



Fireworks can be a fun way to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, New Years, or any other special occasion, but they can also be very dangerous.

In 2013 the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) conducted a study of firework injuries from June 21 through July 21. During this one month in the US:

- 240 people per day went to the emergency room for firework related injuries.
- 38% of these injuries were to the eyes, face, head, and ears.
- 36% of these injuries were to the hand or fingers.
- 8 people died due to firework related injuries. All of them were due to illegal or homemade fireworks.

On top of these injuries and deaths, fireworks cause almost 20,000 reportable fires each year.

To avoid becoming one of these statistics only go to a public display put on by experts and avoid using fireworks at home. However, if you must use fireworks at home please 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). Please note: the “permits” that can be purchased at some local firework stands are not valid in the City of Oshkosh. No one is allowed to use illegal fireworks. In Oshkosh the fine for doing so is \$232.
- 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.
- 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. In fact, 31% of all fireworks related injuries are caused by sparklers. They burn at over 1,200 degrees--hot enough to melt some metals--and stay hot long after they’re done sparking.
- 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.
- Also, please remember to be considerate to the other people in your neighborhood. Stop your home firework shows at 10:30 at the latest.