



# 101 Critical Days of Summer

## Safety Tip #5 - Fireworks Safety



Fireworks are an American tradition. They can provide hours of wholesome, family entertainment, but must be used by adults carefully and safely. An estimated 5,000 fireworks-related injuries (or 70 percent of the total fireworks-related injuries) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during the one-month special study period between June 20, 2008 and July 20.

- Injuries to children were a major component of total fireworks-related injuries with children under 15 accounting for 40 percent of the estimated injuries. Children and young adults under 20 had 58 percent of the estimated injuries.
- The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (estimated 1,400 injuries), eyes (1,000 injuries), and legs (900 injuries).
- More than half of the injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to all parts of the body except the eyes, where contusions, lacerations, and foreign bodies in the eye occurred more frequently.

To insure the safety of both the audience and those lighting the fireworks, we recommend that you obey the following fireworks safety measures during your fireworks display.

**NEVER LET CHILDREN HANDLE, PLAY WITH, OR LIGHT ANY FIREWORKS. ONLY ADULTS SHOULD HANDLE AND LIGHT THE FIREWORKS.** The fireworks are great family fun, but they burn very hot and are intended to be handled only by adults.

**DO NOT CONSUME ANY ALCOHOL WHILE LIGHTING OR HANDLING FIREWORKS.** Fireworks must be used only by individuals who act in a responsible manner and who are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you are impaired in any way when you use fireworks, you increase the possibilities of misuse and injury to yourself and others.

**PARENTS SHOULD SUPERVISE THE ORDERING AND USE OF MAILORDER "MAKE YOUR OWN" FIREWORK KITS.** Do not purchase, use or store fireworks of any type. It's best to attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

**Again - Do not** let your child play with fireworks, even if his/her friends are setting them off. Sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit and bottle rockets can stray off course or throw shrapnel when they explode.

**Obey local laws.** If fireworks are not legal where you are, don't use them. If drought conditions mean a ban on fireworks, follow the law.

If you see someone misusing fireworks, **stop them.** Show them the correct way to use consumer fireworks and do not ever use professional fireworks or illegal explosives. Do your part and everyone will be safer.

**Never** light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.

**Always** have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

**Do not** wear loose clothing while using fireworks.

**Stand several feet away** from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it. **Never** re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).

**Always** read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, direction and a warning label, do not light it.

Pets have very **sensitive ears** and the booms and bangs associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable -- particularly to dogs. In fact, the noises can actually hurt their ears. Leave pets at home if you are going to a fireworks show.

**Always** read and follow label directions.

Have an adult present.

Buy from reliable sellers.

**Use outdoors only.**

**Always** have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).

**Never** experiment or make your own fireworks.

Light only one firework at a time.

**Never** give fireworks to small children.

If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.

Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.

**Never** throw or point fireworks at other people.

**Never** carry fireworks in your pocket.

**Never** shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

The shooter should **always** wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.

Stay away from illegal explosives.

**One more time - Fireworks and alcohol DO NOT mix. Have a designated "shooter".**

Everything you need to know about fireworks, including state laws: <http://www.fireworks.com/safety/>

How to save you or your child's sight should something go wrong:  
<http://www.preventblindness.org/safety/fireworksafety.html>

Videos - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcFuIEWbITA>



**Have a Great 4th!!**  
**Your Risk Management Staff**



**Fireworks Safety Test:**

<http://www.fireworksafety.com/pdfs/FireworkSafetyTest.pdf>

**Answers to Test:**

<http://www.fireworksafety.com/pdfs/FireworkSafetyAnswers.pdf>

**Fireworks University:** <http://www.fireworks.com/safety/>



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