

CITY OF ST. GEORGE

BY COUNCIL MEMBER MURRELL:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-043

TO REGULATE THE SALE, POSSESSION, AND USE
OF FIREWORKS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED
MATTERS

WHEREAS, the St. George City Council seeks to promote public health, safety, and welfare through responsible regulation of fireworks;

WHEREAS, the St. George City Council has determined that unregulated use of fireworks presents a danger of fire and injury, and is a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the St. George City Council is authorized by La. R.S. 51:660 to regulate the sale, use, and possession of pyrotechnics commonly known as fireworks; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance supplements La. R.S. 51:651 et seq., (“the Fireworks Code”).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the St. George City Council, State of Louisiana, as follows:

Section 1. Enactment

TITLE 6 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

CHAPTER 4. FIREWORKS

Sec. 6:401. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1. **1.3G Fireworks:** A United States Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to in this Section as “DOT”) classification indicating display fireworks to be used by professionals in a public display.
2. **1.4G Fireworks:** Consumer fireworks intended for use by the general public.
3. **Aerial luminary:** An airborne paper or membrane lantern containing a small candle, or other device for fuel, that heats air from inside the lantern causing the lantern to rise into the air and remain airborne until the candle or other fuel device extinguishes or is caused to descend by environmental effects. These items are commonly known as sky lanterns, Hawaii lanterns, Kongming lanterns, Chinese lanterns, fire balloons, or flying luminaries.

4. **Consumer Fireworks:** Small fireworks usually sold at retail to consumers during designated periods. These include a number of small devices designed to produce audible effects, ground devices containing fifty milligrams (50 mg) or less of flash powder, and aerial devices containing one hundred thirty milligrams (130 mg) or less of flash powder. The DOT classifies consumer fireworks in 49 CFR 172.101 as UN0336 and UN0337.
5. **Display Fireworks:** Large fireworks used in commercial display shows under the direct supervision of a licensed pyrotechnic operator. These fireworks are designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. They include but are not limited to salutes containing more than two grains (130 mg) of flash powder, aerial shells containing more than forty grams of pyrotechnic compositions, and other display pieces which exceed the limits of explosive materials for classification as consumer fireworks. They also include fused set pieces containing components which together exceed fifty milligrams (50 mg) of flash powder. Display fireworks are classified by DOT in 49 CFR 172.101 as UN0333, UN0334, or UN0335.
6. **Fireworks:** A broad composition or devices used for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, and which are further defined in three general categories: “articles pyrotechnic”, “consumer fireworks”, and “display fireworks”. The term “firework” does not include blank cartridges, railroad flares, model rockets, or any novelty or toy cap pistols, caps, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices in which paper caps containing twenty-five hundredths (25/100) grains or less of explosive compounds are used, provided they are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for exploding, and toy paper pistol caps which contain less than twenty-five hundredths (25/100) grains of explosive compounds.
7. **Pyrotechnic operator:** an individual who, by experience and examination, has demonstrated the necessary skill and ability for safely assembling, discharging, and supervising public displays of Fireworks 1.3G, as defined in La. R.S. 51:650
8. **NFPA 1123:** National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) subtitled Code for Fireworks Display, a comprehensive code created by the to ensure the safety of individuals and property during outdoor firework displays, free access to which is available at: <https://www.nfpa.org/for-professionals/codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/free-access>
9. **Public display:** The display of 1.4S, 1.4G, or 1.3G fireworks, including fireworks not listed as permissible in La. R.S. 51:651, used for any purpose relating to the amusement of the general public.

10. **Sale:** Includes barter, exchange, or gift or offer therefor, and each such transaction made by any person, whether as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee.

Sec. 6:403 Prohibited Acts

- (a) **Use and Discharge:** It shall be unlawful for any person to ignite, explode, discharge, or use any type of fireworks within the City of St. George.
- (b) **Sale and Possession:** It shall be unlawful to do any of the following within the City limits unless in compliance with this Chapter:
 - 1. Sell or offer for sale any Fireworks;
 - 2. Possess Fireworks with the intent to use, sell, or distribute.
 - 3. Launch, release, or possess “Aerial luminary.”
- (c) **Exemptions:** This Chapter shall not apply to transportation of fireworks through the City in compliance with federal regulations.

Sec. 6:405. Public Display Permit Requirements

- (a) **Permit Required.** No public fireworks display shall be conducted without a permit issued by the fire official.
- (b) **Application Requirements.** At least 30 days in advance of a Public Display, applicant shall submit to the fire official:
 - 1. Full name of the licensed pyrotechnic operator along with a copy of the pyrotechnician’s state license (per La. R.S. 51:653);
 - 2. Event date, location, and time;
 - 3. Proof of \$1,000,000 in general liability insurance with the City named as an additional insured;
 - 4. Proof of secure storage while within City limits prior to the event;
 - 5. Site plan indicating launch, fallout, and spectator zones; and
 - 6. Safety plan, emergency procedures, and compliance with NFPA 1123.
- (c) **Approval Authority.** The fire official, in consultation with the Chief of Police, shall review and approve or deny applications based on safety and compliance.

Sec. 6:407. Enforcement and Penalties

- (a) **Violation.** Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be subject to:
 - 1. A fine not exceeding \$1,000 per violation.
 - 2. Confiscation of fireworks.
- (b) **Emergency Orders.** The fire official and/or law enforcement may issue temporary bans during hazardous conditions (e.g., droughts).
- (c) **Seizure Authority.** Law enforcement and fire officials are authorized to confiscate fireworks possessed in violation of this Ordinance.

Sec. 6:409. Severability.

If any section of this Ordinance is found invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6:411. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Cook, Delucci, Edmonds, Himmel, Monachello, Murrell, Talbot

Nays: None

Absent: None

Introduced on August 12, 2025 and voted on August 26, 2025.



Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Delivered to Mayor on August 29, 2025.



Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Approved:



Dustin Yates, Mayor

Received from Mayor on Sept 2, 2025

Ordinance published in The Advocate on the 9th day of Sept, 2025