

# Town of Van Buren



# Fireworks Ordinance

## Sec. 11-303 CONSUMER FIREWORKS AND FIREWORKS

1. **Definition.** The definitions of terms pertaining to Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks or activities associated with Consumer fireworks, which includes but are not limited to the sale or display of Consumer Fireworks, as used in this ordinance, are defined by Section 1. 8 MRSA 221-A.
2. **Manufacture.** The manufacture of any types of fireworks is prohibited within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town of Van Buren.
3. **Sale, Storage, and Distribution.** The retail sale, storage and/or wholesale distribution of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks are permitted within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town of Van Buren, Maine, subject to Section 5.8 MRSA 223, and Van Buren ordinances.
  - a. **Buildings.** All buildings and property used for the possession, storage and sale of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks shall be in accordance with the applicable Van Buren building codes and ordinances. All buildings used for the possession, storage and sale of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 13 and monitored by a central station fire alarm system.
4. **USE: Commercial Fireworks Display.** Any firm, partnership or corporation that commercially discharges, shoots, explodes or displays Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks in the Town of Van Buren is required to do so in accordance with NFPA 1123 and is subject to the Department of Public Safety Office of the State Fire Marshal Chapter 25: "Rules For The Display of Fireworks"
5. **USE: Non-Commercial Use of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks.** To protect the lives and property of its citizens concerning the possession and use of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks in populated areas, the Town of Van Buren recognizes the potential for fire and injury and the history of fire and injury in regards to the use of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks, therefore It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership or corporation to use, display or explode any Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks within the Town of Van Buren.
  - a. **Exceptions;**
    - i. Use is permitted if on a lot sized in excess of 1 acre, either owned by the user of the fireworks or with permission of the land owner, and discharged at a minimum of 300 feet from neighboring residences or structures, and 100 feet from wooded areas.
    - ii. The use and display of sparklers including morning glories, paper and plastic caps is permitted.

### 1. CONDITIONS ON EXCEPTED USE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS AND FIREWORKS

- a. **Time of Use.** Non Commercial use of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks shall not be permitted between 10 PM and 8:00AM. Exceptions: Non- Commercial use and Commercial use of Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks shall not be permitted on New Year's Eve between 2:00 AM and 8:00 AM and on July 4<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 PM and 8:00 AM.
- b. **Public Safety.** Use may not take place within 300 feet of a public gathering consisting of 25 or more people, or on any town owned land.
- c. **Age.** No person under the age of 21 may display or explode any Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks within the Town of Van Buren.

- d. **Fire Conditions.** No person may explode any Consumer Fireworks or Fireworks when there exists a "High" risk of forest fire as displayed at the Van Buren Fire Department or on the Maine forest Service web site:  
<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/firedanger/fire.shtml>
- e. **Notification.** Persons discharging Fireworks or Consumer Fireworks shall contact the Van Buren Fire Department 532-2287 prior to any such discharge.

- 6. **Other Agencies.** Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to restrict or limit any other authority granted by state law. All requirements in this ordinance are in addition to any other state and federal regulations.
- 7. **Penalty.** Any person who uses Consumer Fireworks or Fireworks in the Town of Van Buren in violation of this ordinance shall receive a citation, the penalty for which shall be not less than \$100. Each day, or each offense, any violation of any provisions of this Code shall constitute a separate offense in addition to the applicable civil penalty.
- 8. **Seizure and Disposal.** The Town may seize Consumer Fireworks and Fireworks used in violation of this ordinance. Upon conviction of the person from who the Consumer Fireworks or Fireworks were seized, the fireworks shall be forfeited to the Town. Upon forfeiture, seized Consumer Fireworks or Fireworks shall be forwarded to the State for disposal.

Approved this date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Council Chairman

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Witnessed by Town Manager

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Council Secretary

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Councilor

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Town Clerk

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Councilor

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Councilor