



FIREWORKS SAFETY

With the summer season right around the corner, it will soon be time to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. Many of us celebrate by taking time off work, grilling outdoors, and watching fireworks displays.

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 7,000 people were treated in emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries in 2008. The highest injury rates occurred in children 10-14 years old with the majority of those injuries involving the hands, fingers, eyes, and legs ⁽¹⁾. Some of these injuries result in missing fingers, limbs, and even vision loss ⁽³⁾.

While more than one-third of fireworks-related deaths involved illegal fireworks sold to consumers; firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets were associated with the most injuries treated in emergency departments ⁽¹⁾.

The safest approach to enjoying fireworks and preventing injuries is to visit public fireworks displays. These exhibits are conducted by trained

professionals who know how to properly handle fireworks ⁽²⁾.

If you choose to celebrate by displaying your own fireworks, here are some important safety tips to remember ^(2, 3):

- Never let children play with fireworks
- Buy only legal fireworks
- Keep pets indoors to reduce their risk of injury
- Never make your own fireworks
- Always have a water hose nearby
- Wear protective eyewear
- Always use fireworks outside
- Light one firework at a time
- Never relight a “dud” firework
- If there is an eye injury, don’t rub the eye or wash it out- call 911 immediately.

For more information on fireworks safety, please visit the following web-links:

Fireworks Safety Information:

- [Celebrate Safely- Fireworks Safety Activity Book \(for children\)](#)
- [Firework Safety Tips](#)

References:

1. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
2. [The National Council on Fireworks Safety](#)
3. [Kids Health](#)

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