

# NEWS from CPSC

## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772  
CPSC Media Contact: Scott Wolfson, (301) 504-7051

### Oregon Company Ordered to Stop Selling Chemicals Used To Make Illegal Fireworks

WASHINGTON, D.C.- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), announced today that Springfield Scientific Supplies Inc., of Springfield, Ore., has agreed to stop the sale of chemicals used to produce illegal and dangerous fireworks. The distributor signed a consent decree of permanent injunction, which was approved by the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.

The court order is the result of a six-month investigation conducted by the CPSC, DOJ, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) into the manufacture and sale of illegal explosive devices. Springfield Scientific has agreed to stop selling chemicals that could be used to manufacture illegal fireworks devices, such as M-80s, quarter-sticks, M-1000s, and tennis ball bombs. The company will also take measures to work with the government in combating the manufacturing of these dangerous and illegal explosive devices.

CPSC Chairman Ann Brown said, "Each year, hundreds of children and adults are maimed and even killed by fireworks made with these types of chemicals. We will continue to work closely with the Justice Department and ATF to vigorously investigate the sale and manufacture of illegal fireworks and their components."

Since 1998, the CPSC has received reports of more than 40 firecracker related injuries in the Pacific Northwest alone. In 1999, hospital emergency rooms nationwide have treated an estimated 8,500 fireworks- related injuries. The improper use of fireworks or the use of illegal fireworks has resulted in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns.

CPSC conducts fireworks surveillance and enforcement throughout the year. Each year, CPSC stops hundreds of shipments of hazardous fireworks devices before they reach the store shelves. Working with U.S. Customs Service since 1988, CPSC has seized or detained more than 400 million hazardous fireworks at the docks.

Under the authority granted to it by the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, the CPSC prohibits the sale of the most dangerous types of fireworks, and the components intended to make them. The banned fireworks include M-80s, quarter-sticks, half-sticks, and other large firecrackers. Any firecracker with more than 50 milligrams of explosive powder is banned under federal law, as are mail order kits and components designed to build these fireworks.

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[Send the link for this page to a friend!](#) The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at [www.cpsc.gov/talk.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html). To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to [www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp). Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).