

Fireworks Safety Month: June 18th-July 18th

With the upcoming Fourth of July celebrations on the horizon, it is time again to remind ourselves some basic safety rules about fireworks. Most of us realize that fireworks, even those deemed legal in some states, are in fact still very dangerous. In 2005, an estimated 10,800 people were treated in U.S. emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries. Because 60 % of all fireworks injury occur during the time around Independence Day, the period from June 18 to July 18th is recognized as Fireworks Safety Month.

The type of fireworks and it's percent of injury in 2005 included firecrackers (26%), sparklers (17%), and rockets (17%). Over half of the injuries suffered by children 5 and under were caused by sparklers. In addition, children 14 years and younger sustained about 45% of injuries related to fireworks and males were injured more than twice as often as females. Firework injuries most often affect the hands, eyes, and the head, face, and ear. Burns were the most common injury to all body parts except the eyes. In the eyes, contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies occurred more frequently. Persons who are actively participating in fireworks-related activities are more frequently injured, and sustain more severe injuries, than bystanders.

Safety Tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water in case of a malfunction or fire.

Michigan Fireworks Law: Sparklers containing not more than .0125 lbs (0-2 oz) of pyrotechnic composition, flitter sparklers, cone and cylinder fountains, snakes, and smoke devices.

For more information log onto www.cdc.gov/ncipe/spotlite/firework_spot.htm.