



SAFETY FIRST

Firework Safety – Americans love our traditions, and that includes Independence Day celebrations complete with fireworks. But we cannot forget that fireworks are explosive and incendiary devices. Nothing that kids should be fooling around with—and nothing for adults to take lightly, either.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that some 11,000 people go to the emergency room each year with fireworks-related injuries. So the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to go to a professional display. Most communities have them, and it is a chance to have a good time without risk.

Of course, there will always be some celebrants who want to give their own fireworks displays. If you decide to light your own fireworks, follow these safety precautions:

- Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, directions, and a warning label, do not light it.
- Do not wear loose clothing.
- Supervise children around fireworks at all times.
- Never allow young kids to handle fireworks. Responsible teenagers can help with proper training and close adult supervision.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Stand several feet away from fireworks once they are lit. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate. Douse it with water, and dispose of it.
- Light fireworks in an open area away from onlookers, structures, and shrubbery.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Have a hose handy to put out fires, and a water bucket to douse duds before throwing them out.

Stay safe by making wise decisions and taking proper precautions as you celebrate Independence Day this year.

Why It Matters

- The highest firework injuries are for firecrackers (24%), rockets (20%), and sparklers (18%).
- Almost half (48%) of firework injuries are to children under the age of 15.
- Sparklers can heat up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt gold.
- Parts of the body most often injured by fireworks are the eyes (30%), hands (29%), and head/face (17%).
- Bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than operators themselves.