

“Using Fireworks Safely”

(Permission to reprint granted by National Safety Council, a membership organization dedicating to protecting life and promoting health)

Summer means picnics, barbecues, especially around the 4th of July. injuries from backyard grills, bonfires 8,800 people were treated in injuries to the fingers, hands, eyes

Children between the ages of 10 and by 5 to 9 year olds and then 15-19 were from sparklers, 17% were from small firecrackers.



parades and fireworks displays, Summer also means an increase in and fireworks. In 2002, an estimated emergency rooms for fireworks-related and legs.

14 had the highest injury rate, followed year olds. Over a third of the injuries bottle rockets and 14% were caused by

The National Safety Council advises that the best way to safely enjoy this 4th of July is to watch a public fireworks display conducted by professionals.

However, if fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- ☞ Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- ☞ Older children should use fireworks only under close adult supervision.
- ☞ Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from onlookers, houses and flammable materials.
- ☞ Light one device at a time; maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- ☞ Do not allow any running or horseplay while fireworks are being used.
- ☞ Never ignite devices in a container.
- ☞ Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks; douse and soak them with water and discard them safely.
- ☞ Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.

