During the winter months, it is common for children and young people to let off firecrackers and fireworks. They are sometimes let off during school hours and in school playgrounds and also in the evenings around Malmö. Environments where children and young people are must be safe. The City of Malmö, in collaboration with the Police and the Fire and Emergency Services, is therefore writing to you as a parent to alert you to the risks associated with fireworks and firecrackers and to inform you of who you contact if you need help and support.

It is illegal in Sweden to let off rockets and fireworks on any day of the year except New Year’s Eve. In Malmö, it is legal to let off rockets and fireworks on New Year’s Eve between the hours of 18:00 and 02:00. Firecrackers and home-made bombs are completely prohibited in Sweden. You can neither buy nor let off fireworks if you are under the age of 18. Despite this, children and young people let off fireworks and firecrackers during the month before and the month after New Year. Only those who hold a permit may sell fireworks. Children and young people can easily get hold of firecrackers and fireworks. They are often sold by irresponsible shops or dealers and on-line.

A lot of people get injured
Every year, around 100 people are so severely injured by fireworks that they need to go to A&E. Four out of every ten people injured by fireworks are under the age of 18 and most are boys. The people who suffer injuries are therefore often young people who are not actually allowed to light fireworks. The most common injuries from fireworks are burns and wounds to the eyes, ears, hands and fingers. Spectators are injured almost as often as the people who light the fireworks.

Parents’ attitudes and approaches – you are the most important!
As a parent, you are the most important person in your child or teenager’s life. As a parent, you have the most influence over your child or teenager. Talk to your child at home about the dangers of firecrackers and fireworks. Young people under the age of 18, particularly young boys, are the people most often injured by fireworks. It is therefore important for you as an adult to handle fireworks safely and not to supply them to minors.

Advice to parents:
  • Don’t buy firecrackers and rockets for your children and teenagers. Breach of the age limit or supplying fireworks to minors can lead to a fine or imprisonment
  • Bear in mind that no-one below the age of 18 is allowed to buy, receive or light fireworks.
  • Talk to your children and teenagers about firecrackers and fireworks. Not all young people are interested in fireworks and firecrackers. What do your children and teenagers think?
  • Talk to other parents – share information and support one another.
  • If you get a tip-off about a person or a shop/company that is selling fireworks and firecrackers to young people, contact the police.
  • If you’re worried about your children or teenagers or have information about where young people usually hang out in the evening, please contact a social worker who works with young people.

You will find the information translated to English on our website
The police will be grateful for any information about supplying, selling and use or about places where young people gather to light firecrackers and fireworks. You can call anonymously! 114 14 - Then press 2 for tip-off.

Socialarbetare för ungdomar (SFU) [a social worker engaged in outreach and prevention work with young people aged 12–21 in central Malmö. As a parent, you can contact them with any questions about situations regarding young people in Malmö, to provide a tip-off on places where young people usually gather in the evenings or to express any concerns about your children or teenagers. 040-34 39 95 or 070-600 35 36

Social services in your city district, 040-34 10 00

Student health services at your child’s school, 040-34 10 00

Support for victims of crime and relatives 040-34 92 92

Maria Malmö is an outpatient care facility for people under the age of 25 with alcohol or drug problems and their relatives. You can contact them with any questions about alcohol and drugs. 040-33 71 70

Fältgruppen Malmö forms part of the municipal recreational activities in the City of Malmö and carries out outreach work with young people aged 13–17. 040-34 25 39

Räddningstjänsten Syd [the Fire and Rescue Service – South] is engaged in fire safety in both emergency and preventative situations. 046-540 46 00

Brandskyddsföreningen [the Swedish Fire Protection Association] provides expertise and information about fire safety. 08-588 474 00

A section of Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap [the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency]. Information about risks and safety for you as a private individual.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency