



SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE

Fire Marshal's Office

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Model Rocketry

South Metro Fire Rescue supports our citizens in their hobbies and interests associated to model rocketry. We want to ensure that these activities are conducted in a safe manner. Utilization of model rockets under improper environmental conditions has resulted in brush fires and can contribute to loss of life and property. These fires often result from rocket failure and/or human error.

PROHIBATED USE WHEN THERE IS LEVEL 1 OR 2 BURNBAN IS INEFFECT.

The use of model rockets shall comply with the requirements of the International Fire Code, National Fire Protection Association Standard 1122 (Code for Model Rocketry), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations.

The use of model rockets at city or county owned/operated parks and recreational facilities may be prohibited. Check with your city or county prior to the use of a public location for specific restrictions.



Model rockets include rocket vehicles composed of paper, wood or breakable plastic that are used primarily for education, recreation and/or sporting competition. A model rocket shall have a means of returning it to the ground (example: a parachute), so that it can be flown again. All recovery wadding used shall be flame-resistant.

Rockets shall be launched outdoors in a cleared area (see chart below for minimums), free of tall trees, power lines, buildings and dry vegetation. Only remotely controlled and electrically operated ignition systems shall be used to launch the rocket. All persons shall remain at least 30 feet from the rocket during ignition, with an audible 5-second countdown provided prior to the launch. Rockets that have become entangled in a power line or other dangerous places shall not be retrieved.

For rocket motor misfires, the launcher shall not be approached for at least one minute and/or until the ignition system has been rendered safe.

Rockets shall not carry a payload that is designed to be flammable, explosive or harmful to persons or property.

Rockets shall not be launched on a flight path at a target (the launcher shall be pointed within 30 degrees of vertical), or when winds are more than 20 mph, or into a cloud or near an aircraft in flight.

Model rockets shall weigh no more than 1500g (53 oz) at lift-off, including rocket propellant. Model rockets shall contain no more than 125g (4.4 oz) of rocket propellant. Rockets weighing more than 453g (16 oz) or using more than 113g (4 oz) of propellant will require notification of the FAA.

Rocket installed motors shall produce a total impulse of no more than 320 n-secs (72 pound-sec). Additional restrictions apply to rocket motors sold to or used by individuals 17 years of age and younger.

Only commercially manufactured, certified model rocket motors or reloaded kits or components as specified in NFPA 1125 (Code for the Manufacture of Model Rockets and High Power Rocket Motors), shall be used.

Ensure that there is no dry grass close to the launch pad, and that the launch site does not present risk of grass fires.

Minimum Launch Site Dimensions		
Installed Total Impulse (N-sec)	Equivalent Motor Type	Minimum Site Dimension (feet)
0.00-1.25	1/4A, 1/2A	50
1.26-2.50	A	100
2.51-5.00	B	200
5.01-10.00	C	400
10.01-20.00	D	500
20.01-40.00	E	1,000
40.01-80.00	F	1,000
80.01-160.00	1G	1,000
160.01-320.00	2Gs	1,500

South Metro Fire Rescue is an available resource to individual rocket owners, rocketry clubs and, organizations to ensure that launch policies and procedures are implemented.

Please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (720) 989-2200 if you have any questions.