



SAFETY UNLIMITED, INC.

# Weekly Safety Meeting

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## Fireworks Safety

In 2017, at least four people died and about 11,100 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade, or other illegal fireworks or explosives, thousands were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

More fires are reported on July 4 than any other day of the year. On a typical Fourth of July, fireworks account for two out of five of all reported fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Each year, fireworks cause on average 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and nearly 17,000 other fires resulting in thousands of injuries.

Most fireworks injuries involve burns, but there were also contusions, lacerations, and other types of injuries. Let's look at some safety precautions if you're around fireworks:

### Top Causes of Fireworks Injuries

It's easy to become complacent and think those sparklers and bottle rockets are safe. But are they?

Firecrackers, Roman candles, bottle rockets, sparklers, and fountains cause around two thirds of fireworks injuries. (These are illegal in many states, so be sure to check your local and state ordinances).

- Firecrackers - 51 percent;
- Bottle rockets - 12 percent; and
- Sparklers - 7 percent

Illegal fireworks account for another 29 percent of fireworks injuries.

### Be Prepared, before you light fireworks:

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets.
- Store fireworks out of children's reach.
- Keep pets safe indoors.
- Always keep water handy.

### Be Safe, when lighting fireworks:

- Only adults should light fireworks.

- Only use outdoors.
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a “dud.”

**Be Responsible after you finish:**

- Soak used fireworks in water.
- Be considerate--clean up used fireworks.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.

**Remember:**

Fireworks can be fun and we certainly have something to celebrate. But a trip to the emergency room can ruin everything. Don't set yourself, friends, and family up for injuries. Reduce the risk by recognizing the hazards and mitigating the risk.

**HAVE A SAFE AND FUN FOURTH OF JULY!!!**

