

firework safety

SAFETY TIPS



Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.

Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.

Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.

Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks. Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully. Never point or throw fireworks at another person. Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.

Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.



Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap. After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire

BY THE NUMBERS

About 15,600 people were treated in hospital emergency departments for fireworks injuries in 2020. There were about 10,000 ER-treated fireworks injuries in 2019.

Of the 18 deaths, 8 of the victims (44 percent) had used alcohol or drugs prior to the incident.

Most fireworks-related injuries (about 66 percent) occurred in the month surrounding the July 4th holiday (from June 21, 2020 to July 21, 2020). During that one month period

Severe injuries related to fireworks increased in 2020. More consumers were admitted to the hospital, or were transferred to another hospital for treatment, due to severe fireworks injuries in 2020 (21 percent) versus 2019 (12 percent).

Young adults ages 20-24 saw the biggest spike in visits to the hospital emergency room for fireworks-related injuries, compared to any age group last year, 17 injuries per 100,000 people in 2020 versus 2.8 per 100,000 people in 2019.

Firecrackers were the biggest source of ER-treated fireworks injuries (1,600), followed by sparklers (900).

The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers, at 30 percent. The head, face and ears were the second most injured body parts, at 22 percent. Eye injuries were third at 15 percent.

Burns were the most common fireworks-related, emergency room-treated injury, at 44%.

(Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 2020 Fireworks Annual Report)