

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 9,700 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2023 (the latest year for which data is available).
- An estimated 6,400 fireworks related injuries (or 66% of the total estimated fireworks related injuries in 2023) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments surrounding the 4th of July period.
- Males accounted for 67% of fireworks injuries.
- 31% of fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.
- Those ages 15-19 had the highest estimated rate of emergency department treated, fireworks-related injuries.
- The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (35%); head, face, and ears (22%); eyes (19%); trunk/other region (11%); legs (8%) and arms (5%).
- 42% of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to hands and fingers.
- There were an estimated 800 emergency department treated injuries associated with firecrackers, and 700 with sparklers.
- There were 8 reported nonoccupational fireworks.

Keep These Fireworks-Related Injuries in Mind

- A 16-year-old male victim was watching a firework display put on by the city. Someone who was not a city employee was also lighting fireworks, and a spark from their display hit the victim in the eye. At the emergency room, the attending doctor saw that there was a cut in the victim's eye and there was a cut just above the eye. After the victim was discharged, he was referred to a specialist for continued treatment.

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Facts About Fireworks Injuries *(continued)*



- An 11-year-old male victim was at a local park with neighbors who were lighting firecrackers. One went off and hit the victim in his left eye. The victim was taken to the emergency department where he was treated with eyedrops and discharged.
- A 14-year-old male victim was enjoying a firework display put on by friends and family when a box of fireworks fell over and started shooting out into the crowd. When the victim turned around, a firework hit him underneath his right eye. People brought water for the victim to wash his eye out with. The victim's father drove the victim to the hospital. The staff administered eyedrops, put cream around his eye, and gave him an eye patch. The victim was discharged with instructions to follow-up with an eye doctor.
- A 27-year-old male victim was with friends lighting a bottle rocket. The bottle rocket sprayed the victim in his right eye with exhaust when the bottle rocket popped. The victim flushed his right eye and then went to the emergency department, where he was examined for what the victim

described as a burn to the right eyelid, eyeball, and eyelashes. After treatment, the victim was referred to an eye doctor where he was diagnosed with a corneal abrasion.

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 the complete Prevent Blindness Fireworks Position Statement, visit [PreventBlindness.org/Document/Fireworks](https://www.preventblindness.org/document/fireworks).

Source: Hwang, Alisa, Pledger, Dustin, 2023 Fireworks Annual Report, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.