



FIREWORK
SAFETY

Fireworks Safety

Fireworks shows are the main event in 4th of July celebrations. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends viewing a professional fireworks display and discourages the use of consumer fireworks entirely, because there are so many injuries and fires every year. But for many families enjoying fireworks at home is an Independence Day tradition, and if basic fireworks safety is observed, it does not have to result in accidents and tragedy.

Why Fireworks Safety is So Important

According to the [NFPA](#), in 2011, 9,600 people suffered fireworks injuries severe enough to send them to the emergency room. That does not include the injuries and deaths in an estimated 17,800 fires caused by fireworks. In those fires it is estimated that 40 people were injured and eight killed.

The National Safety Council says that in 2006, about 9,200 people were treated for fireworks injuries with children between the ages of 10 and 14 being at three times the risk of injury.

Fireworks Injuries

The most common areas of the body to be injured include:

- Fingers
- Hands
- Eyes
- Head
- Face

Fireworks injuries to these areas can be severe and can include loss of fingers or limbs, severe scarring, blindness, and hearing damage.





A Word about Sparklers

Since sparklers are not explosive fireworks, it is easy to think of them as harmless and safe, and parents often indulge children who aren't allowed to light off firecrackers and bottle rockets by letting them play with them.

What you may not know is that sparklers can reach temperatures up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, easily causing third degree burns. The sparkler itself can be the source of a severe burn, and sparklers can ignite clothing, causing burns all over the body. According to the NFPA, 16% of fireworks injuries, in 2011, were caused by sparklers.

Using Fireworks Safely

By following some basic safety tips, you can greatly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries while still enjoying the 4th of July at home and away from the crowds. AccidentAttorneys.org has created a [fireworks safety checklist](#) to help you enjoy the holiday safely.

Fireworks Safety Checklist

	Know your local laws and wildfire threat level before purchasing and using fireworks.
	Always purchase your fireworks from a reliable, legal source.
	Store fireworks in a cool, dry place out of the reach of children and pets.
	Read the label, and follow the directions.
	Do not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
	If you allow older children to set off fireworks, an adult must supervise.
	Have a designated "shooter". Do not have a fireworks free-for-all.
	Shoot fireworks one at a time.
	Keep everyone else back a safe distance away from the shooting area.
	Do not allow anyone who is intoxicated to handle the fireworks.
	Only use fireworks outdoors, even sparklers.
	Only use your fireworks in a clear area that is away from flammable materials.
	Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
	Do not alter purchased fireworks, or try to combine them for greater effect.
	Do not make your own fireworks.
	Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles when using fireworks.
	Keep a bucket of water right next to you when lighting fireworks.
	If possible, have a water hose and fire extinguisher at hand also.
	Do not try to collect or relight a dud. Wait 20 minutes, then douse it.
	Never point, aim, or throw fireworks at a person, animal, or structure.
	Do not use fireworks in windy conditions.
	Place all spent fireworks in the bucket of water to thoroughly douse before disposing of them.

Have You Been Hurt?



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