Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Dear Resident,

Re: Bonfire and Fireworks Safety Advice

As Bonfire Night quickly approaches, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service would like to remind residents about the importance of staying safe whilst still enjoying communal bonfires and firework displays. Every year, the service responds to incidents that could have been prevented with a few simple precautions.

Last year, Firefighters from TWFRS responded to 521 deliberate fires between the 17 October and 17 November 2025. All these occasions were potentially delaying responses to life-threatening emergencies elsewhere.

Our crews can't be in two places at once if a serious 999 emergency call occurs, meaning that people's lives could be at risk across the community.

Key Safety Advice:

Attend Organised Events

• We strongly encourage attending professionally organised displays, which are safer and more enjoyable.
• These events are managed by trained professionals
• Organised events allow you to relax and appreciate the displays together with friends and family.

If You Decide to Have Your Own Fireworks Event

• Buy fireworks marked with the CE or UKCA safety mark from a licensed in-store and online sellers and follow the instructions carefully.
• DO NOT purchase goods from unregistered sellers operating on social media sites.
• Remember it is illegal for under 18s to buy fireworks.
• Never light or position fireworks near flammable objects such as greenery or wooden fences.
• Once lit, stand a safe distance away from the fireworks and never return to an ignited firework.
• Be considerate of your neighbours. Fireworks should not be set off after 11pm.
• Please be mindful of elderly neighbours, people with PTSD, and pets who may be distressed by loud noises. If you can, let them know in advance if you plan to have fireworks.

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Be Prepared

• Keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby.
• Have a mobile phone ready in case of an emergency.

Refuse Bins Etiquette

• Try to put out your wheelie bin as close to your emptying time as possible to avoid antisocial behaviour by others.
• Bring in your wheelie bin as soon as possible after rubbish collection.
• Don't stack additional bin bags to the side of your wheelie bins. Any bulky items should be discarded in the appropriate manner by using your local Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

Respect the Law

• It is illegal to set off fireworks in the street or other public places.
• Antisocial behaviour involving fireworks can lead to potential fines or prosecution.

Report Unsafe Activity

If you see unsafe bonfires or the misuse of fireworks, please report it:
• Dial 101 or contact your Local Authority for non-emergency concerns
• You can also report any fires in your local community anonymously to Firestoppers on 08001695558

Thank you for helping us and our partners keep Tyne and Wear safe this Bonfire Night.

Have your say to help shape the future of **YOUR** Fire and Rescue Service

