California Casualty

Don't Get Burned by Fireworks

Thinking back to past Fourth of July celebrations brings memories of parades, picnics, watching fireworks, and unfortunately, the pain of burns from sparklers. Each year my sister, a friend or I would touch the hot metal to a part of our skin, ending the fun. We were lucky. While fireworks are wonderful to view, they are dangerous to handle.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the majority of fireworks injuries in 2013 occurred in the [30 days surrounding the July 4th](#) holiday, resulting in 11,400 people treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated [17,800 fires](#) with eight deaths, 40 injuries and $32 million in direct property damage.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that even sparklers burn at [nearly 2,000 degrees](#), hot enough to melt wood, plastics and some metals and inflict terrible burns on mostly young people. The majority of injuries was to the hands and fingers, head, face and the eyes; caused mainly from firecrackers, bottle rockets and sparklers. The Emergency Nurses Association asserts that the damage from fireworks can cause permanent scarring – both physically and mentally to children.

Most Injured Body Parts

16% Eyes

22% Heads, faces and ears

36% Hands and fingers

7% Trunks & Other

5% Arms

The Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks, coordinated by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is calling for an [end of the use of personal fireworks](#). Their goal is to educate parents and caretakers before there are more injuries. They also urge people to attend professional community displays instead of using them at home.

Realizing fireworks are still used by families; the Consumer Product Safety Commission has developed these [essential safety tips](#):

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks

- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that they were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers

- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities.

- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse and back up a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks

- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully

- Never point or throw fireworks at another person

- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap

- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly

- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers

- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire

- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them

Remember, while they may be pretty to watch, the damage from personal use of fireworks is more than just statistics or numbers; they are real victims – sons, daughters, parents and grandparents. Think before someone in your family goes to the emergency room.

The NFPA also warns that more fires are reported on Independence Day than any other day of the year, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires. Is your home protected? Contact a California Casualty advisor to get a free policy review at 1.866-293-7547.

Get a quote at 1.866.293-7545 or www.calcas.com

For more information about this CCIC Business Affiliate Program, contact

Marie Gull – Field Marketing Manager

203-500-2260 or mgull@calcas.com

Sources for this article:

http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/holidays/fireworks

http://onsafety.cpsc.gov/blog/2014/06/26/dont-let-injuries-from-fireworks-become-part-of-your-tradition-this-holiday/

http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks/

http://preventblindness.org/sites/default/files/national/news_releases/Fireworks2015-National.pdf

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to educators, higher education employees, law enforcement officers, firefighters and nurses. Get a quote at 1.866.293-7545 or www.calcas.com.