


Facts About Fireworks Injuries

Prevent Blindness wants all Americans to know the dangers of consumer fireworks. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports the following fireworks injury statistics:

- *Fireworks devices were involved in an estimated 10,000 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2019 (the latest year for which data is available).*
- *An estimated 7,300 fireworks-related injuries (or 73% of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries in 2019) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments surrounding the 4th of July period.*
- *Males accounted for 66% of fireworks injuries.*
- *36% of fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.*
- *Children 0 to 4 years of age had the highest estimated rate of emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries.*
- *The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (30%); legs (23%); eyes (15%); head, face, and ears (15%); and arms (10%).*
- *58% of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to hands, fingers, arms, and legs.*
- *Contusions and lacerations were the most frequent injuries to eyes, which included foreign bodies in the eye.*
- *There were an estimated 900 emergency department-treated injuries associated with sparklers, 800 with firecrackers and 400 with bottle rockets.*
- *There were 12 reported fireworks-related deaths in 2019.*



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Facts About Fireworks Injuries *(continued)*



Keep These Fireworks-Related Injuries in Mind

- *A 9-year-old female victim was outside with her sister. A neighbor threw a cherry bomb at them. The cherry bomb went off, hitting both the victim and her sister in the face. The victim had the skin burned off of her face, and her eyebrows were also burned off. She could not open her eyes, had a cut lip, gashes on her throat and chin, and burns on her chest. She suffered second-degree burns.*
- *A 3-year-old male victim was playing with a sparkler that his mother had lit for him. He twirled it around and burned himself. The victim ended up with second-degree burns. He had a burn under his chin, burns on his neck, and spark burns on his hand. He now has scarring on his chin and neck.*
- *A 36-year-old male died from fireworks-related injuries sustained from an incident that occurred while lighting fireworks in a parking lot. An ambulance was called in response to an event where a fireworks device reportedly exploded in the victim's face. The victim was found in a yard in cardiac arrest, while a large crowd of more than 100 people were celebrating the fourth of July and setting off large fireworks devices. The victim received a large wound to his right eye and had to be*

moved into the ambulance. The ambulance took the victim to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. The medical examination indicated that the victim suffered burns all over his face and head, along with multiple fractures to the bones of his face and skull. The cause of death was explosive injuries to the head.

Our Position: Protect Your Sight by Celebrating Safely

Prevent Blindness urges you to celebrate safely. Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Do not purchase, use or store fireworks of any type. Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks. Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

Prevent Blindness supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks, except those used in authorized public displays by licensed operators, as the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage.

For more on the Prevent Blindness position on fireworks, please request a copy of our complete position statement.

Source: Marier, Allison, Yongling, Tu, and Lee, Stephen, Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities During 2019, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.