


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 15,600 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2020 (the latest year for which data is available).*
- *The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (30%); head, face, and ears (22%); eyes (15%); legs (13%) and arms (12%).*
- *44% of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to hands, fingers, arms, and legs.*
- *There were an estimated 900 emergency department-treated injuries associated with sparklers, 1,600 with firecrackers and 600 with rockets.*
- *There were 18 reported non-occupational fireworks-related deaths in 2020.*
- *An estimated 10,300 fireworks-related injuries (or 66% of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries in 2020) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments surrounding the 4th of July period.*
- *Males accounted for 71% of fireworks injuries.*
- *24% of fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.*
- *Young adults, 20-24 years of age, had the highest estimated rate of emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries.*



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Facts About Fireworks Injuries *(continued)*



Keep These Fireworks-Related Injuries in Mind

- *A 5-year-old male victim injured his eye as a result of a rocket-style fireworks device incident. The victim's mother lit the firework and stepped back for the ignited device to wait for detonation. However, instead of shooting vertically as intended, the device shot horizontally and hit the victim in his face. As a result of the incident, the victim was admitted to the hospital and lost his right eye.*
- *A 33-year-old female victim was struck in the face by a fireworks device while trying to light it. After the incident, the victim's fiancé drove her to the hospital where they flushed her eyes as she was unable to see. Her face and hair were also burned. The victim is now speaking with a therapist about the emotional impacts of the incident.*
- *A 3-year-old male victim and his father lit a smoke bomb in the street of their neighborhood. After lighting the firework device, they ran away from the device. During the run, either smoke or a foreign object from the device entered the victim's eye and caused a burning sensation; the victim was unable to open his eyes immediately after the incident. The victim's eyes were cleaned at the emergency department and recovered within a day.*
- *A rocket-style firework flew horizontally and hit a male victim in the face. He lost his right eye as a result of the incident.*

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, Smith, Blake, and Lee, Stephen, Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities During 2020, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.