

FIREWORKS *Safety* MONTH

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purpose



FIREWORKS FACT

A large firework exploding in the night sky, with two people's silhouettes in the foreground watching it. The firework is a large, multi-colored burst of light, primarily orange and yellow, with some blue and white streaks. The background is a dark blue night sky. The silhouettes of two people are visible in the foreground, looking up at the firework.

MOST FIREWORKS INJURIES OCCUR DURING THE ONE MONTH PERIOD SURROUNDING THE FOURTH OF JULY.

FIREWORKS FACT

A large firework is exploding in the night sky, creating a massive, cascading display of golden and red sparks. The firework is positioned in the upper center of the frame. Below it, a body of water reflects the light from the explosion. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a group of people are visible, sitting on a beach or shore, watching the display. The background shows a dark sky with some distant lights and a silhouette of a hill or mountain range.

**BYSTANDERS ARE MORE OFTEN INJURED BY
FIREWORKS THAN PROFESSIONAL OPERATORS.**

FIREWORKS FACT

A silhouette of a person holding a lit sparkler against a night sky filled with fireworks. The person is on the right side of the frame, holding the sparkler up with their right hand. The sky is dark blue and black, with many small, bright sparks and larger firework bursts scattered throughout. The overall scene is festive and celebratory.

**SPARKLERS BURN AT UP TO 2000 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT
AND ARE A LEADING CAUSE OF FIREWORKS-RELATED
INJURIES, ESPECIALLY IN YOUNG CHILDREN.**

FIREWORKS FACT



BOTTLE ROCKETS ARE UNPREDICTABLE.

THEIR FLIGHT PATH IS ERRATIC, THEIR FUSES ARE NON-STANDARD, AND THEIR EXPLOSIVE POWER IS ENOUGH TO TURN ITS CONTAINER INTO SHRAPNEL.

FIREWORKS

Safety Tips

FIREWORK INJURIES CAN BE PREVENTED BY TAKING THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS

IF CONSUMER FIREWORKS ARE LEGAL TO BUY WHERE YOU LIVE AND YOU CHOOSE TO USE THEM, BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS:

NEVER ALLOW YOUNG CHILDREN TO HANDLE FIREWORKS
OLDER CHILDREN SHOULD USE THEM UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION
NEVER USE FIREWORKS WHILE IMPAIRED BY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL
ANYONE USING FIREWORKS OR STANDING NEARBY SHOULD WEAR
PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR
NEVER HOLD LIGHTED FIREWORKS IN YOUR HANDS
NEVER LIGHT THEM INDOORS
ONLY USE THEM AWAY FROM PEOPLE, HOUSES, AND FLAMMABLE MATERIAL
NEVER POINT OR THROW FIREWORKS AT ANOTHER PERSON
ONLY LIGHT ONE DEVICE AT A TIME AND MAINTAIN A SAFE DISTANCE AFTER
LIGHTING
NEVER IGNITE DEVICES IN A CONTAINER
DO NOT TRY TO RE-LIGHT OR HANDLE MALFUNCTIONING FIREWORKS
SOAK BOTH SPENT 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 IN CASE OF FIRE
NEVER USE ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

BETTER YET - GRAB A BLANKET AND A PATCH OF LAWN, KICK BACK, AND LET THE EXPERTS HANDLE THE FIREWORKS SHOW.

(SOURCE: NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL)

FIREWORKS SAFETY *Month*

The best way to avoid a potentially blinding fireworks injury is by attending a professional, public fireworks show rather than purchasing fireworks for home use.

If you attend or live near a professional fireworks show:

- Respect safety barriers, follow all safety instructions and view fireworks from at least 500 feet away.
- Do not touch unexploded fireworks; instead, immediately contact local fire or police departments to help.

(Source: American Academy of Ophthalmology)



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NEAR A PROFESSIONAL
FIREWORKS SHOW:**

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follow all safety
instructions**

**View fireworks from at
least 500 feet away.**

**Do not touch
unexploded fireworks;
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police departments to
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FIREWORK

Safety Awareness

Injuries from fireworks cause approximately 9,100 visits to the emergency room each year in the US.

Approximately 15% of those injuries are eye-related!

The most recent Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) report found that 15% of fireworks injuries were eye injuries. Studies show that 99% of all ocular firework injuries occur from consumer-grade and homemade fireworks.

In the most severe cases, fireworks can rupture the globe of the eye, cause chemical and thermal burns, corneal abrasions, and retinal detachment — all of which can cause permanent eye damage and vision loss.

Children and young adults are frequent victims. Children aged 15 and under accounted for 36% of the total injuries, according to the commission's report. And half of the injuries requiring an emergency room visit were to people aged 20 or younger.

Firework injuries are responsible for about 2% of all reported ocular injuries. In 2017, fireworks caused nearly 13,000 injuries, up from 11,000 in 2016. About 15% of firework injuries involve the eye, with some studies reporting upwards of 31%.

Both fireworks handlers and bystanders should wear protective eyewear that confirms in product descriptions that it meets the standards set by the American National Standards Institute.

(Source: American Academy of Ophthalmology)



FIREWORKS *Safety Tips*

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU
EXPERIENCE A FIREWORK-
RELATED EYE INJURY**

IF YOU EXPERIENCE A FIREWORKS-RELATED EYE INJURY:

Patients that suffer a firework-related eye injury typically complain of foreign body sensation, ocular pain, decreased vision, redness, tearing, and photophobia.

Fireworks-related eye injuries can combine blunt force trauma, heat burns and chemical exposure. If an eye injury from fireworks occurs, it should be considered a medical emergency.

- Seek medical attention immediately
- Do not rub your eyes
- Do not rinse your eyes
- Do not apply pressure
- Do not remove any objects that are stuck in the eye
- Do not apply ointments or take any blood-thinning pain medications such as aspirin or ibuprofen unless directed by a doctor

Safety during fireworks displays can help prevent serious eye injuries, such as burns of the eye and open globe injuries, which may lead to loss of vision.

Protecting your eyes this Fourth of July can ensure you see the remarkable fireworks from public displays for years to come.

(Source: American Academy of Ophthalmology)