



# Fireworks and Summer Safety

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Each year in the United States, more than 10,000 people suffer eye injuries and burns from fireworks. Most of these incidents are related to the use of illegal fireworks as well as state-approved fireworks that are lit by amateurs.

The following tips can help you be safe this 4<sup>th</sup> of July:

- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Buy only State Fire Marshal-approved (Safe and Sane) fireworks. They must have the State Fire Marshal's seal on them and can only be purchased at licensed fireworks stands.
- Have a bucket of water and a hose handy.
- Always read directions and have an adult present.
- Use fireworks outdoors only and light one at a time.
- Never use near dry grass or other flammable materials.
- Parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks.
- Fireworks are not toys and should be handled by adults only.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing, and always use safety goggles.
- Use common sense and keep a safe distance.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never experiment with fireworks.
- Never attempt to re-light or "fix" fireworks.
- Never carry fireworks in your pockets.



## Nationwide Firework-Related Injury Statistics

- Children ages 5 to 9 have the highest injury rate involving fireworks.
- Sparklers are associated with the most injuries involving children under the age of 5.
- Sparklers can reach temperatures of more than 1000°F.

## What To Do If You Get Burned

- Cool the burn with cool water, not ice.
- Seek medical treatment or call **9-1-1**.
- Do not apply butter or ointments.

# Other Fire Hazards Associated With July 4<sup>th</sup>

## Beach Firepits

After a barbeque at the beach, many picnickers cover red-hot coals with sand thinking it will extinguish the hot briquettes. Instead, the sand acts as an insulator making the coals even hotter. The result of this action can lead to children walking over the covered fire pit several hours later and severely burning their feet. Every year, six to 12 youngsters suffer very deep burns on their hands and feet, which require skin grafts and months of recuperation.

## Barbeque Mishaps

Beware of mixing oil with fire! Every year, thousands of backyard chefs become impatient when their charcoal briquettes are slow to heat. To speed up this operation they apply more charcoal lighter fluid to smoldering coals directly from the can. The result of this action is that the hot briquettes ignite the stream of lighter fluid in an instant, racing to the can, and bursting into flames in the cook's hand.

## Public Firework Displays

You can enjoy a Fourth of July celebration with friends and family at a professional firework show. Many communities provide additional amenities including BBQs, concerts and children's activities along with a large firework show.

**Conducted by licensed, trained professionals, a public firework display is the smartest and safest alternative.**

### Safety Tips:

- **Spectators should stay behind barriers.**
- **Pets have very sensitive ears** and the sounds associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable. Leave pets at home.
- **Leave the lighting of all fireworks to the trained operator.** Most cities forbid the possession or use of any fireworks by private individuals.
- **To find a fireworks show near you, call (714) 573-6225.**

## Important Contacts

**Where to Find a Public  
Fireworks Display**  
**(714) 573-6225**  
**[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)**

**Report Illegal Fireworks**  
**(714) 538-3501**

**UCI Burn Center**  
**(888) 622-BURN**  
**[www.ucihealth.com](http://www.ucihealth.com)**

**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
**– Section on Ophthalmology**  
**(866) 843-AAP1**  
**[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)**