

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



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

Safe Handling and Treatment of Waste Fireworks



Safe management saves lives.



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

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

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



U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

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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