Fireworks Safety: Prevent Burns and Other Injuries

Children are at special risk for injury from fireworks and account for more than one-third of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries.

+ FIRST AID

- *Call your child's doctor or 911 if it's an emergency (e.g., area burned is larger than hand; lots of pain; burns to face, hands, or genitals).*

- *Stop burning process by placing burn under cool water for 10-30 minutes.*

- *Keep person warm; don't allow a child to get cold.*

- *Remove clothing or jewelry near burnt skin.*

- *DON'T remove anything stuck to the burn – this could cause more damage.*

- *DON'T use ice, iced water, or any creams or greasy substances like butter or aloe.*

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Only use legal fireworks.
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Don't relight a dud! Never try to relight or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Use glow sticks instead of sparklers for children.
- Wear earplugs or earmuffs if setting off firecrackers.

HARD FACTS

- Sparklers can heat up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to melt some metals.
- Sparklers account for one-third of the injuries to children under 5.
- More than 3,000 children under the age of 15 are sent to the emergency room each year in the United States because of fireworks.
- Fireworks can exceed 150 decibels and can cause immediate hearing damage and loss.

STORE AND DISPOSE OF FIREWORKS SAFELY

- Store unopened fireworks in a dry place away and secure from children.
- To safely dispose, thoroughly douse fireworks with water and place them in a sealed metal trash container outdoors (never indoors).

Sources:
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC.gov)
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP.org)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov)
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP.edu)
Safe Kids Worldwide (SafeKids.org)

For more information on injury prevention, call 808-983-6800.

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