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## FIREWORKS SAFETY PREVENTS FIRES AND INJURIES

No one plans to spend their Independence Day in the emergency room or cleaning up after a house fire, but many do each year because of fireworks, according to the Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service.

Of the more than 9,000 fireworks injuries that occur in the US each year, about 45 percent are to children 15 and under. Most injuries are to their head and eyes. Firecrackers, sparklers and bottle rockets are the leading contributors.

Most fireworks-related fires begin in brush or trash and spread to wooded areas, homes and even automobiles. Others begin when fireworks, such as a bottle rocket, lands on a roof and ignites combustibles.

The safest way to enjoy Fourth of July celebrations is by attending public fireworks displays conducted by professionals, but if you choose to use fireworks, the following safety guidelines can help keep your July holiday activities enjoyable, fun and safe.

- Only adults should handle fireworks.
- Make sure spectators are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-ignite fireworks that have malfunctioned
- Keep a bucket of water, a garden hose or a fire extinguisher handy.
- Never throw, point or shoot fireworks towards people, pets, buildings or vehicles.
- Do not use fireworks in wooded areas.
- Never let children play with or handle sparklers. The temperature of the ignited tip can reach 1200 degree F or greater.

END



## Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention:

# FIREWORKS SAFETY

On Independence Day in a typical year, far more fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other. *Turn your attention to fire prevention* this holiday by following a few simple safety tips.

Leave fireworks to adults.

Keep spectators out of range.

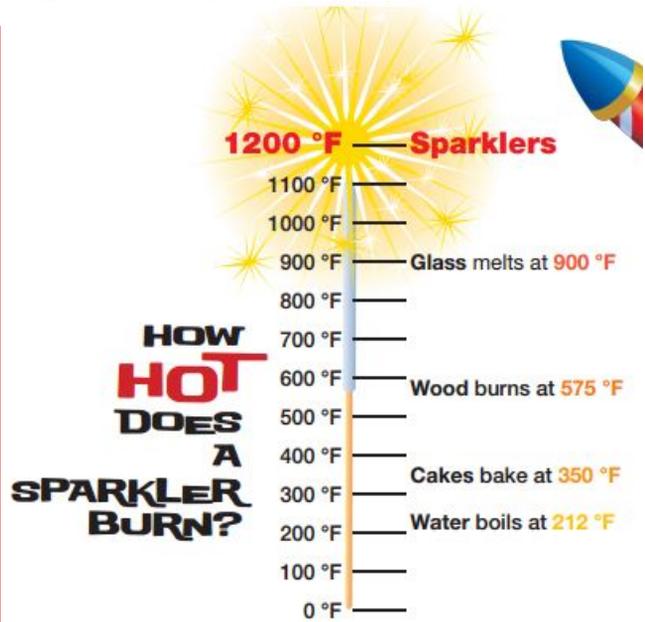
Never re-ignite duds.

Keep a bucket of water, a garden hose or a fire extinguisher handy.

Never throw, point or shoot fireworks towards people, pets, buildings or vehicles.

Don't shoot fireworks into wooded areas.

Never let children handle sparklers. The ignited tip can reach 1200 degree F or greater.



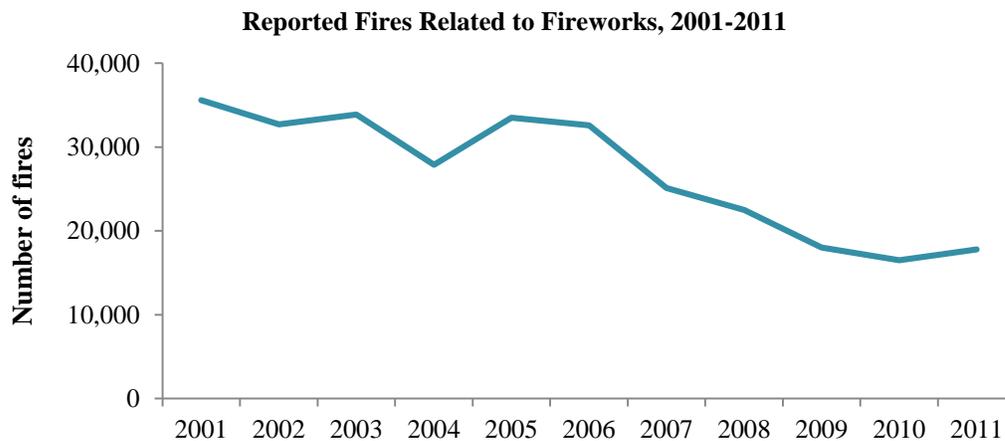
The best way to protect your family is to never use fireworks at home. Attend public fireworks shows and leave the lighting to the pros.

## Fireworks Fact Sheet

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### Size of the Fireworks-Related Fire Problem

- In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires, including 1,200 structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires.
- These fires resulted in an estimated 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage, with no reported fire deaths.
- On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks account for two out of five of all reported fires, more than any other cause of fire.



### Risk of Private Fireworks Use

Using 2000-2010 data, the risk of fire death relative to hours of usage is higher for fireworks than for cigarettes, making fireworks the riskiest consumer product.

- The risks with fireworks are not limited to displays, public or private. Risks also exist wherever fireworks are manufactured, transported, stored or sold.
- “Safe and sane” fireworks are neither. Fountains, novelties, and sparklers are designed to throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200°F.

*NFPA is strongly opposed to any consumer use of fireworks.*

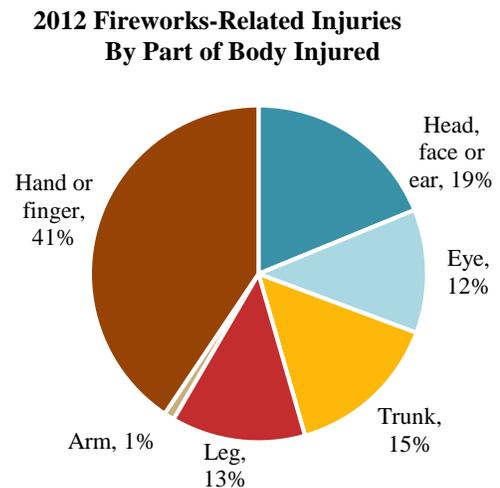
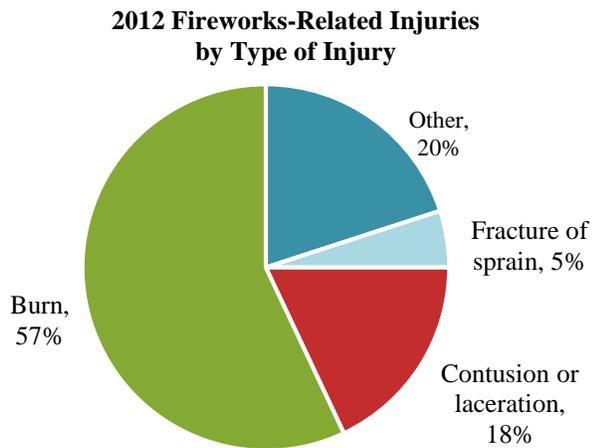
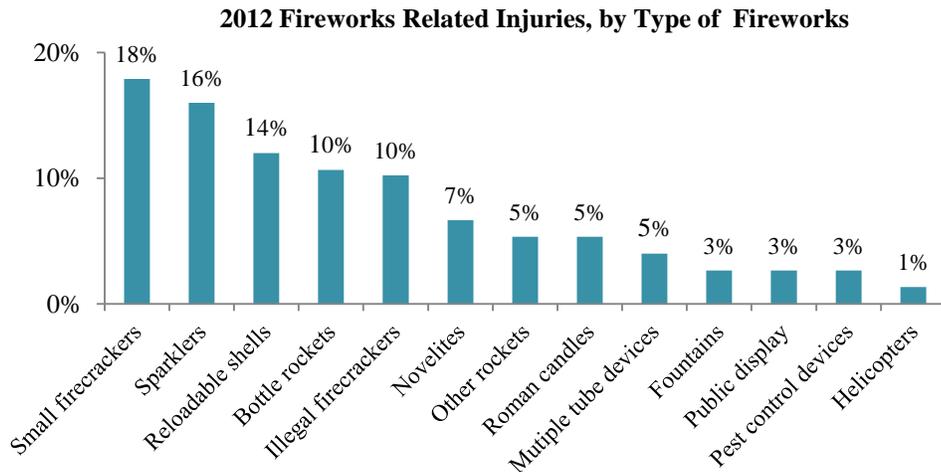
*NFPA encourages people to enjoy public displays of fireworks that comply with NFPA 1123.*

**FACT:** The following four states have banned access by the public to all fireworks: **Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York**

## Characteristics of Fireworks Injuries Reported to Emergency Rooms

In 2012, U.S. hospital emergency rooms saw an estimated 8,700 people for fireworks-related injuries. The injury estimates on this page were obtained from the [Consumer Product Safety Commission's 2012 Fireworks Annual Report by Yongling Tu and Demar Granados](#). The detailed statistics below are based only on injuries seen from June 22-July 22, 2012.

- Almost three out of five (57%) of the 2012 fireworks injuries were burns, while almost one-fifth (18%) were contusions or lacerations.
- Three out of ten (30%) people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.
- Males accounted for three-quarters (74%) of the injuries.
- The risk of fireworks injury was highest for young people ages 15-24 followed by children under 10.
- Sparklers, fountains and novelties alone accounted for one-quarter (25%) of the emergency room fireworks injuries in 2012.



Note: The reds and browns are extremities (55% of total) and the blues are parts of the head (31%).