



## Fireworks-Related Burn Injuries



- **Nationally in 2003, According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):**
  - Firework devices were involved in six deaths and 9,300 injuries treated in hospital emergency departments.
  - Two-thirds of all injuries were burns.
  - Five out of every 100 injuries required hospital admission or transfer to a burn center.
  - The hands, eyes, and, head/face were the parts of the body most commonly injured.
  - Firecrackers accounted for one-fourth of all injuries, followed by rockets, and other devices such as sparklers, fountains, and roman candles.
  - Hazard patterns include: errant flight paths of aerial fireworks, fireworks exploding earlier or later than expected, and debris/hot material from the fireworks device.
  - Males accounted for three-fourths of all injuries.
  - Children under age 15 are at greatest risk of injury, accounting for almost half of all injuries.
  - Sparklers accounted for more than half of injuries to children under age five.
  - Two-thirds of injuries occur in the days surrounding the July 4th holiday.
- **Oklahoma Laws:**
  - It is illegal to offer fireworks for retail sale to residents of the state before June 15th or after July 6th, and before December 15th or after January 2nd.
  - It is unlawful to explode or ignite fireworks within 500 feet of any church, hospital, asylum, public school, unharvested agricultural crop, or where fireworks are stored or sold. In addition, fireworks may not be lit in or thrown from motor vehicles or thrown at/near a group of people.
  - The sale, gift, distribution, or use of skyrockets with sticks as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation is prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, explosive devices commonly known as "bottle rockets".
  - Any city or town can pass ordinances as deemed necessary to regulate or prohibit the sale and use of fireworks within its corporate limits.
  - Information on Oklahoma's fireworks law can be accessed through the State Fire Marshal's website ([www.state.ok.us/~firemar/](http://www.state.ok.us/~firemar/)). Additional information regarding national fireworks regulations can be accessed by searching for the keyword "fireworks" at the U.S. CPSC website ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)).
- **The following recommendations can help prevent fireworks-related injuries:**
  - Never build or experiment with homemade fireworks.
  - Before using fireworks, be sure they are permitted. Check with your local police or fire department to determine what fireworks can be legally discharged in your area.
  - Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks. Even sparklers, which burn at 1000°F, can be dangerous.
  - Read all warnings and instructions.
  - Be sure other people are out of range and warned before lighting fireworks.
  - Never hold fireworks while trying to ignite.
  - Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from houses, dry leaves and brush, and flammable materials.
  - Never try to relight fireworks that have not functioned properly.
  - Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of a malfunction.
  - Contact the fire department if a fire starts.

***The safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.***