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Safety Tips for Celebrating July 4th

Gathering with family and friends to celebrate Independence Day is a longtime tradition. Doing so safely is key to making the holiday enjoyable and memorable. Enjoying food and family is a usual part of most holidays but the 4th involves another element, fireworks. Everyone enjoys the bright colors during this holiday, especially children.

Fireworks can be dangerous and, in some cases, cause serious injuries such as burns. Being prepared for children of all ages will help make this holiday memorable and injury-free. Here are a few safety tips we should consider when using fireworks with our families:

- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of fire and to dispose of fireworks.
- Fireworks for the public will be packaged in bright-colored paper while professional fireworks are packaged in plain brown paper.
- Always have adult supervision.
- Young children should have an adult ignite their fireworks. The most common injury is burns from sparklers. These bright sparkles of light burn at 1800 to 2000 degrees and can cause serious injuries.
- Light fireworks standing to the side, not directly over the item you are lighting.
- Move away after lighting the fuse.
- Light only one item at a time.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks into metal or glass containers, towards another person, vehicles, or buildings.
- Never try to re-use fireworks that did not go off.
- Place all used fireworks and any that did not light in a bucket of water before throwing them away.

According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), sparklers alone account for more than 25 percent of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Alternatives to fireworks for young children can include glow sticks, silly string, confetti poppers, pinwheels or streamers. There are so many fun alternatives to traditional fireworks that will help reduce the risk of injury from burns. This year, enjoy your 4th of July by attending a public display and keep these simple safety tips in mind for fun safe family celebrations.

For more information about fireworks visit: [Fireworks | CPSC.gov](#) and [Fireworks Safety Tips - National Safety Council \(nsc.org\)](#) or contact Holly Miner, Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health Agent, haminer@ksu.edu, (620)331-2690.

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