

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY BREAKS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

LOCATION: _____

YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS: _____

DISCUSSION LEADER: _____

Today's Topic: Firework Safety

The Risks: Injury

Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain. On average, 230 people go the emergency room every day in July due to fireworks-related.

Solution: Make Safe Choices

- **Never let kids play with fireworks.** Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give sparklers to children, make sure that they keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach temperatures of 1,800°F (982°C), hot enough to melt gold.
- **Buy only legal fireworks.** Legal fireworks feature a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled. Illegal fireworks go by such names as M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarter-pounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- **Store your fireworks in a cool, dry place.**
- **Never try to make your own fireworks.**
- **Always use fireworks outside.** Have a bucket of water and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- **Steer clear of others.** Fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- **Be careful when lighting fireworks.** Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket — the friction could set them off.
- **Point fireworks away from homes.** Also take care to keep them away from brush, leaves, and other flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- **Light one firework at a time.** Do not light them inside of glass or metal containers, and never try to re-light a dud.

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- **Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event.** Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- **Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.**
- **Think about your pets.** Animals have sensitive ears and can become extremely frightened or stressed out on the Fourth of July. Keep pets indoors in order to reduce the risk that they will run loose or get injured.

If a child is injured by fireworks, immediately take them to a doctor or hospital.

If an eye injury occurs, don't allow your child to touch or rub their eyes, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention; your child's eyesight may depend on it.

If the injury is a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool (not cold) water over the burn; do not use ice. Call your doctor immediately.

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing that your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July, and your holiday will be a blast!

What should you do if you or a loved one receives a burn from lighting fireworks?

Has anyone ever been injured lighting fireworks?

Is it okay to hold firecrackers while lighting them?
