

• Stay safe on the Fourth of July

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When celebrating Independence Day, we usually think about spending time with family, hot dogs, picnics and fireworks. But, what we don't often think about is preventing fireworks accidents and injuries, even though this can be a serious issue.

According to the [Consumer Product Safety Council](#), 11,100 people were treated for fireworks injuries in U.S. emergency rooms in 2016. Of those injuries, 68 percent happened between June 18 and July 18. Here's what you can do to keep your kids and loved ones safe while enjoying the celebrations:

- Don't sit or hold children while using fireworks. Always stand so you can move quickly if needed.
- Always submerge used fireworks in water before throwing them away, to ensure that they're not still smoldering.
- Never try to relight unexploded fireworks. If they don't go off the first time, they are likely defective and could be dangerous.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby.

Never place any part of your body over fireworks when lighting them and cover the parts of the body most often injured by fireworks including

- Hands and fingers
- Head, face and ears
- Legs and arms
- Eyes

We wish everyone a safe Fourth of July!

by Ellis, Robert S at 1:29 PM