



**FIRE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**Supplement No. 34 to Department Order No. 53**  
**June 22, 2020**  
**Edited Online Edition**



**2.1.1 FIREWORKS: ILLEGAL STORAGE, SALE, OR USE**

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday approaching; experience indicates that there will be a rise in the illegal storage, sale and use of fireworks. This may result in serious injuries to both civilians and members of the Department. Children in particular have suffered crippling injuries including burns and trauma in the days leading up to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. In an effort to minimize the potential for these life changing injuries, the Bureau of Fire Investigation has activated the Fireworks Enforcement Unit. This unit is charged with interdicting illegal fireworks throughout New York City. As part of that effort, a 24 hour hotline (718-722-3600/3601) has been established to report illegal fireworks activity. Members with any information on the illegal storage or use of fireworks are urged to use this hotline. In addition, any information on injuries resulting from the use of illegal fireworks should also be transmitted to the BFI by use of the hotline.

Effective immediately, the following shall be complied with:

1. All Chief and Company Officers and Officers in Command of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall arrange for the effective surveillance and inspection of all premises or occupancies in their respective administrative districts, which are suspected of illegal storage and sale of fireworks. Members performing such duties shall, when necessary, take the following action:
  - a) Promptly serve a summons upon the owner of the fireworks, or the occupant of the premises wherein such fireworks are stored. (Authority: Section 15-216 (a) and (b) of the NYC Fire Code)
  - b) Initiate immediate action for the confiscation of the illegally stored fireworks and notify Officer-on-duty with the respective unit of all actions taken. (Authority: Section 15-216 (a) and (b) of the NYC Fire Code)
  - c) Pursuant to the Regulations for the Uniformed Force, Chapter 12, Section 12.1.9, Chief and Company Officers shall cause frequent inspections of buildings or occupancies, excluding living quarters, wherein it is suspected fireworks are being illegally stored or sold. Where such fireworks are discovered, a summons shall be served and the Fireworks Enforcement Unit shall be notified via the Fire Department Operations Center (FDOC) at (718) 999-7900. The Police Department shall be called to the scene for confiscation and disposal. Receipts shall be obtained from the Police Official called to the scene. The Bureau of Fire Prevention shall be notified of the incident followed by a report with full particulars.
2. Officers shall cause immediate investigation of all complaints on illegal storage of fireworks received from the Bureau of Fire Communications, Borough Commands, Police Department, Bureau of Fire Investigation or other sources of such information. Members investigating such complaints shall follow the procedures outlined in Section 1 above.
3. Section 12.1.9 of the Regulations, relative to reports shall be complied with.
4. Borough Commanders shall coordinate activities with the Police Department, Bureau of Fire Communications and Deputy Chiefs in all phases of surveillance, inspection and activities.
5. The effective period of time of this order, during which particular attention shall be given to the fireworks problem, shall not be construed as limiting the period of enforcement of the applicable laws. Such laws shall be enforced at all times of the year.

**NOTES:**

1. The Public Information Unit of the Fire Department will be issuing leaflets for distribution by units as well as signs to be posted on apparatus warning the public of the dangers of fireworks.
2. A 24-hour hotline has been established; call 718-722-3600/3601 to report illegal fireworks activity.

By Order of: **Daniel A. Nigro**, *Fire Commissioner*  
**John Sudnik**, *Chief of Department*