



CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

FIRE, EMS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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FIREWORKS SAFETY MESSAGE

Every year in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July with community parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks - the things of which happy memories are made. But sadly, Independence Day also includes tragic events resulting from fireworks use. **In 2010, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,600 people for fireworks-related injuries; 73 percent of these injuries occurred between June 18 and July 18.**



Fireworks also cause serious injuries, including devastating burns and other injuries to children. In fact, fireworks send 3,000 children under the age of 15 to

emergency rooms each year in the U.S. The National Fire Protection Association reports that sparklers, which burn at about 1,200°F and are typically viewed by parents as relatively harmless fireworks for children, cause serious burn injuries, accounting for one-third of the injuries to children under five. The best way to protect your family is to not use any fireworks at home –period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.

Follow these simple safety tips-

- The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays hosted by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.
- Do not give children sparklers or allow them to pick up fireworks or other novelty items.
- If your friends or family members refuse to stop using fireworks, please follow these tips:
 - If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area.
 - Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
 - Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
 - Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
 - Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
 - Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.
 - Do not give children sparklers or allow them to pick up fireworks or other novelty items.

Information supplied from Safe Kids. Visit www.safekids.org for more information by fireworks and other safety information to keep kids safe this summer.