Fireworks Injuries

Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain, and even death. In 2011, CPSC staff conducted a study of fireworks injuries from June 17 through July 17. Here’s what we learned.

- 200 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.
- 65% of these fireworks injuries in 2011 occurred during the month surrounding July 4th.
- Illegal and homemade fireworks were involved in all 4 fireworks-related deaths reported to CPSC in 2011.
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.


Most Injured Body Parts

- Eyes 12%
- Heads, faces, and ears 4%
- Arms 11%
- Legs 17%
- Trunks 5%
- Hands and fingers 46%
- Heads, faces, and ears 17%

Injuries by Age

- 20-24: 9%
- 5-9: 10%
- 10-14: 9%
- 15-19: 1%
- 65+: 32%
- 20-24: 9%
- 0-4: 10%
- 5-9: 10%
- 10-14: 9%
- 45-64: 14%
- 25-44: 14%

Injuries by Gender

- Male were most injured from firecrackers, sparklers, bottle rockets, novelty devices, Roman candles and reloadable shells.
- Females were injured more often at public fireworks displays.

Injuries by Type

- Sparklers: 7%
- Firecrackers: 14%
- Fountains: 13%
- Novelties: 29%
- Unspecified: 40%
- Public Display: 14%
- Reloadable Shells: 6%
- Bottle Rockets: 1%
- Fountains: 13%
- Firecrackers: 14%
- Novelties: 29%
- Unspecified: 40%
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