



## Use of Cold Spark Technology is Prohibited

The use of cold spark technology in pyrotechnic devices has become a popular entertainment effect that's used in various types of public events and gatherings, including weddings. The following provides information event organizers, hotel convention services and those interested in using cold spark technology should know before considering the feasibility of using this effect at any event.

All spark producing devices utilize powdered titanium or zirconium as the chemical which produces the sparkler visual effect. A common misunderstanding is that the sparks are cold. While the heat released from cold sparks is a lower temperature than standard sparklers, the heat generated from cold sparks is still capable of igniting nearby materials.



We've seen social media depict a person with their hand inside the plume of cold sparks and they are unharmed. The surface area of the burning sparks bouncing off the hand (or another non-flammable surface) is happening so fast that the heat they produce isn't being transmitted fully. However, if you do this same experiment with a piece of paper or a wedding dress, you could see a much different result which could be catastrophic.

California Health and Safety Code Section 12505 classifies ignitable materials with chemical compounds containing titanium and zirconium as Dangerous Fireworks. In specific and approved cases, the special use of any dangerous fireworks is required to be performed by a pyrotechnic operator licensed in the State of California by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, as well as follow all Dangerous Fireworks permitting, licensing and regulatory requirements. The California Code of Regulations Division 1, Chapter 6, classifies various types of fireworks and specifies manners in storage and use of such materials.

**In recognition of inherent risks associated with the use of fireworks devices, the possession and use of classified fireworks, including cold spark technology devices, is prohibited within the City of Burlingame, City of Millbrae, and Town of Hillsborough.**

You may review further information within the local municipal code at:

City of Burlingame – Municipal Code 10.48; [www.burlingame.org](http://www.burlingame.org)

City of Millbrae – Municipal Code 5.125; [www.ci.millbrae.ca.us](http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us)

Town of Hillsborough – Municipal Code 9.88; [www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net)

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