklers and fountains, as defined below. Sparklers and fountains may be legally purchased and used by anyone aged sixteen (16) or older.

# II. DEFINITIONS:

<u>Sparklers</u>: a wire or stick coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. In Connecticut, sparklers must be non-explosive, non-aerial devices that contain less than one hundred grams of pyrotechnic mixture per item. These include the common stick sparklers and cone, base, spike and handle fountains.

<u>Fountains</u>: any cardboard or heavy paper cone or cylindrical tube containing pyrotechnic mixture that upon ignition produces a shower of colored sparks or smoke. In Connecticut, fountains must be non-explosive, non-aerial devices that contain less than one hundred grams of pyrotechnic mixture per item. Fountain includes, but is not limited to, (A) a spike fountain, which provides a spike for insertion into the ground, (B) a base fountain which has a wooden or plastic base for placing on the ground, or (C) a handle fountain which is a handheld device with a wooden or cardboard handle.

<u>Fireworks:</u> include any combustible or explosive combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or any combination of substance or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation and includes but is not limited to firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, and Daygo bombs.

Explosives: means any chemical compound or any mechanical mixture that contains oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or packing that ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion or detonator may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressure is capable of destroying life or limb or of producing destructive effects to contiguous objects. Manufactured articles shall not be held to be explosive when the individual units contain explosives in such limited quantity, of such nature or in such packing that it is impossible to produce a simultaneous or a destructive explosion of such units to the injury of life, limb or property by fire, friction, concussion, percussion or detonator, including fixed ammunition for small arms, firecrackers, safety fuses and matches. "Explosive", as used in this statute, shall not be deemed to include gasoline, kerosene, naphtha, turpentine or benzine.



06/13-01

# APPLICABLE FIREWORKS – EXPLOSIVES LAWS

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EFFECTIVE: 06/30/13

**Note:** More often than not, officers will not know what amount of the pyrotechnic mixture is in an item. Officers unsure of whether the item in question is a legal sparkler or fountain should look at the packaging. If the package reads phrases such as "sparkler–flammable", "emits showers", "shoots flaming balls" these are generally legal. Especially if the package indicates that the item is a 1.4 class (UN0336). If the item appears to be a sparkler or a fountain but there is no packaging, then officers should look for a fuse. A bottom fuse indicates a lift charge and renders the item illegal.

#### III. PROCEDURE:

### Common statute violations:

- CGS 29-357: (Sale, Use, and Possession of Fireworks). Prohibits any person, firm, or corporation from selling, using or possessing fireworks, except certain sparklers and fountains. Violation of this statute is a class C misdemeanor. Any person, firm, or corporation offering for sale, exposing for sale or selling at retail or possessing with intent to sell any fireworks with a value exceeding \$10,000.00 is in violation of a class A misdemeanor.
- CGS 29-348(349) (Possession of Explosives) states that any person having in his possession any explosive who does not have a bill of sale or who cannot produce legal evidence showing that he obtained such explosive by a legal transfer shall be fined not more than \$10.000.00 dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years or both for each offense. (See definition of explosives)
- CGS 53-80a (Manufacture of Bombs) Persons other than those engaged in the manufacture of firearms or explosives for lawful purposes who fabricates in any manner, any type of an explosive, incendiary or other device designed to be dropped, hurled, or set in place to be exploded by a timing device shall be guilty of a class B felony. (This would include pipe bombs). Officers encountering such items are reminded to make proper notifications to ensure the bomb squad is notified.

# Items pictured below are illegal to sell, purchase or use in Connecticut.



Roman Candles, Bottle Rockets, Fire Crackers are **all illegal** in CT



Novelties: Smoke Bombs, Party Poppers, Snappers, and Snakes are **all illegal** in CT