



Issue Overview

August 24, 2026

UTAH FIREWORK LAWS & LEGISLATION

Prepared by OLRGC Staff for the Utah Legislature

OVERVIEW

Each year, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel fields firework-related questions from legislators. State-approved consumer fireworks are a subset of division 1.4G explosives. This document answers common questions about selling and using fireworks, penalties, legislation, and related data.

SALE OF FIREWORKS

State law primarily governs the use and sale of fireworks. A municipality or county is prohibited from adopting an ordinance or regulation that bans the purchase or sale of fireworks.¹ A municipality or county may, however, require a retail seller to obtain a license and pay a reasonable fee to sell state-approved consumer fireworks. In doing so, though, a municipality or county may not restrict the number of licenses it issues to retail sellers to sell state-approved consumer fireworks.²

USE OF FIREWORKS

The Utah Legislature has established dates and times when state-approved fireworks may be discharged to coincide with the celebration of Independence Day, Pioneer Day, New Year's Eve/Day, and Chinese New Year's Eve. The permitted periods for discharging state-approved fireworks are July 2-5, July 22-25, and January 1, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., except that on July 4 and July 24, discharge is extended until midnight. As for December 31 and Chinese New Year's Eve, state-approved fireworks can be discharged from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. the following day.³

Generally, a county, municipality, or the state forester may not prohibit the discharge of state-approved fireworks during the permitted dates and times, except under certain circumstances.

A municipality and county may prohibit negligent discharge;⁴ a municipality may prohibit discharge in certain areas with hazardous environmental conditions;^{5,6} and the state forester may prohibit the discharge in areas with hazardous fire conditions or in certain areas with hazardous environmental conditions.^{7,8} The state forester, however, may not restrict or prohibit the discharge of fireworks within a city or town's municipal boundaries.⁹

PENALTIES

Penalties for violating state firework laws range from an infraction to a class B misdemeanor. If a person discharges a common state-approved firework outside the legal discharge dates and times, or in an area where fireworks are prohibited, they are guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.¹⁰

If a person possesses or discharges a division 1.4G dangerous explosive, they are guilty of a class B misdemeanor.¹¹ Utah law also provides civil liability for an individual who negligently, recklessly, or intentionally causes or spreads a fire by discharging a division 1.4G explosive. This encompasses the cost of suppressing the fire and any damages the fire causes.¹²

Any official, including a local official, who is charged with enforcing the County and

Municipal Fireworks Act¹³ and the Utah Fireworks Act¹⁴ may seize fireworks sold or possessed in violation of law and recommend revocation of importer or wholesaler licenses to the state fire marshal.¹⁵ A violation of the County and Municipal Fireworks Act is a class B misdemeanor.¹⁶ While a municipality or county may prohibit the negligent discharge of a division 1.4G common state-approved explosive, the penalty is not prescribed by state law.

PROHIBITED FIREWORKS

Utah law prohibits discharging certain fireworks. These are referred to as division 1.4G dangerous explosives. Prohibited fireworks include ground salutes, cannon crackers, roman candles, missile-type rockets, bottle rockets, comets, aerial salutes, flash shells, and cherry bombs.¹⁷

FIREWORK RESTRICTED AREAS

For past and current fire restriction maps, visit the Office of the State Fire Marshal webpage: [Areas and Fire Restriction Orders](#).

FIREWORK LEGISLATION

Between 2020 and 2026, the Utah Legislature passed four bills related to fireworks.

2025: HB 59 Fireworks Modifications

Makes technical changes to the terms used to classify explosives in Utah that were missed in HB 333, 2024.¹⁸

2024: HB 333 Fireworks Modifications

Modifies the terms used to define different types of fireworks in Utah to match those terms used by the federal government. HB 333 also provided that a fire district can issue a permit to discharge fireworks, in addition to counties and municipalities.¹⁹

2024: HB 155 Changes to Fireworks Provisions

Provides that restrictions on times for fireworks sales do not apply to online sales to a person outside the state for use outside the state, nor

do they apply to certain licensed operators.²⁰

2023: HB 378 Fireworks Amendments

Permits the discharge of fireworks on January 1.²¹

FIREWORKS DATA

Data showing the impact of fireworks on wildfires is limited and varies by agency. Utah's Wildfire Information webpage provides live data on fires in Utah with a total of 881 fires so far this year (as of August 19, 2026). 438 of those fires were human-caused.²² The webpage, however, does not list what triggered the human-caused wildfires.

According to a 2026 news article that provided data from the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), there have been 4,092 human-caused wildfires in Utah since 2020. The article also includes a list of the most common causes for 1,660 of those human-caused wildfires (See Graph 1).²³

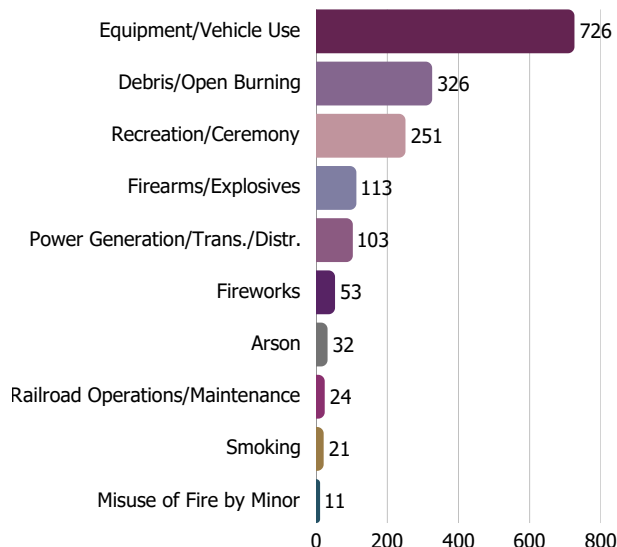
Of the 1,660 human-caused wildfires categorized by origin, 53 (roughly 3%) were caused by fireworks. The most common origin was from equipment and vehicles (726 incidents).²⁴

Another 2026 news article with data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reported that there were at least 1,358 firework-related fires in Utah between 2019-2025. Most fires that were caused by fireworks were "grass fires" (438 incidents) and "brush or brush-and-grass mixture fires" (429 incidents) (See Graph 2). The most common location where fires were started by fireworks was in an open land or field (417 incidents).²⁵ The article does not specify the size of these fires.

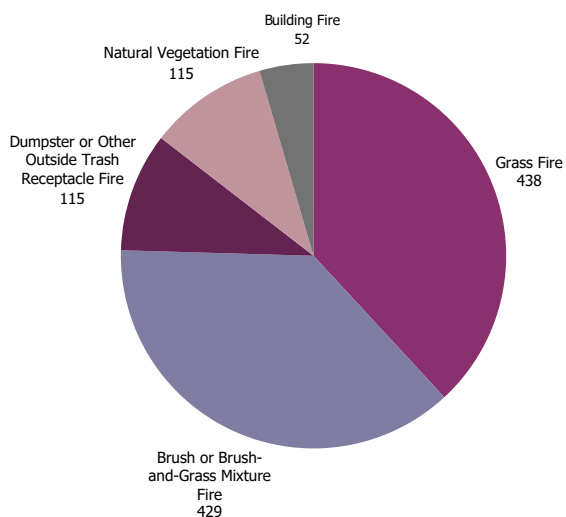
Other firework data provides national statistics that were not broken down by state. For example, the [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#) reported that the number of U.S. fires caused by fireworks in 2024 was 34,079 but

does not indicate the number of fireworks-caused fires in individual states.²⁶

Graph 1: Human-caused Wildfires in Utah Categorized by Origin since 2020, National Interagency Fire Center



Graph 2: Top Five Types of Fires Started by Fireworks in Utah from 2019-2025, National Fire Incident Reporting System



CONCLUSION

Although Utah primarily governs the use of fireworks at the state level, it also provides municipalities and counties some discretion to regulate both the sale and use of fireworks as outlined in this overview. Because of this discretion, restrictions and requirements may vary throughout the state.

Citations

- ¹ [Utah Code 11-3-8](#)
- ² [Utah Code 11-3-3.5](#)
- ³ [Utah Code 53-7-225](#)
- ⁴ [Utah Code 53-7-225](#)
- ⁵ [Utah Code 53-7-225](#)
- ⁶ [Utah Code 15A-5-202.5](#)
- ⁷ [Utah Code 15A-5-202.5](#)
- ⁸ [Utah Code 65A-8-212](#)
- ⁹ [Utah Code 65A-8-212](#)
- ¹⁰ [Utah Code 53-7-225](#)
- ¹¹ [Utah Code 53-7-226](#)
- ¹² [Utah Code 53-7-225.1](#)
- ¹³ [Utah Code Title 11, Chapter 3](#)
- ¹⁴ [Utah Code 53-7-220](#)
- ¹⁵ [Utah Code 11-3-4](#)
- ¹⁶ [Utah Code 11-3-11](#)
- ¹⁷ [Utah Code 53-7-202](#)
- ¹⁸ [2025 H.B. 59, Fireworks Modification](#)
- ¹⁹ [2024 H.B. 333, Fireworks Modification](#)
- ²⁰ [2024 H.B. 155, Changes to Fireworks Provisions](#)
- ²¹ [2023 H.B. 378, Fireworks Amendments](#)
- ²² Utah Fire Info Home, [Utah Wildfire Information 2026 Season Summary](#), August 19, 2026. Utah Fire Info Home.
- ²³ Larsen, Andy, [Humans cause most of Utah's wildfires. Here's how.](#) June 23, 2026. The Salt Lake Tribune.
- ²⁴ Larsen, Andy, [Humans cause most of Utah's wildfires. Here's how.](#) June 23, 2026. The Salt Lake Tribune.
- ²⁵ Larsen, Andy, [Here's where fireworks have caused the most problems in Utah.](#) July 23, 2026. The Salt Lake Tribune
- ²⁶ National Fire Protection Association, [Fireworks Safety, 2024 data.](#) NFPA Webpage.