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FIREWORKS EYE INJURY SAFETY QUIZ

There is no safe way to play with fireworks. If one of your children was hit in the eye, would you know what to do?

1. Glass or metal from a bottle rocket strikes a child's eye. There is no bleeding, and the pain goes away quickly.

- a. Ignore it. There is nothing wrong.
- b. Apply ointment or rinse out the eye.
- c. Take the child to the emergency room.
- d. Give aspirin or ibuprofen pain reliever.

2. After an accident, the child is in terrible pain and wants to rub the eye. What should you do?

- a. Let the child rub the eye.
- b. Do not let the child rub the eye and go immediately to the emergency room.
- c. Give aspirin or an ibuprofen pain reliever as soon as possible.
- d. Apply ointment right away.

3. The child's eye has been hit by an exploding bottle rocket, a sparkler or another type of fireworks device. First:

- a. Tape or secure some type of protective patch against the bones around the eye area and go immediately to the emergency room.

- b. Apply ointment right away.
- c. Rinse out the eye right away.
- d. Give a pain reliever like aspirin or ibuprofen.

4. What is the best pain reliever to give to the child on the way to the hospital?

- a. Child-dosage aspirin.
- b. Adult-dosage aspirin.
- c. An ibuprofen-based pain reliever.
- d. Do not stop for pain relief medication.

5. Which of these is the wrong thing to do for a child's injured eye?

- a. Apply ointment.
- b. Keep the child calm.
- c. Tape a patch against the bones surrounding the eye.

6. Your child's friends are going to set off fireworks, and your child wants to play too. You:

- a. Remember that bottle rockets can stray off course or throw shrapnel when they explode.
- b. Keep in mind that about half of fireworks injuries happen to bystanders.
- c. Insist that the child avoid fireworks and take him or her to a professional fireworks display.

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening training, community and patient service programs and research.

ANSWERS

1. **c. Get the child to the emergency room.**
An impact injury, caused by something slamming into the eye, can lead to damage that your child cannot immediately feel and you cannot see. Vision loss, even blindness, could occur within hours or days. Only an eye doctor's examination of the interior eye can reveal the result of an impact injury.
2. **b. Do not let the child rub the eye.**
Rubbing the eye may increase bleeding or worsen the injury.
3. **a. Tape or hold a protective shield against the bones surrounding the eye.**
Do not apply pressure to the eye itself. Using a foam cup or the bottom of a paper juice carton are just two tips. Protecting the eye from further contact with any item, including the child's hand, is the goal.
4. **d. Don't stop for medication.**
Over-the-counter pain relievers will not do much to alleviate pain. Aspirin (which should never be given to children) or ibuprofen can thin the blood, increasing bleeding. Take the child to an emergency room right away; this is more important than stopping for a pain reliever.
5. **a. Apply ointment.**
Ointment makes the area around the eye slippery and harder for the doctor to examine. Ointment may also not be sterile.
6. **a-c. All of the answers are correct.**

Why You Should Leave Fireworks to the Professionals

Fireworks are extremely dangerous! Do not buy, use or store fireworks of any type. Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks. Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

- Bystanders often suffer. Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry shows that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than professional operators.
- Sparklers burn at up to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit and are a leading cause of fireworks-related injuries, especially in young children.
- Bottle rockets are unpredictable. Their flight path is erratic, their fuses are non-standard and their explosive power is enough to turn the "launch site" bottle or can into shrapnel.
- Fireworks can explode in the hand, throw sparks into the face, cast hot fragments onto limbs and ignite clothing. Sparklers waved around or tossed in the air are a danger to children and bystanders.
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2003, an estimated 6,800 injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms during the one month period surrounding the Fourth of July (June 20-July 20).
- Eyes were the second most commonly injured part of the body with an estimated 1,400 fireworks-related eye injuries treated in 2003.

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