

Firework Safety Tips

Do's

- Before purchasing or using fireworks, make sure they are permitted in your state or local area.
- Read and follow all warning instructions printed on labels before using any fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions. Never carry fireworks in your pockets.
- Use a punk to ignite the fireworks. Punks burn without an open flame and provide a greater, safer distance between your hand and the fireworks. Open flames from lighters and matches can cause additional fire hazards and should be kept out of the hands of children. Care still needs to be taken when using punks to avoid children being poked in the eye.
- Make sure an adult is always present when fireworks are in use. Young children should never be allowed to use fireworks under any circumstances. Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks if closely supervised by an adult.
- Sparklers, considered by many to be the ideal safe firework for children, burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing and other materials. Make sure spent sparklers are disposed of properly and not thrown on the ground where then can be stepped on or that people with lit sparklers do not run with them which could lead to someone being poked in the eye.
- Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area, away from houses, dry leaves or grass and flammable liquids. Only ignite one firework at a time.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that do not go off.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Douse firework debris with water before disposing in a garbage can. Make sure the garbage can is made of metal and not plastic.

Don'ts

- Do not allow any running or horseplay where fireworks are being shot.
- Never assume an ignited firework that fails to explode is safe to approach. A delayed explosion injures many people. Soak them with water and dispose of them in a metal garbage can.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially one made of glass or metal.
- Never disassemble fireworks to see how they are made or what is inside. Never mix anything with the contents to make your own firework.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Never use fireworks inside or in a vehicle
- Never ignite fireworks while holding them.
- Never use fireworks while drinking alcoholic beverages. Injuries may result from the slowness of response and impaired judgment.

Remember to follow these simple Do's and Don'ts for a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.

