

**Illegally and improperly disposed fireworks can cause serious injury or death.**



**Safe management saves lives.**



**Waste fireworks can pollute the environment with hazardous chemicals.**

**Protect public health and the environment by managing waste fireworks according to RCRA regulations.**

**Make safety a priority.**

For Further Information:

See EPA's Memorandum "Safe Handling, Storage, and Treatment of Waste Fireworks."

Contact your state and/or local environmental agency.

EPA Regional office contacts can be found at:

[www.epa.gov/aboutepa](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa)

## **Safe Handling and Treatment of Waste Fireworks**



**EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) guidance on the safe and legal handling, storage and treatment of waste fireworks.**

**Waste fireworks may be RCRA hazardous waste due to their ignitability, toxicity, and/or reactive nature.**

40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 261



**Safe management protects people and the environment.**

**Fireworks may become RCRA hazardous waste when:**

- they are discarded;
- they will not be used for their intended purpose;
- they fail to function;
- they become damaged or have deteriorated and cannot be safely used or reclaimed;
- they are declared excess and a decision is made to dispose of them; or
- they are no longer needed as evidence.

**RCRA regulatory requirements include:**

- a full RCRA permit (if exemptions or emergency permitting are not applicable);
- safety training;
- security measures;
- inspection requirements; and
- bans on spark-producing materials, electronics, tools, clothing, etc.

See 40 CFR Parts 264/265 for more information.



**Additional Best Management Practices:**

- Conduct daily oral briefings on tasks and safety.
- Sweep and remove explosive dust.
- Prohibit treatment inside or within 50 feet of a storage area. This includes soaking and/or disassembly to deactivate prior to storage.
- Ensure storage units have sufficient and unobstructed means of entry and exit.



**Emergency Situations**

RCRA requirements for emergency situations will vary on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the applicable regulations.

**Exemption:** RCRA permitting requirements provide a temporary exemption to their applicability under exceptional circumstances. An example is the need to immediately respond to discharges or imminent threats.

See 40 CFR Section 270.1(c)(3)

**Temporary emergency permits:** If the situation does not require immediate action, the exemption does not apply. A streamlined emergency RCRA permit process may be allowed in response to “imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment.” See 40 CFR Section 270.61