

Firework and Bonfire Event



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer

Voluntary Registration Scheme

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The Firework and Bonfire Event Voluntary Registration Scheme enables local public events to obtain publicity through the Council's websites and social media accounts where they meet the criteria of the scheme.

The Council promotes events which have declared in a self-assessment which:

- a. Meet the guidance in this document;
- b. Provide documents to support their application;
- c. Submit a site assessment and comply with Council and Fire Service guidance; and
- d. Commit to ensuring only clean wood (not laminated chipboard or laminated wood for example) is placed on bonfires.

Applications must be made in full, with all the required documentation at least six weeks before the event date. Applications made nearer to the event may not be considered, so early preparation is key.

For further information, contact:
Bolsover District Council,
Joint Environmental Health Service,
The Arc, High Street, Clowne S43 4JY
Tel: 01246 242424
Email: environmentalhealthadmin@bolsover.gov.uk

Firework displays and bonfire guidance

Introduction

Whether you apply for registration with the Council's voluntary scheme or not the following guidance can be followed to help you run your event more smoothly and ensure the event is fun and safe for everyone.

The Confederation of British Industry Explosives Interest Group has produced detailed guidance for event organisers and professional display companies, as well as smaller community events which can be found via the Health and Safety Executive's website - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks/using.htm>.

The following guidance is a summary of the main guidance documents.

Event essentials

- An event management plan.
- Organisers familiar with the CBI and HSE guidance.
- Operatives trained and have read literature on organising a display.
- Operatives familiar with display fireworks and lighting requirements.
- Named Chief Marshall available at event in case of a site visit.
- One person designated responsible for lighting the bonfire.
- Operatives suitably clothed - substantial outer garments, boots, etc.
- Display operatives designated.
- Sufficient Marshalls for the size of event.
- Checks that only clean wood (no laminated woods or other combustible material) is used on a bonfire.
- No accelerants e.g. petrol, paraffin on site.
- Checking of the bonfire for children and animals prior to lighting.

Managing your event

An event management plan is key to ensuring you, and your teams can fully understand the event and the safety precautions. This can be used to help you complete and modify risk assessments, find problems in your plans which can be fixed, as well as help brief staff and volunteers before the event.

An event management plan should contain:

- The event safety policy statement detailing the organisation chart and levels of safety responsibility. (Is there a clear understanding within the organising team of who will be responsible for safety matters?).
- The event risk assessment/s.
- The site safety plan detailing the site safety rules; storing fireworks safely; bonfire safety; firing the display; site manager/s and safety co-ordinator.
- The crowd management plan detailing the numbers and types of stewards, methods of working, chains of command.
- The transport management plan detailing the parking arrangements, highway management issues and public transport arrangements.
- The emergency plan detailing action to be taken by designated people in the event of a major incident or contingency.
- The first-aid plan detailing procedures for administering first aid on site and arrangements with local hospitals.
- Plans for Clearing up after the display and waste disposal arrangements.
- Details of who has been informed that the event is taking place including the Council's Environmental Health Service, Fire Service, Police and Neighbours.
- Plans to minimise the effect of noise and smoke on neighbours and animals. If you are in a residential area, there may be vulnerable people and pets affected. In rural areas farm animals can be affected by noise from fireworks and smoke.

Key equipment and knowledge

- Hose pipe (will it reach?), or water buckets or water extinguishers.
- Metal buckets for spent sparklers.
- Fire blanket available in bonfire display areas.
- First Aid kits available.
- On site knowledge of how to treat a burn injury.
- Identification of operatives.
- Arrangements for calling Emergency Services.
- Provision to maintain adequate site access for Emergency Services.

After the event

- Ensure bonfire is safe (damp down if necessary).
- Collect spent fireworks and sparklers.
- Clear away litter/rubbish.

Danger areas and safety distances

Fireworks can cause serious injuries to spectators or firers. The first consideration for any public firework event should be to make sure there is enough space to meet the safe distance guidelines. The distances between the different areas on your site need to be marked on your site plan.

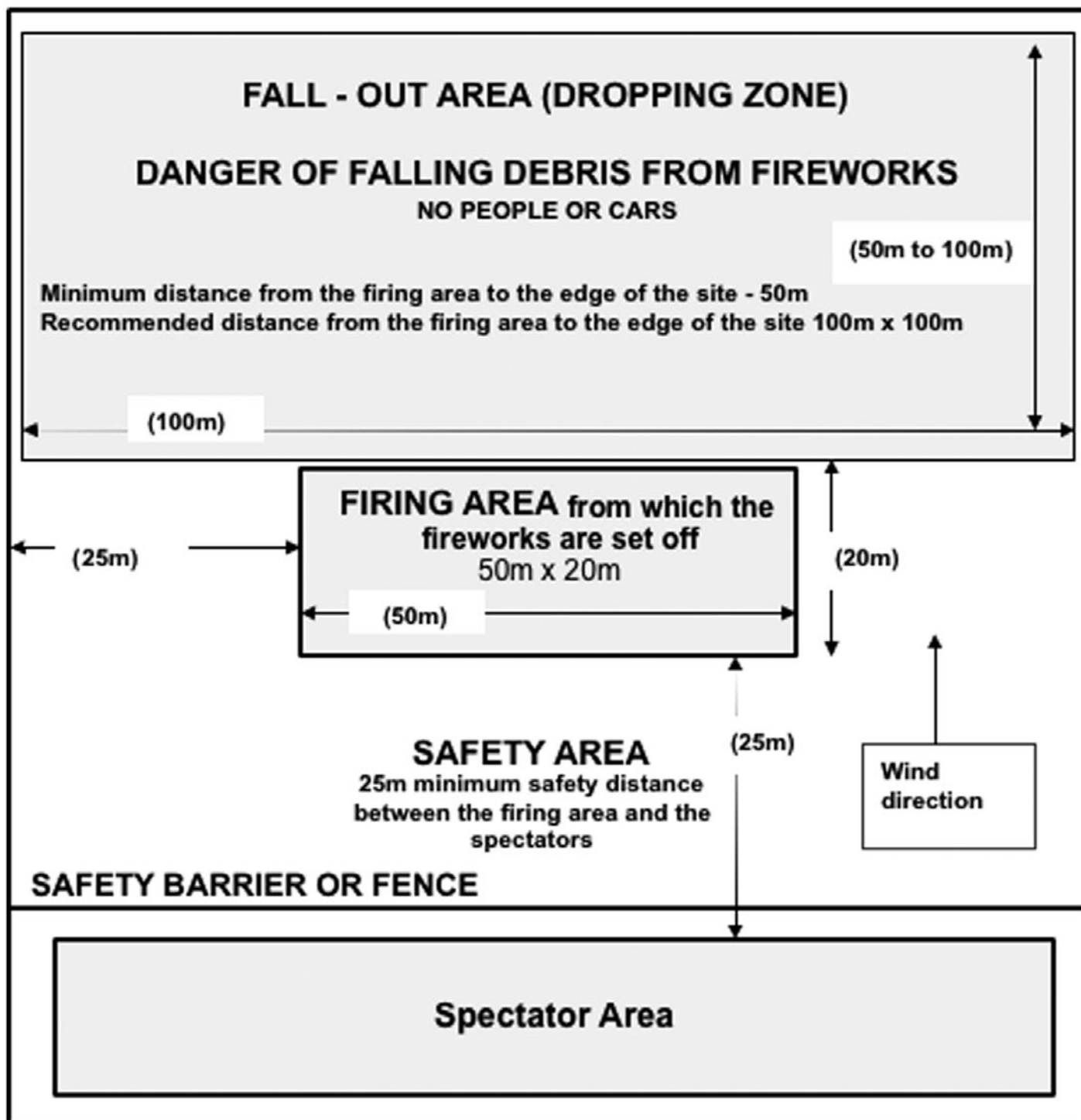
Use the table and diagram (right) as a guide to where the danger areas and safety distances are in relation to each other.

Display Site - the whole site used for the firework display and made up of:	
• The spectator area - from which the spectators watch the display.	
• The safety area - the distance between the spectators and the firework firing area to ensure the spectators are at a safe distance from the fireworks during the display.	
• The firing area - from which the fireworks are set off.	
• The fall out area - (or dropping zone) - an area clear of people, where the debris from spent fireworks lands.	
• The bonfire area - the area provided for the bonfire.	
Other information to be marked on the plan:	
• Approximate dimensions (in metres) of the whole site.	
• The location of barriers or fences.	
• The position of buildings or structures within the site .	
• The position of public access to site.	
• The position of emergency vehicle access to site.	
• Prevailing wind direction.	

Firework display site layout guidance

For public events, displays should have:

- Adequate viewing, display and fallout areas relative to size of display.
- Areas sited with consideration of prevailing winds.
- Areas a safe distance away from buildings, trees, etc.
- Areas clear of overhead obstructions such as power cables, etc.
- An area for safe storage of fireworks.
- Fenced/taped/roped safety area relative to display size and type.



These are ideal distances. Any variations should be subject to risk assessment, e.g. height of bonfire, restriction on types and size of fireworks used.

Bonfire site layout guidance

A bonfire needs to be:

- 15m from other areas, buildings, roads, railways & public rights of way.
- A safe distance from flammable materials and overhead electric powerlines.
- Downwind of spectators.
- A safe distance away from buildings, trees, etc.
- Clear of overhead obstructions such as power cables etc.
- Well-constructed - especially if on sloping ground.
- Free of foam furniture, rubber, aerosols, gas cylinders, bottles.
- Free of light ash producing materials that could blow about, e.g. corrugated cardboard.
- Sited with consideration of prevailing winds.
- Fenced/taped/roped off at a safe distance relative to bonfire size.

Please note: This is a generic document intended to assist the event organiser/s consider the general issues relevant to an event. It is not comprehensive and the level of detail the organisers will need to consider will depend on the nature, scope and scale of the event.

Disclaimer

Given the current Coronavirus pandemic Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue cannot accept any responsibility for the subsequent cancellation of any event, or for any other reason beyond our control. As a result of the exercise of this Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue will not incur any liability for any cancellation.

Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue will also not be held liable for any other consequential loss or expenses incurred by any party either directly or indirectly resulting from such cancellation or prohibition.

The Event Organiser shall take out and maintain public liability insurance in the sum of £5,000,000 (five million) and indemnify the Council against all actions, claims, damages, costs, demands and expenses in respect of loss of or damage to goods or death, injury to persons howsoever occurring or caused, which may be brought or awarded against, suffered, sustained or incurred against the Event Organiser.



Reminder:

Applications must be made in full, with all the required documentation at least six weeks before the event date. Applications made nearer to the event may not be considered, so early preparation is key.



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