



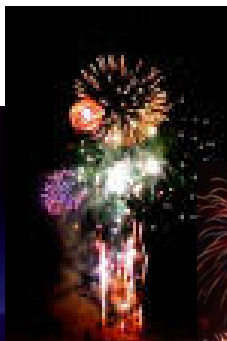
FIREWORKS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has estimated that approximately 10,000 Americans have been injured annually in fireworks-related incidents over the past decade. Children are especially susceptible to fireworks injury, with little ones between the ages of 5 and 14 accounting for 40 percent of mishaps. Most firework injuries are burns to the hands and face, and about 20 to 25 percent of those involved the eye. Bottle rockets are the worst offenders. Sparklers, the next most frequent cause of injury, create temperatures of 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt gold.

The good news is that injuries have been declining, and have indeed dropped by approximately 30% over a five year period, from an estimated 12,800 injuries in 1994 to 8,500 in 1999. Hopefully this decline reflects increasing public awareness about the dangers associated with pyrotechnics. In addition to the risk of personal injury, fireworks carry the danger of environmental injury, including fires. With serious misuse accounting for a large majority of the incidents, it is important to continue to spread the word about safety.

It is generally best, in the interest of safety to enjoy the displays arranged by professionals. In Arizona, this is a particularly wise decision, as home devices are against the law! Even at public displays, accidents can happen. A few simple precautions can help keep the show safe for everyone:

- Obey all ushers or monitors and respect the safety barriers set up to allow the trained operator room to safely do his job.
- Resist any temptation to get close to the actual firing site. In fact, the best view of the fireworks is from a quarter of a mile or more away.
- Occasionally firework components fall to the ground without exploding. Do not touch these fireworks. If you do find one, contact the local fire or police department.
- Leave your pets at home. They have very sensitive ears and the booms and bangs associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable - particularly to dogs.



- Leave the lighting of all fireworks to the trained operator when you attend a public display. Sparklers, fountains and other items that many states allow for use by private individuals are not appropriate to use when a large crowd is present. Leave your own fireworks at home - the display will provide plenty of excitement.
- Sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

In Arizona it is illegal to use consumer fireworks!



Be aware that using these devices inside state lines will subject you to legal action as well as placing you and your environment at risk. For other states, check the Council on Fireworks Safety for relevant laws.

If you decide to stay home this year, use your common sense! Fireworks in compliance with the strict regulations enacted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1976 function primarily by burning to produce motion and visible or audible effects. They burn at approximately the same temperature as a household match, and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if used improperly.

As a large percentage of fireworks mishaps are a result of illegal products, it is extremely important to stay away from anything obtained from sources that are not legal and reputable. Keep these tips in mind for a safe display:

- Learn the difference between legal consumer fireworks and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are not fireworks, they are federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury and even death.
- Use only products clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturers name and the instructions for proper use.
- NEVER give fireworks to young children. Close, adult supervision of all fireworks activities is mandatory. Even sparklers can be unsafe if used improperly.
- Check with you local police department to determine what fireworks can be legally discharged in your area.
- Never attempt to make your own devices and do not purchase or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
- Always use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass and trees.
- Always have water handy. A water hose close by is excellent.
- Always store your fireworks safely, preferably in a closed box, in a cool, dry place away from any source of accidental ignition.
- Always only light one item at a time.
- Never try to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never give ANY firework item to small children.
- Never throw or point fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot (fire) fireworks from metal or glass containers.

Despite the best precautions, injuries will occasionally still occur. Burns are the most common fireworks-related injury. The degree and level of contamination of this type of burn are frequently underestimated. When a fireworks burn occurs, it is important to take into account the likely presence of tetanus spores in the paper or cardboard of the exploding device. This possibility necessitates a course of systematic antibiotic, as well as a tetanus booster. Gunpowder residue, cardboard fibers, and ash are often tattooed into the burned area making these injuries candidates for surgical debridement and treatment. No matter how minor the burn may seem, seek medical treatment by a trained professional in order to avoid complications.

The next most common mishap from fireworks occurs in the form of eye injury. If you do sustain an eye injury, even a minor one, see an ophthalmologist, or visit the nearest emergency room right away. A serious eye injury is not always immediately apparent, and delaying medical attention can cause the damaged areas to worsen resulting in permanent vision loss.

Please consider the following tips when an eye injury occurs:

- Do not rub the eye. If any tissue is torn, rubbing may cause more damage.
- Shield the eye from pressure by taping the bottom of a foam cup or similar type of shield against the bones surrounding the eye (brow, cheek and bridge of nose).
- Do not apply ointment or medication to the eye. These medications may not be sterile, and may make the physician's exam more difficult.
- Avoid giving aspirin, ibuprofen or other non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs until directed by a physician. These drugs thin the blood and may increase bleeding.

Be careful, and have a safe and happy celebration!!!



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