

Prevent firework injuries

Fireworks are all fun and games until someone gets hurt. In fact, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year and cause thousands of injuries. However, those facts still don't deter many people from buying and setting off fireworks each summer. To keep yourself and your family safe, practice these fireworks safety tips.

LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONALS

If you can, allow professionals to set off any fireworks. Attend a public fireworks event over trying to set up your own fireworks display.



SPARKLERS ARE SCARY

This popular pastime for children has proven to be one of the most dangerous. Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. They can ignite clothing and severely burn children who drop them on their feet. Safer alternatives to consider are glow sticks, confetti poppers and colored streamers.

KEEP CHILDREN AWAY

If you are setting off your own fireworks, do not allow children to help and make sure everyone is at a safe distance.

SAY NO TO DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Do not set off any fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol. Or, ask someone else who is not impaired to set off the fireworks for you.

HANDLE WITH CARE

Do not hold the fireworks in your hands or set off indoors. Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material. Do not point or throw fireworks at another person and never ignite devices in a container.

STAY AWAY FROM DEFECTIVE FIREWORKS

Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak both used and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding. Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or use in case of fire.

Source: National Safety Council