



Picnics, cookouts and professional fireworks shows are just some of the great traditions we all enjoy on the Fourth of July. But setting off fireworks is one summer tradition that can cause injury, blindness or even death.

Don't let a serious injury spoil your summer celebrations. Here are some ways to stay safe and have fun on our nation's birthday and all summer long.

1. **Don't set off fireworks. They're not safe for you or your children.**
2. **Educate your children about the dangers of fireworks.**
3. **Leave fireworks to the professionals.**



## Countryside Fire Protection District

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## Fireworks & Safe Summer Celebrations



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## Educate your children about the dangers of fireworks...



Each Fourth of July, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks—devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death.



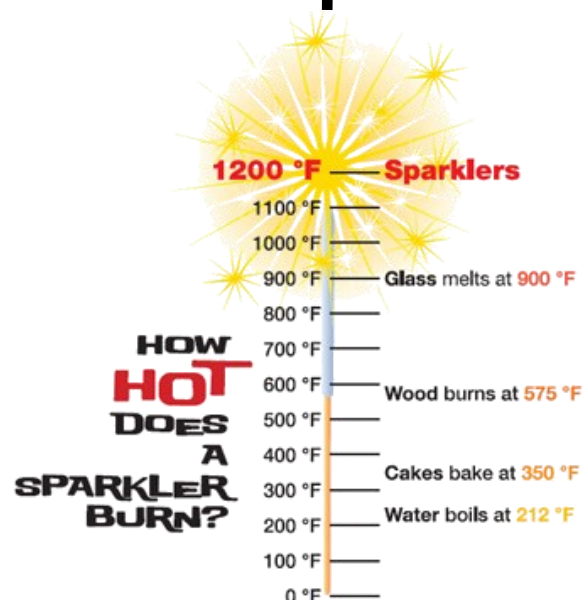
## Facts & Figures

In 2009, fireworks caused an estimated 18,000 reported fires, including 1,300 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in no reported civilian deaths, 30 civilian injuries and \$38 million in direct property damage.

In 2009, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,800 people for fireworks-related injuries; 53% of 2009 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 42% were to the head.

The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 10-14, with more than twice the risk for the general population.

On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for more than half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.



## Proceed with Caution!

- Leave fireworks to the professionals.
- Do not use consumer fireworks.
- The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.
- After the firework display, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, as they may still be active.

LEARN MORE ...

**"The risk of fireworks injury is more than twice as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population."**

Visit [www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education) for more information.

