



## **Fireworks Safety**

*Fireworks are very dangerous and should be left to professionals*

**Fireworks, including sparklers and flares, can cause serious burns as well as blast injuries that can permanently impair vision and hearing.**

- In 2007, an estimated 2,600 children ages 14 and under were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for injuries involving fireworks during the fireworks season, which runs from the middle of June until the middle of July.
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 40 percent of the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.

**The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch them at a community event where professionals handle them.**

- Don't ever let kids play with fireworks. They're intended for use by adults in open spaces and children should watch from a safe distance with plenty of adult supervision to make sure they don't get too close.
- Keep all children under active supervision at all times and give them your undivided attention.
- Teach your children how to call 911 in an emergency and what to do if their clothing catches on fire - stop, drop and roll.

**Safe Kids USA recommends these precautions for adults using fireworks:**

- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them. Where permitted by law, fireworks should be handled and used in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and all warning labels.
- Avoid buying fireworks that come in brown paper packaging, as this can often be a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Visit [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov) to make sure the fireworks you're using aren't subject to any safety recalls.
- Don't modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.
- Light fireworks only on smooth, flat surfaces, and aim them away from spectators, buildings, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move back a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Don't try to relight fireworks that malfunction.
- Don't carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.
- Keep a phone handy, and know first aid for burns. Also, keep a fire extinguisher, bucket of water or garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap and douse fireworks remains in water before discarding.

*For more information about fireworks safety and burn prevention, visit [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org).*