

CONSUMER FIREWORKS ORDINANCE
Town of Mechanic Falls
520

SECTION I: Purpose

This Ordinance regulates the use of consumer fireworks to ensure the safety of the residents and property owners of the Town of Mechanic Falls and of the general public.

SECTION II: Title and Authority

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Town of Mechanic Falls Consumer Fireworks Ordinance." It is adopted pursuant to the enabling provisions of the Maine Constitution, the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3001, and the provisions 8 M.R.S.A. § 223-A.

SECTION III: Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Consumer Fireworks – "Consumer fireworks" has the same meaning as in 27 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 555.11 or subsequent provision, but includes only products that are tested and certified by a 3rd-party testing laboratory as conforming with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission standards, in accordance with 15 United States Code, Chapter 47. "Consumer fireworks" does not include the following products which are prohibited:

- A. Missile-type rockets, as defined by the State Fire Marshal by rule;
- B. Helicopters and aerial spinners, as defined by the State Fire Marshal by rule; and
- C. Sky rockets and bottle rockets. For purposes of this definition, "sky rockets and bottle rockets" means cylindrical tubes containing not more than 20 grams of chemical composition, as defined by the State Fire Marshal by rule, with a wooden stick attached for guidance and stability that rise into the air upon ignition and that may produce a burst of color or sound at or near the height of flight which are prohibited.

SECTION IV: Use of Consumer Fireworks Restricted

A. The Town of Mechanic Falls shall permit the use of consumer fireworks with the following conditions:

1. A person shall not use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded consumer fireworks within the Town of Mechanic Falls or in or from any watercraft within waters of the Town except on the following days and during the following times. A permit must be obtained from the town office for all fireworks events. The Fee will be \$25.00:

- a) July 3rd, beginning at 12:00 pm and ending at 12:30 a.m.**
- b) July 4th, beginning at 12:00 PM and ending at 12:30 a.m. the following day;**
- c) December 31st, beginning at 12:00 PM and ending at 12:30 a.m. the following day;**
- d) January 1st, beginning at 12:00 PM and ending at 9:00 pm;**
- e) Friday and Saturday nights from dusk to 10 PM**

1. The use, discharge or ignition of fireworks is prohibited on all public property, including public parks, public rights of way, and school department property;
2. The use, discharge or ignition of fireworks is prohibited on any day specified by the Fire Chief as presenting a high fire danger as identified by posting such designation on the Town's website;
3. The use, discharge or ignition of fireworks shall not be permitted in close proximity to any buildings by maintaining a minimum distance of 150 feet from any structure or flammable containers, such as propane tanks.
4. The use of fireworks requires a permit be issued at the town office for a fee of \$25.00.
5. Clean up of debris left from the use, discharge or ignition of fireworks shall be the responsibility of the person(s) who used, discharged or ignited said fireworks

SECTION V: Violation and Enforcement

A. **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION:** Any person who violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall commit a civil violation punishable by a penalty of not less than two hundred dollars (**\$200.00**) and not more than five hundred dollars (**\$500.00**) plus attorney's fees and costs to be recovered by the Town of Mechanic Falls for its use. Each day such violation occurs or continues to occur shall constitute a separate violation.

The property owner, person in charge/control of the property or the responsible party setting off the fireworks summoned and fined. The landowner must give permission to renters to set off fireworks.

B. **ENFORCEMENT:** This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Town of Mechanic Falls Police Department. Large gatherings of over 150 people will require the involvement of the Fire Department, Police Department and possibly the State Fire Marshall.

C. **INJUNCTION:** In addition to any other remedies available at law or equity, the Town of Mechanic Falls, acting through its Town Manager, may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any planned, anticipated or threatened violation of this Ordinance.

D. The person responsible for the fireworks must be 21 years of age.

E. **SEIZURE & DISPOSAL OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS:** The Town may seize consumer fireworks that the Town has probable cause to believe are used or sold in violation of this Ordinance and shall forfeit seized consumer fireworks to the State for disposal.

SECTION VII: Severability

In the event that any section, subsection or portion of this Ordinance shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not be deemed to affect the validity of any other section, subsection or portion of this Ordinance.

Note- Respecting your neighbors and showing courtesy to others should be considered before using fireworks. Sometimes the lack of consideration of a few causes the creation of regulation that unnecessarily impacts all.