

Family Safety and Legal Tips

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Keep Your Family Safe Around Fireworks



Protect Your Family from Fireworks-Related Injuries

Fireworks are very exciting and fun for people of all ages; however they can be extremely dangerous. Firecrackers, sparklers and rockets account for most of the fireworks-related injuries seen in emergency rooms each year. Many of these injuries can be avoided by following simple precautions when celebrating with fireworks.

Keep your family safe when celebrating with fireworks for holidays and special occasions. Review the Fireworks Safety Checklist below to help avoid preventable injuries.

Fireworks Safety Checklist

- ✓ Before using and buying fireworks, make sure they are permitted in your state or local area.
- ✓ Read and follow all warnings and instructions when lighting fireworks.
- ✓ Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Children cannot understand the danger involved and cannot act appropriately in case of emergency. Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close adult supervision.
- ✓ Sparklers—considered by many to be one of the “safer” fireworks—burn at extremely high temperatures (nearly 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit) and can easily ignite clothing and cause serious injuries. Never let young children handle sparklers.
- ✓ Light fireworks on a flat, smooth surface outdoors in a clear area away from houses, dry leaves or grass and flammable materials.
- ✓ Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- ✓ Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.



- ✓ Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework while lighting.
- ✓ Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that don't go off.
- ✓ Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.
- ✓ Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.
- ✓ Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



CDC Says: “Leave it to the Pros!”

The CDC recommends leaving firework displays to trained professionals as the safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries.

According to the CDC, 60% of injuries from fireworks in the United States occur around the July 4th holiday. Sparklers are associated with over half of the injuries among children under five years of age. The most frequent injuries are to the hands, eyes, and the head, face and ears. Burns account for more than half of all the injuries.

These are just a few things you can do to protect your family from fireworks-related injuries. Please visit Montlick.com or HelpKeepKidsSafe.org and click on “**Family Safety and Legal Tips**,” to see our latest safety videos and downloadable materials, and to register for Free Safety Alerts.