



**GROUP 6**  
CALIFORNIA WING - CIVIL AIR PATROL

## **60-Second Safety Advisor**

### **Fireworks must be safe, if not sane**

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed; you will enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be happy and safe. Here's how:

Don't ever let children play with fireworks of any kind. All fireworks are dangerous. Sparklers burn as hot as 2,000 degrees, hot enough to melt gold. For children under the age of five, sparklers account for three-quarters of all fireworks injuries.

Fireworks were responsible for 19 deaths in the first 10 months of 1999. Fireworks sent 6,300 people to the emergency room during the 1999 Fourth of July holiday. Forty percent of those injured last year were under the age of 14, and many of them were bystanders. 30% of the injuries that occurred last year involved burns to hands, wrists and arms, and 20% of injuries were to the eyes. 10% of children injured by fireworks suffer permanent damage, such as the loss of an eye, a finger or a hand.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. Don't touch or rub an eye injury as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention -- eyesight may depend on it. In the event of a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call a doctor immediately.

Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house and flammable materials. Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned. Have a bucket of water. If you find unexploded fireworks, don't touch them. Contact your local fire or police department immediately.

Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection.

Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers). Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.

Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

*(Note to all Group 6 personnel: Neither the Aircrew Safety Briefing nor the 60-Second Safety Advisor are meant to be top-down only. Comments, criticisms, suggestions and contributions are welcome and may be incorporated into future issues. Send comments to [cbagdikian@suddenlink.net](mailto:cbagdikian@suddenlink.net)).*



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