



KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE: 10 FIREWORKS SAFETY RULES

Summer is here, with holiday cookouts and, sometimes, fireworks. Many people may not realize how many injuries and deaths occur each year with the use of fireworks.

According to a study of firework injuries by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Four deaths occurred with the use of fireworks in 2005.
- 10,800 injuries were treated in emergency rooms in 2005 (many of them over the 4th of July holiday).
- Two times more men than women are injured by fireworks.
- Children under 15 are especially vulnerable and account for half the injuries.
- Sparklers caused 1,100 injuries, rockets another 1,000 injuries in 2005.
- Hands, eyes, and head/face/ears are the most injured parts of the body.
- More than half of the injuries involve burns.

To keep your family safe, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends these 10 safety measures:

1. **Children should never play with fireworks**, even sparklers. Sparklers can start clothing on fire very quickly.
2. If older children use fireworks, they should be well **supervised by an adult**, and they should not run or fool around while using fireworks.
3. Fireworks should be **used only outdoors** and should be kept away from flammable materials, including dry grasses and leaves.
4. A **bucket of water** should be handy for both emergencies and for dousing "duds." Fireworks that don't go off shouldn't be re-lit.
5. Keep all participants away from fireworks before lighting them, including yourself. **Keep your body as far away as possible** when lighting fireworks.

6. **Never put fireworks in a container**, especially one of glass or metal.
7. To avoid a chain reaction, **unused fireworks** should be kept far away from the single fireworks that is being lit.
8. Fireworks should be **stored in a dry, cool place**; follow the storage instructions on the package.
9. Follow all your **local laws**.
10. Don't use **homemade fireworks**.

In case of a fireworks injury:

- Keep everyone calm, especially the injured person.
- Drop and roll if your clothes catch on fire.
- Seek medical help for burns.
- Do not rub, rinse, or use medication on an eye injury. Get medical help immediately, even if the injury seems mild.

Bottom Line:

Injuries from fireworks are more common than most people think. Protect your family by following these 10 simple rules of fireworks safety.

Source: "Fireworks-related deaths, emergency department treated injuries, and enforcement activities during 2005," a study of fireworks injuries by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
<http://www.cpsc.gov/library/2005fwreport.pdf>