

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Most Americans celebrate Independence Day with food, family, and fireworks. It is important to know that fireworks can be safe if used properly. Most firework injuries can be prevented by following some specific safety guidelines.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- Two out of five people who are injured by fireworks are under the age of 15
- Those who use sparklers, fountains, and novelties, account for about 36% of all emergency room firework injuries
- Men account for 70% of all injuries

HOW MANY INJURIES CAN OCCUR?

In a report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an estimated 7,000 people were hospitalized and seven died from firework-related injuries in 2008.



THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING TIPS:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them
- Avoid buying fireworks that come in brown paper packaging, as this can often be a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers
- Adults should always supervise firework activities
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework device when lighting the fuse or while it is already lit
- Never point or throw fireworks at a person
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire
- Never shoot bottle rockets from your hands, metal containers, or glass containers
- Before disposing, douse used fireworks with water and keep them free from flammable materials such as leaves, wooden structures, and other flammable materials

THE SAFEST WAY TO PREVENT FIREWORK-RELATED INJURIES IS TO LEAVE FIREWORK DISPLAYS TO TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.

CDC'S REASONS WHY AND HOW FIREWORKS INJURIES OCCUR

REASON	DESCRIPTION
Availability	In spite of federal regulations and various state prohibitions, many types of fireworks are still accessible to the public. Distributors often sell fireworks near state borders, where laws prohibiting sales on either side of the border may differ.
Type of Fireworks	Even though fireworks may be legal, it still does not mean they are more safe. For example, bottle rockets can fly into people's faces and cause eye injuries, sparklers can ignite clothing, and firecrackers can cause injury to the hands or face if they explode at close range.
Proximity to Fireworks	Injuries may result from being too close to fireworks when they explode; for example, when someone leans over to look more closely at a firework that has been ignited, or when a misguided bottle rocket hits a nearby person.
Lack of Physical Coordination	Younger children often lack the physical coordination to handle fireworks safely.
Curiosity	People are often excited and curious around fireworks, which can increase their chances of being injured. For example, when they re-examine a firecracker dud that initially fails to ignite.
Experimentation	Homemade fireworks (often ones made of the powder from several firecrackers) can lead to dangerous and unpredictable explosions.

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

- According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2007 fireworks caused an estimated 32,600 reported fires, including 1,700 total structure fires, 600 vehicle fires, and 30,300 outdoor and other fires.
- These fires resulted in an estimated 6 deaths and \$34 million in direct property damage.

RESOURCES

www.cdc.org

www.cpsc.gov

www.nfpa.org

For more information visit
www.WellnessCoachesUSA.com

