

Popping Fireworks at Wedding Scare Muscovites

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Moscow police have checked into the reports of shots coming from a car in a wedding entourage and concluded that fireworks, not guns, were responsible for the noise.

Police said Thursday that they acted after receiving a call at 5:12 p.m. Wednesday of sounds resembling gunshots near 21 Belovezhskaya Ulitsa.

"Police who arrived at the scene questioned a witness who stated that he had heard the sounds but did not see the weapon itself," an unidentified police official told RIA Novosti.

Police tracked the wedding cortege to the Moscow region village of Marfino. The participants of the wedding told the police that they were lighting up commercially available firecrackers.

Their words were confirmed by witnesses.

Meanwhile, police found an unregistered traumatic gun and a hunting knife among

the wedding guests and detained two of them, BFM.ru reported. The suspects face fines.

On July 3, President Vladimir Putin signed a law that bans shooting firearms in public places. The new law calls for a fine of 40,000 rubles to 50,000 rubles (\$1,200 to \$1,500) or the suspension of an individual's permit to buy and store firearms for 18 months to three years.

The law followed several incidents in Moscow and elsewhere of guests firing weapons into the air while driving in wedding parties.

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