



4th of July Fireworks Burn Prevention Guidelines

Common Fireworks Injuries:

- Associated risks include potential blindness, third degree burns, permanent scarring, and even death;
- More than **50%** of all injuries are burns;
- Body parts most often injured are hands, eyes and the head, face, and ear;
- Head injuries more frequently involve contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies in the eye.

2007 Fireworks Injury Facts:

- **42%** of the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15;
- Sparklers accounted for **one-half** of the injuries to children less than five years of age;
- Children 5 to 9 years old had the highest injury rate among all age groups, slightly larger than children 10 to 14 years old;
- Young people under 20 sustained **54%** of all injuries from fireworks;
- U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated **9,800** people for fireworks related injuries;
- **23%** of emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the eyes and **31%** were to the hands and fingers.

Fireworks Injury Prevention:

- **DO** keep fireworks away from children including sparklers, which can heat up to temperatures hot enough to melt gold! (The sparks can catch clothes on fire.)
- **DO see a professional fireworks display. *The safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.***

If a burn occurs:

- Cool the burned area with cool (not cold) water. **Never** put ice or cold water on a burn. That can make the burn worse.
- Cover the burn with a clean, dry cloth.
- Larger or more serious burns. (Seek medical attention immediately for burns that are larger than a person's hand, that are to the face or genitals or that are gray or leathery.)