

FLARES AND THE LAW

It is an offence to:

Fire flares on land or in a harbour:

Fire flares at sea for testing, practice or as fireworks:

Dump pyrotechnics at sea.

Damaged or out of date flares should never be used. They should be disposed of safely as soon as possible

DISPOSING OF UNWANTED FLARES

Only contact HM Coastguard when all other means of disposal have been exhausted. Our facilities are very limited and we can only accept a small number of flares from individuals. Before contacting HM Coastguard try:

- The place you brought them. They may offer a 'take back' scheme
- Marinas (a small charge may apply).
- Life Raft Service Stations (some offer a service)
- The Council. They may be accepted at local recycling centres

If you are still unable to dispose of flares you can then contact your nearest [Licensed Site](#). We will advise if we can help. We do not provide a collection service and we are unable to accept flares from commercial organisations.

HM Coastguard has no responsibility for disposing of flares. We accept them at our own discretion and our storage facilities are limited. Only some of our locations are licensed to store flares.

On contacting HM Coastguard you will be asked:

- Who you have previously contacted to arrange disposal
- How many flares you need to dispose
- How old they are
- What condition they are in

If we can help, we will arrange for a time for you to deliver the flares.

You may be expected to travel a long distance, or wait several weeks depending on the facilities available in your area.

NEVER turn up at HM Coastguard premises without prior agreement ¹

NEVER collect flares from others ²

NEVER leave flares to be discovered ³

NEVER put flares in household rubbish, garden waste or public litter bins ⁴

1. The majority of Coastguard locations are not licensed you will be turned away.
2. We only accept a reasonable number of flares from individuals in line with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) carriage recommendations. We do not accept flares from commercial organisations.
3. It's against the law and dangerous. You may be prosecuted if you leave flares outside Coastguard, RNLI, Police, or Fire Service premises. Flares may be picked up by children who could be seriously injured or killed as a result
4. They can cause extensive damage to refuse collection facilities and may injure persons who come into contact with them

Contact Details for Licensed Coastguard Disposal Sites

Centre	Contact Number
MRCC Aberdeen (licensed site: Buchan Sector Base)	01224 592 334
MRCC Aberdeen (licensed site: Inverness Sector Base)	01224 592 334
MRCC Aberdeen (licensed site: St Andrews Sector Base)	01224 592 334
MRCC Belfast	02891 463 933
MRCC Belfast (licensed site: Girvan Coastguard Rescue Service)	02891 463 933
MRCC Brixham	01803 882 704
MRCC Dover	01304 210 008
MRCC Falmouth	01326 317 575
MRCC Holyhead	01407 762 051
MRCC Humber	01262 672 317
MRCC Humber (North Norfolk Sector Base)	01262 672 317
MRCC Liverpool	01519 313 341
MRCC Milford Haven	01646 690 909
MRCC Shetland	01595 692 976
MRCC Solent	02392 552 100
MRCC Stornoway	01851 702 013
MRCC Thames	01255 675 518
RNLI Headquarters Poole	01202 336 336