SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Glasgow CITY COUNCIL

City of Glasgow
Bonfire & Fireworks Protocol

2026

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1. CITY OF GLASGOW BONFIRE & FIREWORKS PROTOCOL

The misuse of fireworks and bonfires is not only unsafe, but they can also have a detrimental effect on those living within our communities and the various partner agencies working within these same communities.

Bonfires traditionally accompany the 5th November celebrations; however, they are frequently a source of danger due to their location or construction and can also be accompanied by antisocial behaviour.

To minimise the cause and effects of fireworks misuse and the associated dangers, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Glasgow City Council (GCC), Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability Services (NRS), Police Scotland (PS), Trading Standards, Crimestoppers, Scottish Burned Children's Club and other partner agencies have agreed this joint protocol for identifying, reporting and the removal of bonfires/bonfire material alongside a bold education and youth engagement strategy.

This protocol will ensure consistency, building on good practice learned from recent years and therefore increasing safety in public spaces.

2. OUR AIMS

The main keys Aims are as follows:

- To reduce the instances of bonfires being constructed in public areas, with a particular focus on reduction of deliberate fire setting; and
- To minimise the effect of reckless and indiscriminate use of fireworks and to identify those involved in this type of activity.

3. OUR OBJECTIVES

The main keys Objectives are as follows:

- To identify locations where bonfires are being, or have been constructed, or where materials for bonfires are being gathered or stored;

- Partner agencies to liaise with NRS to ensure that on being informed of dangerous bonfire sites, they clear the site concerned;
- To identify persons responsible for illegal possession and use of fireworks;
- To raise awareness of the new Firework Control Zone(s), where the use of fireworks (except sparklers) will be banned from November 1st to November 10th;
- To educate young people on the dangers and misuse of fireworks; and
- To identify retailers storing or selling fireworks in contravention of the legislation.

4. BONFIRE SAFETY ADVICE

SFRS advice is to attend an organised event, although these are limited. If you are unable to attend an organised display, we would ask that you consider the impact of bonfires and fireworks on people and animals.

It is often children rather than adults who are injured by fireworks. The noise and light that fireworks emit can be overwhelming for people with sensory impairment and neurological differences, such as Autism. Animals can also find fireworks particularly distressing.

If you have a bonfire at home, make sure that it is well away from buildings, vehicles, trees, hedges, fences, power lines, telecommunications equipment and sheds. Please consider wind strength, which can significantly affect any fire. You must also ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance to neighbours and flying embers do not endanger neighbouring property.

Additionally:

- Never drink alcohol if you are tending a bonfire or setting off fireworks. Remember that it is an offence to consume alcohol in a public place;
- To reduce the emission of harmful smoke and combustion products, bonfires should comprise of untreated wood and paper-based materials. No plastics/rubbers/fabrics;
- There is a danger of explosion from pressurised containers or sealed vessels amongst bonfire material, or when irresponsibly thrown on burning bonfires;
- Never throw fireworks on bonfires;
- Never use flammable liquids to ignite bonfires, use proprietary firelighters;
- Smoke from bonfires must not pose a public nuisance, affect visibility on roads or otherwise inconvenience vehicles;
- Sparks, flying embers or burning debris must not endanger nearby property; and

- Never leave a burning/smouldering bonfire unsupervised, make sure it is properly extinguished.

Any bonfire failing to satisfy safety conditions, or where people are behaving irresponsibly, may be deemed dangerous and as such, are subject to being either removed, extinguished or otherwise made safe. For more please refer to SFRS Website.

5. BONFIRES AND THE LAW

It is an offence under Section 56 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for any person to lay or light a fire in a public place, so as to endanger any other person, or give them reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance, or so as to endanger any property.

It is illegal for anyone under 18 years of age to possess fireworks in a public place and throwing fireworks, or setting them off in a public place, is illegal.

You are only permitted to use fireworks between the hours of 6pm and 11pm on any day except on 5th November, when the curfew extends to midnight.

It is an offence under section 80 of the Explosives Act 1875 to throw or ignite fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place. The power to enforce this section of the act rests with Police Scotland.

Anyone convicted of this offence may be subject to a fine.

If you have any information regarding fires that have been started deliberately in your area, you can call the Crimestoppers Scotland hotline on 0800 555 111. All calls are completely anonymous and do not require names or personal details and you will not be asked to give evidence in court. Alternatively, you can submit information anonymously online Click Here

Fly tipping during the Bonfire and Fireworks season is a major cause of fire and it is also a criminal offence. If you see fly tipping or know of an area where there is a build-up of refuse or combustible material, contact your local authority cleansing or environmental department to arrange uplift.

For more information, or to report on the above, please contact:

Glasgow City Council: 0141 287 9700

6. FIREWORK CONTROL ZONES (FCZ)

The **Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022** gives councils discretionary powers to introduce Firework Control Zones.

It is a criminal offence for a member of the public to ignite a firework, (except F1 Fireworks e.g. sparklers), within a FCZ within the Glasgow City Council boundary, this includes private property such as a garden.

It is also an offence to fire a firework into the boundaries of a zone; or to knowingly or recklessly throw or cast a lit firework into a zone.

These offences are enforced by Police Scotland and apply on all days that the FCZ has effect, unless the designation specifies particular days on which the FCZ is to operate, in which case the FCZ applies on these days only.

Please refer to Glasgow City Council website for more information.

7. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It is It is an offence under section 80 of the Explosives Act 1875 to throw or ignite fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place. The power to enforce this section of the act rests with Police Scotland. Anyone convicted of this offence may be subject to a fine.

Regulations made under the Fireworks Act 2003 make it an offence for any person under 18 years of age to possess fireworks in a public place and for anyone to ignite fireworks out with the period of 6pm – 11pm.

The exceptions to this are 5th November when fireworks can be set off until midnight and until 1 am on New Year's Day, the night of Diwali and at Chinese New Year.

Under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act it is an offence to cause any

unnecessary suffering to any domestic or captive animals. This is enforced by the **Scottish SPCA (03000 999 999)**

8. FIREWORK CODE

8.1 ADULTS

If you do decide to have a home fireworks display out with notified Firework Control Zone(s), young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used.

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable;
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time;
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework;
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back;
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks;
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit;
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them;
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators;
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire; and
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

8.2 CHILD SAFETY

Watching fireworks can be great fun for children. Children suffer over half of all firework injuries and many of these are babies and toddlers and while their scars may heal the trauma for the child and their parents can last for years.

We want children to enjoy fireworks however they need to know that they can be dangerous.

- Supervise all children carefully and keep them well back from the bonfire and fireworks;
- Never give sparklers to under 5's (one of the most dangerous fireworks);

- Show older children how to hold sparklers - away from their body and at arm's length - and teach them not to wave them at other people or run while holding them;
- Avoid dressing children in loose or flowing clothes that could catch alight easily and give children gloves to wear when holding sparklers; and
- Avoid alcohol when supervising.

8.3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Did you know that sparklers get five times hotter than cooking oil? Sparklers are not toys and should never be given to a child under five.

- Store sparklers and other fireworks in a closed box in a cool, dry place;
- Always light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves;
- Never hold a baby or child if you have a sparkler in your hand;
- Plunge finished sparklers hot end down into a bucket of water as soon as they have burnt out. Remember, sparklers can stay hot for a long time; and
- Don't take sparklers to public displays, it will be too crowded to use them safely.

8.4 IN EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

If a Firework related injury occurs, don't panic:

- Cool the burn or scald with cold water for at least 10 minutes;
- Cut around material sticking to the skin - don't pull it off;
- Don't touch the burn or burst any blisters;
- Cover the burn with clean, non-fluffy material - Clingfilm is ideal - to prevent infection;
- If clothing catches fire, get the person to stop, drop to the floor and roll them in heavy material like a curtain; and
- Get advice from your doctor or accident and emergency department at your local hospital.

9. SALE AND RETAILER ISSUES (TRADING STANDARDS)

Legislation is in place concerning the sale and storage of fireworks. Retailers must obtain a licence from Trading Standards to be allowed to store fireworks for sale. If they aren't licensed, or if they store products in an unsafe manner, retailers may be prosecuted. A list of licensed premises is regularly updated and sent to Police Scotland and SFRS.

It is illegal for retailers to sell most fireworks to anyone under the age of 18. The minimum age for smaller fireworks, namely caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throw downs is 16. Retailers must only sell fireworks that conform to European Safety Standards and/or UKCA marked as well as meeting certain noise conditions.

Unless they have a special licence to sell on an all-year-round basis, suppliers can only sell fireworks during the periods:

- 15th October to 10th November;
- 26th December to 31st December;
- The first day of Diwali and the three days immediately before; and
- The first day of Chinese New Year and the three days immediately.

10. HOTSPOT ACTIONS

SFRS, Police Scotland and GCC will monitor such 'Hotspots' and will look for opportunities to engage with the local community and will work to ensure that potentially dangerous bonfire materials are identified and removed.

Additionally, teams will monitor activities within their respective areas to help identify any problems in relation to the illegal storage and sale of fireworks by retailers or the illegal possession and use of fireworks by individual persons.

Where problems or potential offences are detected, they should be reported immediately to the local trading standards service and/or local police, both of whom have certain enforcement responsibilities in these areas.

GCC, Trading Standards, will carry out test purchasing and can also arrange for safe storage of fireworks seized and can carry out inspections of premises selling fireworks to ensure compliance.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 APPENDIX A - USEFUL CONTACTS

Police Scotland

In Relation to: Any Misuse of Fireworks (e.g.: times, location)

Call 101 (999 in an emergency)

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

To report a fire contact 999

SFRS Community Action Team - Community Engagement / Education

W.GLAHomeFireSafetyVisitReferrals@firescotland.gov.uk

GCC

Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Bonfire uplift number 0141 287 9700 – Public Reporting Only

Trading Standards (In relation to: Underage sales (to under 18s), unsafe or unlicensed storage by shops, dangerous fireworks i.e., not made to European Standards): 0141 287 1061

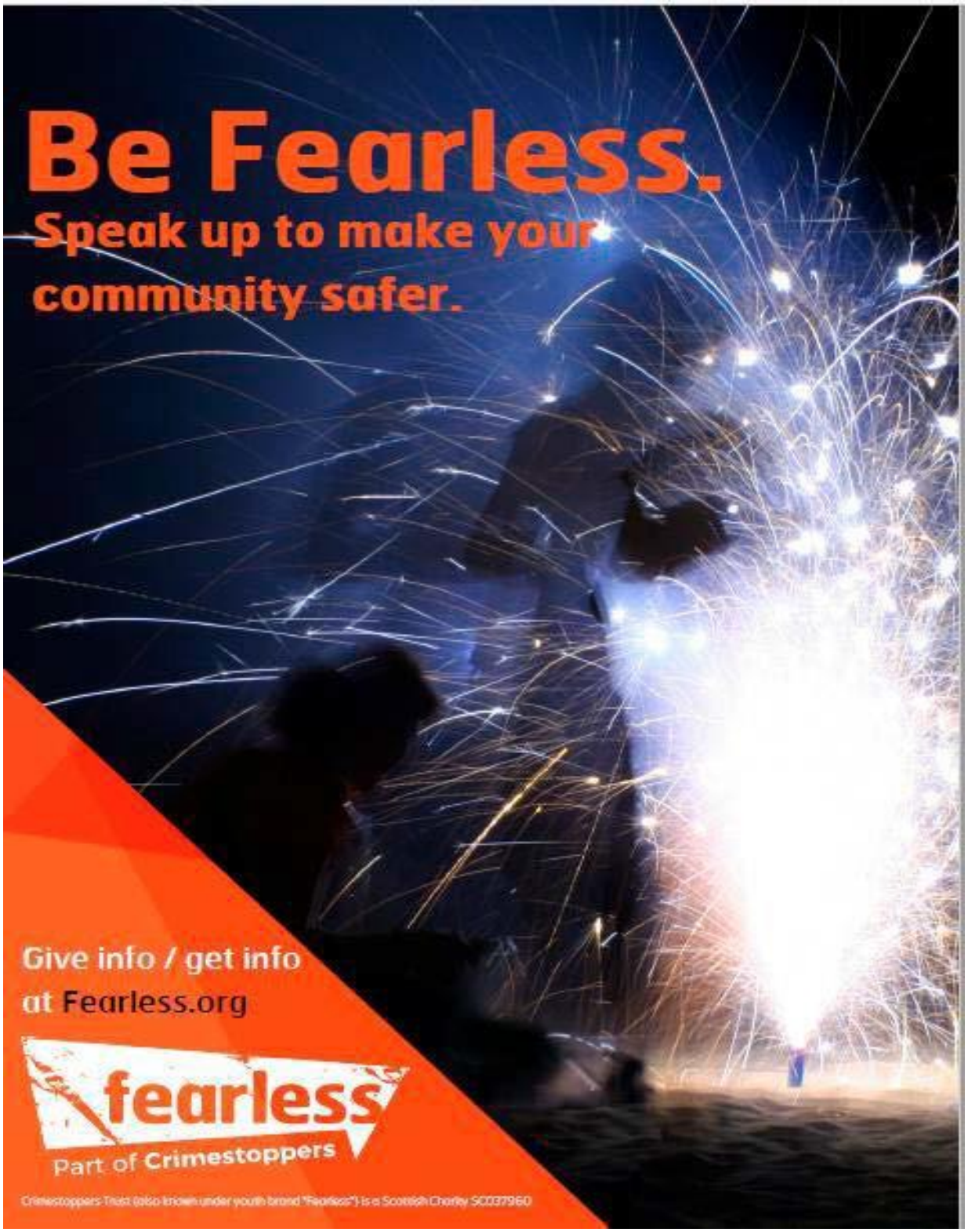
11.2 APPENDIX B - CITY OF GLASGOW COMMUNITY FIRE STATIONS

You can contact the relevant Community Fire Station for general bonfire related issues/advice except in an emergency, where you should dial **999**.

Station	Contact Telephone Number
Cowcaddens	0303 001 5569
Calton	0303 001 5880
Polmadie	0303 001 6720
Castlemilk	0303 001 6718
Pollok	0303 001 7068
Govan	0303 001 7065
Yorkhill	0303 001 6743
Knightswood	0303 001 6736
Maryhill	0303 001 6734
Springburn	0303 001 6740
Easterhouse	0301 001 6738

11.3 APPENDIX C - MEDIA RESOURCES




Be Fearless.
Speak up to make your community safer.
Give info / get info
at Fearless.org
fearless
Part of Crimestoppers
Crimestoppers Trust (also known under youth brand "Fearless") is a Scottish Charity SC037960

NO FLY TIPPING



We are on the lookout for fly tippers.
Don't risk a heavy fine!

Give your rubbish a second chance



recycle for Glasgow
ath-chuairtich do Ghlaschu

For more information visit:
www.glasgow.gov.uk/flytipping

PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW GREENER