

# City of East Lansing One Pager Plus

## Fireworks Ordinance

### What does Ordinance No. 1283, Fireworks Ordinance mean?

Ordinance 1283 states that no person shall ignite, discharge or use consumer fireworks except on the day preceding, the day of, or the day after a national holiday.

### What is meant by consumer fireworks?

Consumer fireworks are defined very technically in state law and the local ordinance. It generally refers to fireworks that explode and/or leave the ground but does not include “low impact fireworks” such as handheld and ground-based sparklers and fountains or “novelties” such as smoke bombs, party poppers, snakes and caps. Common examples of consumer fireworks include:

- Sky rockets/bottle rockets
- Firecrackers
- Multiple rocket launchers
- Sky lanterns
- Roman candles

### What days may we use fireworks?

State law requires local municipalities to allow fireworks the day before, day of and day after a national holiday. In the state statute, national holidays are not identified. However, the State Police have published a bulletin indicating that they are relying on a United States Code section to identify the national holidays as:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

### Where am I allowed to ignite fireworks on holidays?

State law requires fireworks only be ignited from personal property. This means even on the days surrounding the holidays, it is illegal to ignite fireworks on public property (including streets and sidewalks,) school property, church property or another person's property without their express permission.



## Fireworks Ordinance (Continued)

### **What is the fine for setting off fireworks in East Lansing on days not allowed by Ordinance 1283?**

Igniting consumer fireworks is now a violation of the City's disorderly conduct code. This means that a violation could result in up to a \$500 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

### **Are there other restrictions and laws I should be aware of?**

Yes. State law makes it illegal to discharge fireworks when intoxicated. Further, any violations causing property damage can result in potential fines of up to \$5,000 and 90 days in jail. Violations causing serious injury or death are felonies with penalties of 5 years/\$5,000 and 15 years/\$10,000, respectively.

