

4th of July **FIREWORK SAFETY** Tips & Warnings



The National Council on Fireworks Safety wants to prevent all injuries from consumer fireworks. Sadly, each year, there are over 100 injuries reported to the NEISS reporting hospitals. Based on these actual injuries, the CPSC produces an estimate of injuries on a national basis. The estimate for calendar year 2006, based upon 261 reported injuries, was 9,200 estimated injuries.

The CPSC 2006 Fireworks Annual Report shows, 2006 had the lowest injury rate since the CPSC began tracking injuries in the 1970's. Injuries per 100,000 pounds of consumer fireworks sold was 3.4 injuries in 2006, as compared to 8.0 injuries in 1997. Thus, the injury rate has dropped by more than half in the past ten

years. The rate has decreased both because of a large increase in usage and a general decrease in injuries. Read the steps 1 through 9 for understanding on how to properly use consumer fireworks.

Step 1

Before purchasing or using fireworks, check whether they are legal in your area. Find out your state laws, from the National Council on Firework Safety, concerning fireworks by going to: www.fireworksafety.com/laws.htm

Step 2

Buy only from reliable vendors selling fireworks that meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.

Step 3

Store fireworks in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children and pets.

Step 4

Read and follow all instructions on the fireworks label.

Step 5

Select an open area outdoors, away from dry grass, twigs and other flammable materials. If you select an earthen area instead of pavement, douse the surrounding area with water before you begin.

Step 6

Light all fireworks outdoors, with an adult present at all times.

Step 7

Keep a bucket of water nearby to douse fireworks in an emergency, or to put out sparklers.

Step 8

Light fireworks one at a time. Have only one person do the lighting, keeping an arm's length from the tip.

Step 9

Dispose of used fireworks by dousing them with water to be sure they are completely extinguished, then dispose of them in a metal trash container.

Tips & Warnings

- A large, paved space, such as a parking lot, is the best place to ignite fireworks.
- If a firework does not go off after being lit, stay away from it. After several minutes, put it into a bucket of water to soak, then discard it. Do not relight it.
- Never throw fireworks at another person or into a fire.
- Illegal explosives such as M-80s and M-100s account for more than 1/3 of all fireworks injuries.
- Pets are usually extremely frightened of fireworks and may react by bolting.

Information provided by: The National Safety Council & National Council on Firework Safety (retrieved May 2008)