

Report to the Tyne and Wear Trading Standards Joint Committee

1 November 2018

Report on planned activity during the lead up to bonfire night

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Purpose of the report

To inform the Committee about the planned activity of the local authorities intended activities in relation to the sale of fireworks on the run up to bonfire night.

Background

1. Local authority Trading Standards Departments are responsible for a number of aspects of the regulation of the sale of fireworks. This includes the safety of the products, dealing with banned products and underage sales of fireworks.
2. Other aspects of fireworks legislation are the responsibility of the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police. The former is responsible for licensing and storage of fireworks and the latter is responsible for use of fireworks in the street and possession of fireworks by under 18s.
3. In July 2017 rules for fireworks finally changed after a period where two regimes ran in parallel. All fireworks must now comply with Directive 2013/29/EU and the European standard EN15947 as opposed to either that standard or BS7114.

Planned Activity

4. The various Councils have developed very strong links with the Fire and Rescue Service over the years and carry out a series of joint inspections to fireworks premises. The Fire and Rescue Service check whether the fireworks are safely stored and displayed and that the net explosive content of the fireworks is within the limits appropriate for the licence of the premises.
5. Trading Standards staff will check notices and advise on issues relating to underage sales and will check compliance with EN15947. Officers will look at the labelling and dimensions of fireworks to ensure compliance. They will also check to ensure box sets are not being broken up for sale, where important safety information may be lost. They will also be looking for banned fireworks;

- an aerial wheel
 - a banger, flash banger or double banger
 - a jumping cracker
 - a jumping ground spinner
 - a spinner
 - a mini rocket
 - a shot tube that produces a loud noise as its main effect and/or has an inside diameter greater than 30mm
 - a battery containing bangers, flash bangers or double bangers
 - a combination (other than a wheel) that includes one or more bangers, flash bangers or double bangers
6. In addition to the overt visits carried out by the Councils some underage test purchasing is anticipated. This is proposed to be undertaken in partnership with Northumbria Police.
7. Officers will also assist the Police or Fire and Rescue Service if there is any intelligence relating to unlicensed premises. In previous years both retail and domestic premises have been identified as storing or supplying fireworks that were unlicensed and also stored more fireworks than would have been permitted in a licensed premises.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is asked to note the information contained within the report.