

# Tip Sheets for Employees



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## Fireworks Safety: Stay Safe this Summer!

As July 4 approaches, it is likely that you're thinking about sitting outside with your family, friends, and neighbors, socializing and watching a beautiful fireworks display. Fourth of July can be a lot of fun, but fireworks can actually be very dangerous.

### The Dangers of Fireworks

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, fireworks were involved in an estimated 9,600 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2004. About 6,600 of those injuries occurred during the one month period surrounding the Fourth of July. Firecrackers and sparklers were the top causes of injuries; about half of the 700 injuries to children 5 years old and younger were from sparklers.

#### If an injury does occur:

- Stay calm, and if a child is injured, keep him or her as calm as possible.
- If your clothes catch on fire, lie on the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll. Make sure your children know how to do this as well.
- Seek medical help for burns.
- If an eye injury occurs from a fireworks explosion, do not rub, rinse or self-medicate the eye. Seek medical help immediately, even if the injury seems minor.

### Sparklers

Sparklers may be even more dangerous than fireworks since they are considered by many to be harmless items that are safe for children to use. But sparklers are actually the second highest cause of fireworks-related injuries requiring trips to the emergency room.

### Keep This Summer Fun and Safe

- It is safest to attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators.
- Always have water handy when you are around fireworks.
- Avoid sparklers. Sparklers can catch clothes or hair on fire, and they can heat up to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit (hot enough to melt gold).
- Do not let your child play with fireworks.
- Bystanders are more frequently injured by fireworks than the people who use them, so stand back.
- Be aware of the location of the closest phone, or carry a cell phone.



For more information about fireworks safety, visit the following web sites:

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)  
[www.fireworksafety.com](http://www.fireworksafety.com)

### Test Your Fireworks Knowledge:

1. It's always good to have \_\_\_\_\_ handy when having a fireworks display.
2. How many fireworks should you light at a time?
3. Where should you store fireworks?

#### Answer Key:

1. Water.
2. Light only one firework at a time.
3. If at all possible, don't store fireworks. If you must store them, make sure to store them in a cool dry place and keep them out of the reach of children.

### Firework Safety Measures

- Always read and follow label directions.
- Make sure an adult is always present.
- Only use fireworks as intended.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Obey all state and local laws regarding fireworks.
- Only buy from reliable sellers.
- To properly dispose of fireworks, soak them in water and place them in your trash can.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

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