



According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, nationwide last year (2009) there were two deaths and nearly 9,000 emergency room visits for injuries resulting from fireworks related incidents--about 200 fireworks injuries a day during the month surrounding the holiday. Most of these injuries happened to people under 20 years-old and were the result of using firecrackers, bottle rockets, and sparklers.

Sparklers, while usually thought of as a child's firework, can be extremely dangerous. Parents need to realize that there are many injuries from sparklers to children under five. They burn at over 1,500 degrees--hot enough to melt some metals--and stay hot long after they're done sparking.

People who choose to use fireworks to celebrate the Fourth should keep these safety tips in mind:

- Only use legal fireworks. In Wisconsin any firework that leaves the ground or explodes is illegal (i.e. firecrackers and bottle rockets).
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of a fire or other mishap. Place spent fireworks in the bucket of water or completely douse them with the hose before disposing to prevent trash fires.
- Adults should always supervise fireworks activities. Never allow young children to light them.
- Never light any fireworks inside of a building.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework when lighting the fuse. Move back to a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person or up in the air.
- Never try to re-light fireworks that have malfunctioned. Douse them with water and dispose of them properly.

