

City of East Lansing One Pager Plus

Fireworks

Updated March 2014

What are the rules regarding fireworks in East Lansing?

Section 26-66 of the City Code states that it is illegal to discharge consumer fireworks between the hours of 1-8 a.m. on the day before, the day of and the day after a national holiday. In addition, no person shall ignite, discharge or use consumer fireworks **except** on the day preceding, the day of, or the day after a national holiday during permitted hours. Igniting consumer fireworks during time periods not allowed by the ordinance is now a civil infraction. This means that a violation could result in up to a \$500 fine.

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?

The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act 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

Municipalities have been given the option to regulate the use of consumer fireworks during certain hours on these holidays. **Section 26-66 of the City Code states that consumer fireworks are prohibited between the hours of 1-8 a.m. on the day preceding, the day of, or the day after a national holiday.** The use of consumer fireworks in East Lansing during this time will result in a civil infraction.

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 during time periods *not allowed* by the city code?

Igniting consumer fireworks is now a civil infraction. This means that a violation could result in up to a \$500 fine.

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.

