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## Firework Safety

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# Supervising Safety Newsletter

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades, and fireworks. Every year, thousands of people are injured severely enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, with the majority of these injuries involving children and young adults. While many of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade, or other illegal fireworks or explosives, less powerful devices such as small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant injuries.

Did you know that fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year?

### Firework Safety Tips

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- Fireworks should never be used indoors and should only be used away from people, houses, and flammable materials.
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person or hold a lit firework in your hands.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that do not go off, malfunction, or in case of fire.
- All used fireworks should be soaked with water before discarding.
- Never use illegal fireworks.

### Sparkler Safety Tips

Did you know that sparklers burn at about 2000 degrees?

That is hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing and children have suffered severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. Keep your kids safe this year by offering some safer alternatives such as glow sticks, confetti poppers, or colored streamers.

- Sparklers accounted for 25% of Emergency Room visits involving fireworks.
- Sparklers accounted for nearly half of all estimated injuries in children under 5 years old.

### Statistics

- 71% of fireworks-related injuries were to males.
- 15% of fireworks-related injuries were to the eyes.
- Firecrackers were the leading cause of fireworks-related injuries, followed by sparklers.
- Adults ages 20-24 years had the highest estimated rate of emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries (17 injuries per 100,000 people).

Remember that Independence Day should be spent with family and friends and not in an emergency room. The repercussions of a firework injury could affect your ability to work, leave permanent injuries and disfiguring scars, or even kill. Keep your family safe by ensuring you take all safety precautions using fireworks.

