

FIREWORKS SAFETY



It is estimated that over 8,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with fireworks each year. Approximately 50 percent of the injuries are burns. Most of the injuries involve the hands, eyes or head. Nearly half of the victims are under 15 years of age. Leave fireworks to the professionals!

- Sparklers, considered by many as “safe”, burn at very high temperatures, can easily ignite clothing and stay hot long after burning out. They are as dangerous as matches or lighters to children. Be sure to collect all burned out sparkler wires for disposal.
- Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close supervision. Never allow any running or horse play.
- Use lighters with a child resistant feature. Keep matches and lighters out of children’s reach.
- Light fireworks outdoors, one at a time, on a clear, smooth, flat surface away from houses, dry leaves or grass or flammable materials.
- Keep water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on misfired or spent fireworks.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.
- Be sure other people and pets are out of range.
- Never experiment with fireworks or ignite them in a glass or metal container. Do not attempt to make your own.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas. Store them in a dry, cool place out of reach of children.
- Dispose of all fireworks properly.
- Kids should never play with fireworks. Sparklers can reach 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt gold.
- 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.
- Think about your pet – animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed with fireworks. Keeps pets indoors to reduce the risk that they will run loose or get injured.

FEDERAL AND STATE FIREWORKS REGULATIONS

To help prevent fireworks accidents, the federal government under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, prohibits the sale of the most dangerous types of fireworks to consumers. These banned fireworks include:

- Large reloadable shells
- Cherry bombs
- Aerial bombs
- M-80 salutes
- Large firecrackers with more than 2 grains of powder
- Mail order kits designed to build fireworks

In 2002, Minnesota made it legal to possess, sell and use some types of fireworks. Examples of legal fireworks according to MN Statute 624.20 (c) include: wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item, other sparkling items which are non-explosive and non-aerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 200 grams or less for multiple tubes. Novelty items such as snakes and glow worms, smoke devices or trick noisemakers, such as paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers and drop pops, each consisting of not more than .025 grains of explosive mixture are also legal. It is illegal to use, sell or possess any fireworks that are explosive or aerial. These include firecrackers, lady fingers, sky rockets, bottle rockets, missile rockets, helicopter, aerial spinners, planes, UFO's, Roman candles, chasers, parachutes and aerial shells. Fireworks violations are explained in MN Statute 624.25.

Before using fireworks, make sure they are permitted in your state or local area by contacting your local Police or Fire Department's.

