

Professional Firework Displays and Covid-19

The current situation in the run-up to the November 5th season, Diwali and onwards towards New Year is extremely unclear and unfortunately many displays have already been cancelled.

However there have been several events, both private (with restricted numbers) and public that have taken place and we believe that provided the existing social distancing rules are applied there is no inherent reason why events involving fireworks cannot continue to take place. In the new tier 1 and 2 areas we believe it is still possible to have organised firework displays – but with suitable measures in place.

The important things to consider, over and above those that would normally be taken into consideration, are as follows:-

- Does the display site have sufficient room for the number of people that will attend to be able to maintain social distancing?
- Does this mean numbers will have to be restricted – perhaps by ticket only entry – and how will this be controlled?
- Will there be enforced social distancing on site, perhaps with isolated areas for individual families, separated from one another?
- Will adequate signage be in place – specifically obtain QR codes for track and trace?
- Is it possible to stage a “drive in” type events, or to site the fireworks where they can be seen from peoples own premises?
- How is access to the site, and especially egress FROM the site controlled to maintain social distancing – at the end of the event it is important to control exit to stop everyone crowding the egress route?
- Is it possible to involve, for instance, local radio to allow people to directly hear announcements and to provide a way of playing music alongside the fireworks? Or should the PA systems be enhanced?
- What type of display is appropriate this year – will it contain the same elements as in a “normal” year or would a different type of display (eg one with more or less aerial content) be appropriate?

We strongly believe that some sort of display is possible at almost any site provided that the right fireworks are used, in the right place and at the right time. If the display is modified from previous years it is important to consider these aspects and to ensure that visitors are informed about any changes to the “usual” programme.

If sensible precautions are made then we believe that it is possible to celebrate these important events and to provide safe outside entertainment for your visitors.

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