



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks safety (or lack of) is a big problem in the United States.

There are about 9,000 to 10,000 people treated each year for fireworks related injuries. This is only an estimate and does not include injuries that are not reported.

A majority of these injuries could be prevented by using simple safety measures when handling fireworks.

These are some basic safety measures you should take when using fireworks.

- 1. Buy fireworks from reliable dealers. Buying fireworks from a guy who is selling them out of his trunk is not a good idea.**
- 2. Make sure you read all the directions and follow them as well. You are using explosives, so it is important to know what you should and should not do.**
- 3. Use fireworks only outdoors. (*People have tried on several occasions to create "light shows" indoors.) Don't try this!**
- 4. Make sure you have an adequate supply of water available if needed. One bucket of water is not enough.**
- 5. NEVER allow children to play with fireworks and/or handle them by themselves. Always have a responsible adult present.**
- 6. Do not try to make or manufacture your own fireworks.**

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7. Do not light multiple fireworks at once. If something goes wrong with more than one, you will be outnumbered.
8. Do not point or throw fireworks at people or animals.
9. Do not carry fireworks in your pocket, backpack or purse.
10. Before disposing of fireworks, always soak them in water first.
11. ALWAYS use "Eye Protection" when using fireworks.
12. Never shoot fireworks from metal or glass containers.
13. Never hold a child in your arms when using sparklers or any kind of fireworks. Sparklers can burn at over 2000 degrees Fahrenheit which is akin to a blowtorch.

IF YOU SUFFER AN EYE INJURY FROM FIREWORKS:

1. Do not rub your eyes.
2. Do not rinse your eyes.
3. Do not apply pressure.
4. Do not apply ointments or take any blood thinning pain medications (e.g., aspirin or ibuprofen.)
5. SEE AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST (AN "EYE MD") AT ONCE FOR TREATMENT.

THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE ADVICE FROM YOUR MEDICAL DOCTOR. ALWAYS SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY IF INJURED BY FIREWORKS.

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For More Information About Fireworks Safety See:

www.geteyesmart.org

http://www.fireworksafety.com/safety_video.html

<http://www.cpsc.gov/nsn/fireworkssafety.pdf>

****BE SMART WITH FIREWORKS****

**A Public Service Message From the
Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology**