

# Facts About Fireworks Injuries



Prevent Blindness wants all Americans to know the dangers of consumer fireworks. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports the following fireworks injury statistics:

- > Fireworks devices were involved in an estimated 11,400 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2013 (the latest year for which data is available).
- > An estimated 7,400 injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms during the one-month period (June 21–July 21) surrounding the Fourth of July.
- > 16 percent, or 1,200, of those injuries were to the eyes.
- > Sparklers accounted for 2,300 injuries, firecrackers (800) and bottle rockets (300).
- > Males accounted for 57% of fireworks injuries.
- > There were 40 eye injuries from viewing public fireworks displays.
- > 40% of fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.
- > For children under 5 years old, sparklers (79 percent) and firecrackers (11 percent) accounted for 90 percent of the total estimated injuries for that specific age group.
- > Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry shows that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than operators themselves.
- > Contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies were the most common injuries to eyes.
- > There were 8 fireworks-related deaths in 2013.

Prevent Blindness  
211 West Wacker Drive  
Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60606  
800.331.2020



over ↘

This publication is copyrighted. This sheet may be reproduced—unaltered in hard print (photocopied) for educational purposes only. The Prevent Blindness name, logo, telephone number and copyright information may not be omitted. Electronic reproduction, other reprint, exception or use is not permitted without written consent. Because of the time-sensitive nature of the information contained in this publication, contact Prevent Blindness for updates.

MK21 6/14 © 2014 Prevent Blindness® All rights reserved.

## Facts About Fireworks Injuries—Continued

### Keep These Fireworks-Related Injuries in Mind

- > A 4-year-old female was injured when her father set off fireworks from the driveway, and the victim was standing in the garage. One of the fireworks, which might have been a Roman candle, was ignited, and then fell sideways. The firework exploded and started shooting sparks toward the garage. Some of the sparks hit the victim. The victim suffered first-degree burns to the left side of her face.
- > A 5-year-old female and her mother were lighting sparklers on their driveway. The child's mother had a sparkler lit, and the victim walked in front of her. A spark from the sparkler went into the victim's eye. The victim suffered an abrasion to her eyeball.
- > A 9-year-old boy ignited a firecracker (size unspecified) and the firework did not go off as expected. The victim thought the firecracker was not lit and went to re-light it; the firecracker exploded.
- > A 24-year-old female was watching fireworks when she heard a boom behind her. When she turned around to look, she was hit in the face by an unspecified firework. The victim sustained second-degree burns to her face and neck. Her eye was swollen shut for 3 days, and her eye lashes and brows were burned off.

### Our Position: Protect Your Sight by Celebrating Safely

Prevent Blindness urges you to celebrate safely. Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Do not purchase, 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.

Call our toll-free hotline at **800.331.2020** to receive Safe Summer Celebrations. The booklet discusses the dangers of fireworks and offers safe alternatives. You can also request a copy of our ***Fireworks Eye Injury Safety Quiz***.

Prevent Blindness supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks, except those used in authorized public displays by licensed operators, as the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage. For more on the Prevent Blindness position on fireworks, request a copy of our complete position statement.

Source: Tu, Yongling and Granados, Demar V., 2013 Fireworks Annual Report: Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities During 2013, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, June 2014. (<http://www.cpsc.gov/Global/Research-and-Statistics/Injury-Statistics/Fuel-Lighters-and-Fireworks/2013FireworksReport.pdf>)

