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Facts About Fireworks Injuries

Prevent Blindness wants all Americans to know the dangers of consumer fireworks. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports the following fireworks injury statistics:

- Fireworks devices were involved in an estimated 10,200 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2022 (the latest year for which data is available).
- An estimated 7,400 fireworks related injuries (or 73% of the total estimated fireworks related injuries in 2022) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments surrounding the 4th of July period.
- Males accounted for 65% of fireworks injuries.
- 28% of fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.
- Those ages 15-19 had the highest estimated rate of emergency department treated, fireworks-related injuries.
- The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (29%); head, face, and ears (19%); legs (19%); eyes (16%); trunk/other region (12%); and arms (5%).
- 38% of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to hands and fingers.
- There were an estimated 1,300 emergency department treated injuries associated with firecrackers, and 600 with sparklers.
- There were 11 reported nonoccupational fireworks related deaths in 2022.

Keep These Fireworks-Related Injuries in Mind

- A 5-year-old male victim was helping their father light reloadable aerial shell firework device when a foreign body entered his eye from the sparks. The victim was immediately taken to the emergency department where medical professionals flushed and treated the eye.

Facts About Fireworks Injuries *(continued)*



- A 19-year-old male victim was with friends when they decided to set off a roman candle-type device. Once the victim lit the device it immediately exploded hitting the victim in the face. The victim underwent eye surgery which involved the layers of his cornea being peeled back to clean out the debris. The victim also had a cut on his forehead that required stitches.
- A 33-year-old female victim was at a sporting event where they were performing a firework show after the game. The victim was looking up at the fireworks when debris landed into her eyes. The victim left the area and went to get help and water. Flushing the debris did not help and the victim went to the emergency department. Medical professionals dilated both eyes and gave numbing drops to the victim. The victims eyeball lens was inspected for damage. Medical professionals prescribed medication for the damage to both corneas.

Our Position: Protect Your Sight by Celebrating Safely

Prevent Blindness urges you to celebrate safely. Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Do not purchase, use or store fireworks of any type. Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks. Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

Prevent Blindness supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks, except those used in authorized public displays by licensed operators, as the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage.

For more on the Prevent Blindness position on fireworks, please request a copy of our complete position statement.

Source: Smith, Blake, Pledger, Dustin, Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities During 2022, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.