

FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

## Fireworks



### Injury Prevention

#### Focus on Fire Safety: Fireworks

Every year in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July with community parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks - the things of which happy memories are made. But sadly, Independence Day also includes tragic events resulting from fireworks use. The safest way to enjoy them is through public displays conducted by professional pyrotechnicians hired by communities. Learning fireworks safety tips can help ensure that everyone has a happy and safe summer holiday.

#### Who is at Most Risk?

In 2008, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 7,000 people for fireworks-related injuries. 70% of these injuries occurred between June 20 - July 20. Of these:

- 46% of injuries were to the extremities and 36% were to the head.
- 56% were burns, while 21% were contusions and lacerations.
- Two of 5 people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.
- 62% of injuries were to males; 38% were to females.
- Devices such as sparklers, fountains, roman candles, and novelties accounted for 40% of injuries; firecrackers caused 18% of injuries.

#### What Can I Do?

- 1.) The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home - period.
- 2.) Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.
- 3.) Kids should never play with fireworks.

(Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit - hot enough to melt gold)

- 4.) Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction.
- 5.) Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- 6.) Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- 7.) Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.