

June 2009



# SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

## FIREWORKS SAFETY

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), almost 10,000 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2007. Fireworks-related injuries have seen an upward trend since 1996, with spikes around the new millennium. More than nine out of 10 emergency room visits were due to fireworks-related injuries in 2007. Those who have the highest injury rates are children between the ages of 5 and 14.

Although you might think that most of the risk is to younger children, the highest injury rates are usually among teens. So as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July approaches, remember that there are no safe fireworks and no absolutely safe ways for kids and teens to handle them.

In 2008, the Missouri State Fire Marshal, Randy Cole said that everyone choosing to use consumer fireworks should follow some common-sense safety practices to minimize the chance of injury or fire.



**Attend public fireworks displays, and leave the lighting of fireworks to the professionals.**

Among these are:

- ☞ Always have adult supervision;
- ☞ Read and follow printed instructions;
- ☞ Always keep water and sand nearby;
- ☞ Never light fireworks indoors;
- ☞ Never try to make or alter fireworks;
- ☞ Never try to relight a "dud" firework. If one appears to have malfunctioned, wait 20 minutes and soak it in a bucket of water;
- ☞ Never lean over the top of fireworks when lighting them;
- ☞ Only light one at a time;

- ☞ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place;
- ☞ Only persons over 21 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any kind. Sparklers are often mistakenly considered safe for young children; however they burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing. Sparks emitted can also cause burns to hands and other exposed skin. Clothing materials can be ignited and young children cannot understand how to react appropriately.

### Other Important Information

- ☞ <http://childcare.about.com/od/hottopicinchildcare/a/fireworks.htm?p=1>
- ☞ [www.fireworksafety.com](http://www.fireworksafety.com)
- ☞ [www.Keepkidshhealthy.com/welcome/safety/fireworks\\_kids.html](http://www.Keepkidshhealthy.com/welcome/safety/fireworks_kids.html)
- ☞ <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=297&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Fireworks>
- ☞ [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firsaide\\_safe/outdoor/fireworks.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/firsaide_safe/outdoor/fireworks.html)

### Fireworks Safety Test & Answers

- ☞ [http://www.fireworksafety.com/test\\_questions.pdf](http://www.fireworksafety.com/test_questions.pdf)
- ☞ [http://www.fireworksafety.com/test\\_answers.pdf](http://www.fireworksafety.com/test_answers.pdf)