

FIREWORKS SAFETY

The 4th of July is a great time to celebrate our nation's independence. However according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission it can also be a time of great concern relating to injury. Fireworks were involved in an estimated 10,500 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2014. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for 35 percent of the estimated 2014 injuries. Nearly half of the estimated emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries were to individuals younger than 20 years of age. The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (an estimated 36 percent); head, face, and ears (an estimated 19 percent); eyes (an estimated 19 percent); legs (an estimated 10 percent); and arms (an estimated 5 percent). Fifty-four percent of the emergency department-treated 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 eyes occurred more frequently.

Let's look at some safety precautions if you're around fireworks:

Be Prepared, before you light fireworks:

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets.
- Store fireworks out of children's reach.
- Keep pets safe indoors.
- Always keep water handy.

Be Safe, when lighting fireworks:

- Only adults should light fireworks.
- Only use outdoors.
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a "dud".

Be Responsible after you finish:

- Soak used fireworks in water.
- Be considerate--clean up used fireworks.

- Keep matches and lighters away from children.

HAVE A SAFE AND FUN FOURTH OF JULY!

Content Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) (Users of Safety Talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.)

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