

## Neighborhood Watch Observation Notes



Stay calm  
Remain alert to your surroundings  
Begin with the Basics  
Move to the Specifics  
Broaden your Perspective  
Add Detail

### Post-observation activities:

1. Write down your observation as soon as possible
2. Note the date and time
3. If activities appear to be unusual, suspicious or illegal, call for assistance and take the appropriate action according to your agency's policies and procedures

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Observer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Observation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Notes:

- Physical Setting** – specific location

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- People** – What do they look like? How are they acting? How many are there?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Specific Items** – What aspects are important?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Routines** – Did you notice any recurring patterns or routines? How often did they occur? Who was involved?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice



# What to Observe

# What to Observe

## Physical Setting

## People

- **Specific Location?**
- **Time of Day?**
- **Day of week?**

- **What do they look like?**
- **How are they acting?**
- **How many people are involved?**

## Routines

- **Any recurring patterns?**
- **How often did they occur?**

## Specific Items

- **What's important?**

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## People

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- **What's important?**

# Remember: **Stay Calm**

## **Remain Alert**

## **Begin with the basics**

## **Move to specifics**

## **Broaden your perspective**

## **Add details**

Do not allow anything to obstruct your vision while driving.

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Do not allow anything to obstruct your vision while driving.



# PHONE TREE

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____		Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____		Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____		Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	
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Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____		Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	



**911  
Emergency**



Police  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-emergency \_\_\_\_\_



Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-emergency \_\_\_\_\_





# TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE:

1. **Be a good neighbor**, good neighbors look out for each other especially when one is away on vacation or business.
2. **Make sure to lock all of your doors and windows** an unsecure door or window is an open invitation to crooks to enter your home. Make your home more difficult to enter. A burglar will bypass your home if it requires too much effort or requires more skill and tools than they possess. **Use high grade locks and a solid core or metal door for all entrance points.**
3. **Never leave your house key under a doormat, flower pot or in a fake rock**, burglars are aware of these so-called hiding places. If you think you might need an extra key leave it with a highly trusted neighbor.
4. If you purchase a new 52" flat screen television, **don't leave the box at the curb.** This advertises to potential burglars that you've just purchased a new TV. Which now makes your home more appealing.
5. **Interior Lighting is necessary to show signs of life and activity inside a residence at night.** A dark home at night sends a message to burglars that your are away. **Light timers are inexpensive and can be found anywhere.** Exterior Lighting is also very important to deter criminals, because criminals do not want to be seen or identified. **Motion sensor lights are fairly inexpensive and can easily replace an exterior light.**
6. Don't give burglars any help, **clear shrubs and trees from around your home.** Foliage provides a great hiding place for burglars trying to break in.
7. **Never leave a message** on your answering machine telling callers that your not home. If you do go out of town, make sure that you stop delivery or have someone pick up your mail and paper.
8. **Make a list of all of your valuables** and record their serial numbers, its also a good idea to take photographs of everything.
9. **Alarm Systems definitely have a place in a home security plan and are effective.** The reason alarm systems deter burglars is because they increase the potential and fear of being caught by the police.
10. **Remember to be SMART, be informed of your surroundings and be mindful of the criminal element that's around us daily.**

These tips provided courtesy of :



**IPSC**  
Inner Parish Security Corporation  
985-542-7960

# TANGIPAHOA Crime Stoppers

## HOME INVENTORY TIPS

**The threat of loss of property from fire, theft, or other causes is always present.**

1. **A good home inventory includes a detailed list of your possessions including receipts, descriptions and photos of your home's contents.**
  - Record purchase dates and serial numbers of small appliances and theft-prone items. Along with the description of each item, attach its receipt, if possible.
  - On antiques, art, jewelry, collectibles, and certain other items, appraisals are important. Always include the name and address of the appraiser.
  - Inventory one room at a time. Don't forget closets, attic and basement.
  - When you have completed your Home Inventory, do not keep it in your home. A safe deposit box is a good idea. However, when you make new purchases do not forget to add them to your list.
  - If you're making an audio or video inventory, start in one corner of the room and work your way around until the whole room has been covered.
  
2. **When it comes to a home inventory, a picture truly is worth a thousand words. Tips for Home Inventory Photos are as follows:**
  - Use any color camera with a flash, your home video camera, or a digital camera.
  - Label photos and videotapes with the dates they were taken. If appropriate, record the date of purchase, brand name and purchase price of each item on the record card next to the picture.
  - If you have a film camera, have your developer save the images to a disk. You can store the print copies with a copy of your inventory. If you have a digital camera, save the images to a disk or burn a CD.
  - To get an overall picture, take wide-angle shots of the whole room, and then take several close-ups to capture detail. Start in one corner of the room and work your way around.



**TANGIPAHOA  
Crime Stoppers  
1-800-554-JAIL**

## **6 Ways to TIP**

1. CALL 1-800-554-5245 (JAIL) to leave information on crimes, criminal activity, suspicious activity, and fugitives.
2. TEXT "274637" on your smart phone or "CRIMES" on a regular cell phone and begin your tip with "TANGITIP".
3. DOWNLOAD the free mobile app for iPhone and Android from iTunes and Marketplace.
4. VISIT [www.facebook.com/tangicrimestoppers](http://www.facebook.com/tangicrimestoppers) and click the "Leave a Tip" tab.
5. VISIT [www.tangicrimestoppers.com](http://www.tangicrimestoppers.com) and click "Submit a Tip".
6. CALL 1-877-668-2421 or 1-877-NOT-B-4-21 to report school violence, bullying, drugs, alcohol, weapons, and underage drinking parties.

**YOU COULD EARN A CASH REWARD!**  
**ALWAYS ANONYMOUS ALL OF THE TIME!**



## Dear Crime Prevention Practitioner,

Each October, Crime Prevention Month, crime prevention practitioners and citizens alike celebrate all the successes of the last year, hold Celebrate Safe Communities® events, and start making plans for exciting crime prevention programs and projects for the coming year.

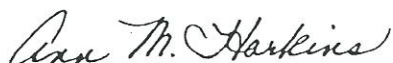
This year, Crime Prevention Month is dedicated to the theme of youth gang prevention. Gangs tear lives apart when people are injured by assaults, rapes, and other crimes. The drug trade flourishes when gangs are present. Young lives are robbed of their potential when gangs recruit children. When gangs are present, neighborhoods decay, property values decline, and badly needed tax revenue is reduced. More than 1.4 million Americans belong to gangs, and that number is exploding. Even worse, the average age of gang members is less than 18.

Every American deserves to be safe from gang violence, and every American family needs to know that it won't lose a child to gang membership. Every community should be safe, free of gangs, and all the crime and havoc they bring.

I believe that if we are to solve our gang problem, we must understand why it exists. This year's Crime Prevention Month Kit explores the nature of gangs and gang membership and provides practical tips on how to address gang issues. It provides examples of community programs that work and offers information on resources. It also includes a press release that you can use to generate community support for your gang prevention initiative and a proclamation that can be issued by a local leader when he or she publicly pledges support for your efforts.

We hope you will find this kit, the resources in it, and the resources on the enclosed CD useful in your crime prevention efforts. For more information on the National Crime Prevention Council's crime prevention programs, please visit [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org) or call 202-466-6272.

Sincerely,



**Ann M. Harkins**  
President and CEO



# FACTS AND FIGURES ON YOUTH GANGS:

*These statistics may come in handy when you're seeking support for gang prevention efforts or making presentations.*

## The Big Picture

According to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment* report prepared by the National Gang Intelligence Center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there are approximately 1.4 million street, outlaw motorcycle, and prison gang members in the United States and its territories. The total population of the United States was 311,591,917 in 2011 (U.S. Bureau of the Census). That means that 0.499 percent of all Americans belong to gangs—roughly one American out of every 200.

The number of gang members has increased by 40 percent since 2009, when there were only one million gang members, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*. Gang membership has increased the most in the Northeast and Southeast, although the West, including Arizona and California, and the North Central Region, including Illinois, have the largest number of gang members. While this increase is due partly to changes in reporting, the number of gang members is skyrocketing.

Gangs are active in every city in the United States with more than 250,000 people. Eighty-five percent of cities with more than 100,000 people also have gang activity, according to the Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN) gang statistics.

Gangs are responsible for an average of 48 percent of violent crime in most jurisdictions and up to 90 percent in several others, such as Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Texas, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*.

The *National Youth Gang Survey*, cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, reported that youth gang problems increased 15 percent overall between 2002 and 2008.

## Age of Gang Members

Approximately 360,000 teenage boys belong to gangs, as do 32,000 teenage girls, according to statistics compiled by the website [helpinggangyouth.com](http://helpinggangyouth.com).

The National Youth Violence Prevention Center says that one-fourth of gang members are ages 15-17. The average age of all gang members is 17-18.

According to the *National Longitudinal Survey of Youth*, 8 percent of youth between the ages of 12 and 17 have belonged to a gang or are a member of a gang. In some cities, that figure is far higher.

Youth who join gangs typically start associating with a gang at age 12 or 13, and join the gang at age 13 to 15, according to research cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*.

## Gangs at School

According to research cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, poor school performance on math tests predicts male gang membership. According to other researchers cited in the *Bulletin*, future gang members perform poorly in elementary school. One group of researchers found that nearly 80 percent of the gang-involved youth referred to juvenile court in Durham, NC, had been suspended, truant, expelled, or otherwise disconnected from school (D.L. Weisel and J.C. Howell, in the *Comprehensive Gang Assessment: A Report to the Durham Police Department and Durham County Sheriff's Office*).

A survey of nearly 6,000 eighth graders in 11 cities with known gang problems found that 9 percent of the eighth graders were currently gang members. Seventeen percent reported that they had belonged to a gang.

Feeling unsafe at school may predict gang involvement, as students who feel vulnerable at school may seek protection in gangs (*Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools*, Gottfredson Associates, 2011).

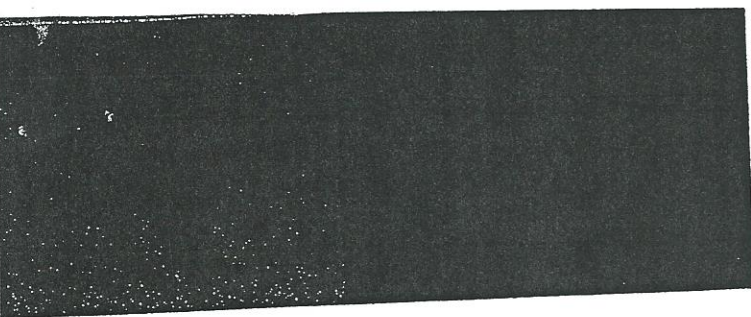
## Gangs and Gender

In one 15-city sample, 8.8 percent of boys and 7.8 percent of girls said they were current gang members, according to research published by Ebensen et al. in *Street Gangs, Migration and Ethnicity*, 2008.

Forty percent of gangs allow female gang members, but less than 10 percent of gang members are girls, according to statistics culled from a variety of sources.







Forty percent of girls who joined gangs reported that they had a boyfriend in a gang, and 80 percent said they had a good friend in a male gang, according to *Mexican American Girls and Gang Violence: Beyond Risk*, a book published in 2007 by Palgrave Macmillan.

According to the website [helpinggangyouth.com](http://helpinggangyouth.com), which cited a variety of sources, the top three risk factors for girls who join gangs are school failure and learning disabilities, lack of positive activities in or out of school, and sexual abuse and victimization. Family dysfunction, low income, and early drug use and early sexual activity were also cited.

## Ethnicity

According to the *National Youth Gang Survey*, 50 percent of all gang members are Hispanic/Latino, 32 percent are African American/black, and 11 percent are Caucasian/white. However, in a 15-city sample of gangs, researchers cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, found that among youth, racial characteristics were more evenly distributed: multiracial groups accounted for 12.9 percent of gangs, while whites accounted for 7.3 percent of gangs, Hispanics accounted for 8.13 percent of gang members, and blacks accounted for 9 percent.

## Victims of Gang Members

Statistics on the number of people victimized by gangs and gang members are hard to come by because the figures are reported by the victims, and some victims don't know or report the identity of the perpetrator. However, the most recent *Crime Data Brief on Violence by Gang Members, 1993-2003*, published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, reported that 12 percent of the victims of violent crime ages 12 to 19 identified their assailants as gang members. The offender was identified as a gang member in about 6 percent of violent crimes against persons ages 20-49 and about 4 percent of violent crimes against those age 50 and older. Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to be the victims of gang crime. Gang crime has risen steadily since this study took place.

## Gang Members as Victims

A gang member is 60 times more likely than a non-gang member to be the victim of a homicide, according to the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center.

According to a study (*Gang Homicides—Five U.S. Cities, 2003-2008*) performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gang members who were victims of homicides were significantly younger than non-gang homicide victims in all five cities that were studied (Los Angeles, CA; Oklahoma City, OK; Long Beach, CA; Oakland, CA; and Newark, NJ). While up to 42 percent (depending on the city) of murder victims who were gang members were ages 15-19 years, only 9 to 14 percent of the non-gang members who were victims of homicides fell into this age group.

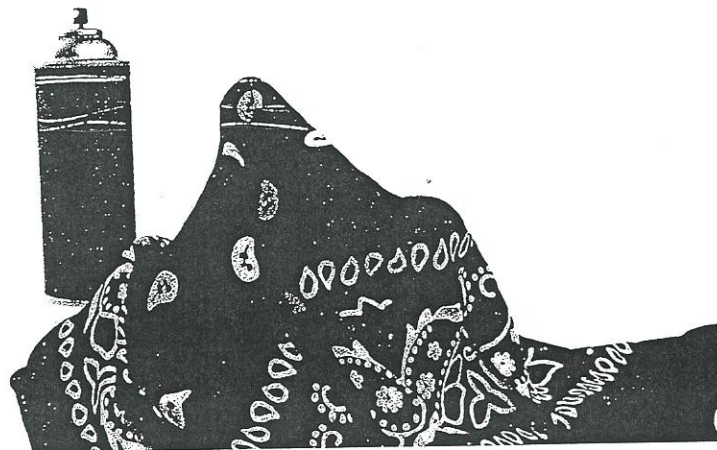
The CDC study found that gang-related homicides typically result from grudges between rival gangs, not disputes over drugs or drug trafficking.

## Gangs and the Military

Gangs are infiltrating the military, with at least 53 different gangs being present at U.S. military installations. According to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*, "Gang recruitment of active duty military personnel constitutes a significant criminal threat to the U.S. military. Members of nearly every major street gang, as well as some prison gangs and OMGs [outlaw motorcycle gangs], have been reported on both domestic and international military installations.... Through transfers and deployments, military-affiliated gang members expand their culture and operations to new regions nationwide and worldwide, undermining security and law enforcement efforts to combat crime. Gang members with military training pose a unique threat to law enforcement personnel because of their distinctive weapons and combat training skills and their ability to transfer these skills to fellow gang members."

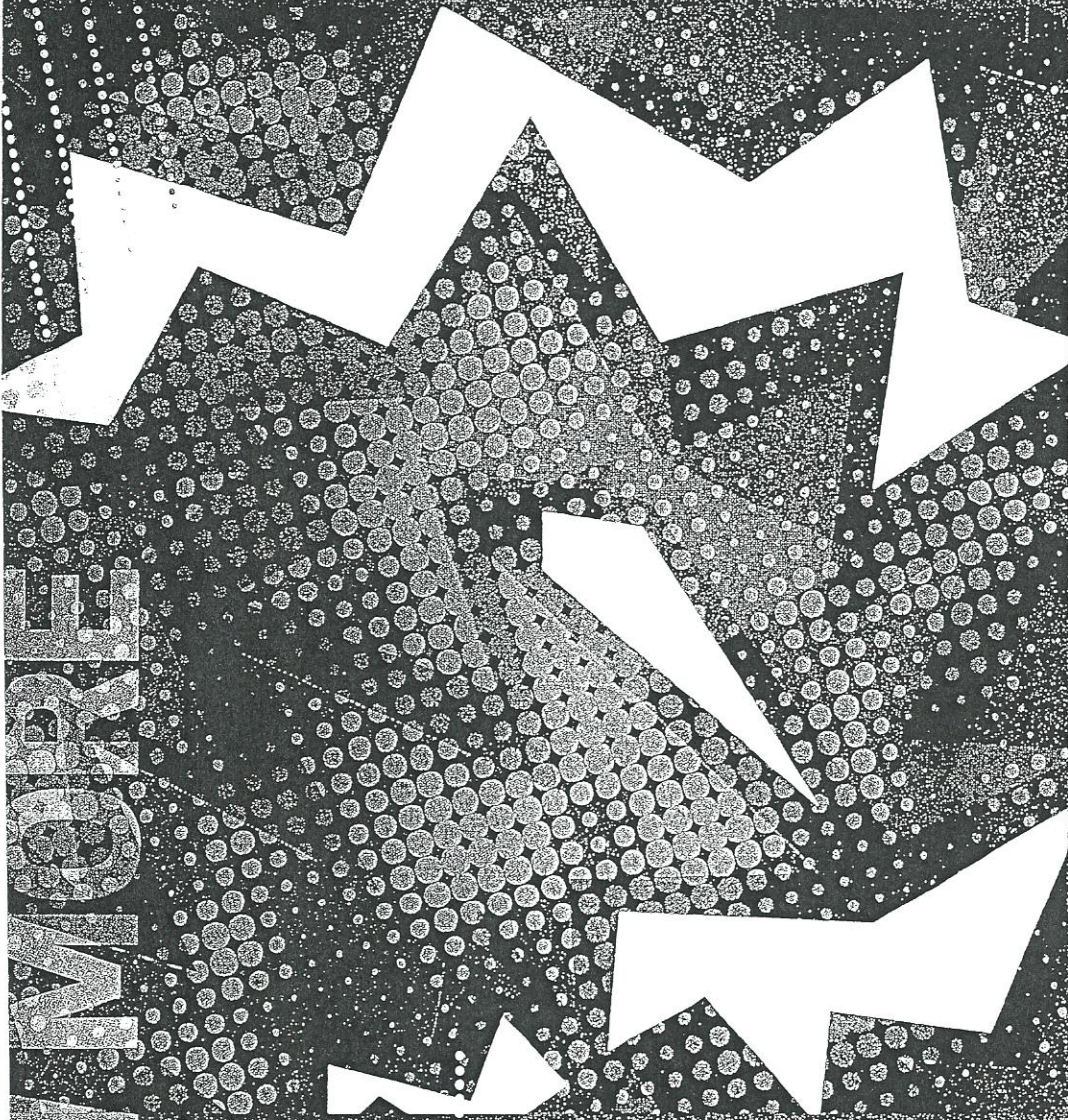
## Motorcycle Gangs

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are organizations whose members use their motorcycle clubs as conduits for criminal enterprises. Outlaw motorcycle gangs have 44,000 members. There are 3,000 gangs altogether, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*.

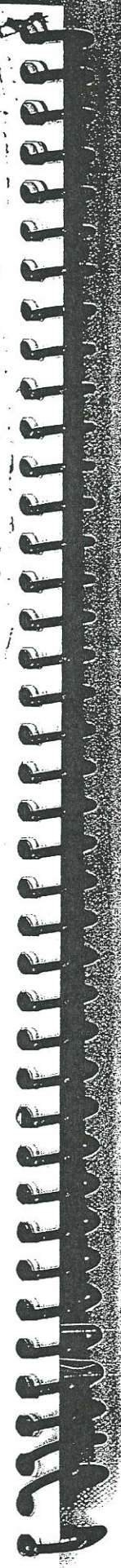




KNOW MORE



Weapons, Guns  
& Fireworks





# Weapons, Guns and Fireworks

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ome of the most serious problems with violent crime in the United States are connected with guns and other deadly weapons. This chapter will define and explain some of the laws regarding handguns and other deadly weapons. You should be aware of these laws to protect yourself and others.

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## // WEAPONS

### What is a dangerous weapon or instrument?

A dangerous weapon is a firearm or anything designed for the purpose of inflicting death or serious physical injury. Such items include a pistol, rifle, shotgun, switchblade knife, sword or dagger. It is illegal to possess a switchblade knife.

Any item which, under the circumstances in which it is used, that is highly capable of causing death or serious physical injury is considered to be a dangerous instrument. Such items may include a car, rock, hypodermic needle, box cutter or pencil.

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# Weapons, Guns and Fireworks

## // GUNS

### Can I own a gun?

In Louisiana, persons under 17 years of age cannot own a rifle, shotgun, or handgun. Juveniles, however, can own BB guns or pellet guns (subject to local ordinances).

### Can I use a gun even though I do not own it?

Under certain circumstances, individuals under the age of 17 may use or possess a firearm. Some of those circumstances include, but are not limited to, hunting or trapping, attending a firearms or hunter's safety course, and engaging in practice in the use of a firearm or target shooting at an established range. Permission from the adult owner must be obtained prior to use of a firearm by a juvenile.

No adult or juvenile can legally carry a concealed rifle or shotgun. Adults may carry concealed pistols with a permit issued by the state. A weapon is concealed if it is not in clear sight of a casual observer.

### What happens if I bring a weapon to school?

If you bring a firearm to school, on the bus, or to any school activity, the school can suspend you immediately and recommend your expulsion and you may be charged criminally.

### What if I carry a weapon just to threaten or scare someone?

Threatening or scaring another person with a weapon is considered aggravated assault and is a felony.

### What are other laws concerning guns?

You may not shoot any firearm from, on, or across a public road. It is a felony to shoot a firearm at any house, vehicle, building or aircraft. It is also illegal to shoot from a vehicle. If a juvenile commits a crime using a deadly weapon, the juvenile will be considered a serious juvenile offender. Altering any mark or identification on a weapon or possessing such a weapon is also a felony.

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# Weapons, Guns and Fireworks

## // FIREWORKS

### Can I buy fireworks?

No one under 15 years old can buy fireworks unless accompanied by an adult. No one can possess fireworks if intending to use them to cause damage or harm to another person or property.

### Are there places where I cannot shoot fireworks?

It is illegal to shoot fireworks within 1,000 feet of any church, hospital, asylum, school, public building, or fireworks retail location. La. R.S. 51.654. It is also illegal to throw or shoot fireworks into or from vehicles, at a person, or into a group of people. There are other restrictions that may be placed on shooting fireworks by the fire marshal or by your city or county government. You should always take special care and be responsible when using fireworks since they can be extremely dangerous.

If you use fireworks in the wrong way, you can be charged with a misdemeanor. If you cause damage by using fireworks, you and your parents may be held responsible for the damage.

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