

## FIREWORK SAFETY

While 4<sup>th</sup> of July brings out families to BBQ's, community events, and an evening of fireworks, many cities throughout Los Angeles County have banned fireworks due to their danger. As children of all ages begin to see "firework stands" at the end of June, children are drawn to the excitement of upcoming fireworks. You say you are careful and nothing will ever happen, but nearly half of all firework-related injuries and deaths happen among children and teens.



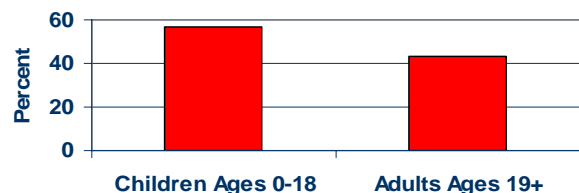
*Remember fireworks are-explosives!*

Kids are too cute and innocent to expose to the potential horrors of home fireworks. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns, loss of hearing, even blindness can be the lasting memories of what begins as a holiday celebration. This 4th of July, avoid the dark and painful side to fireworks - visit a *professional fireworks show near you.*

### More Children Get Injured From Fireworks

- The highest risk of firework-related injuries are among preteens and teens
- Children aged 10-14 have fireworks injury rates are three times higher than that of the general population
- For children aged 5 to 9, the rates of injuries from fireworks are more than double the average rates of firework injury for other groups
- The rates for injury from fireworks in teens aged 15-19, is double the rate of injury seen in the general population

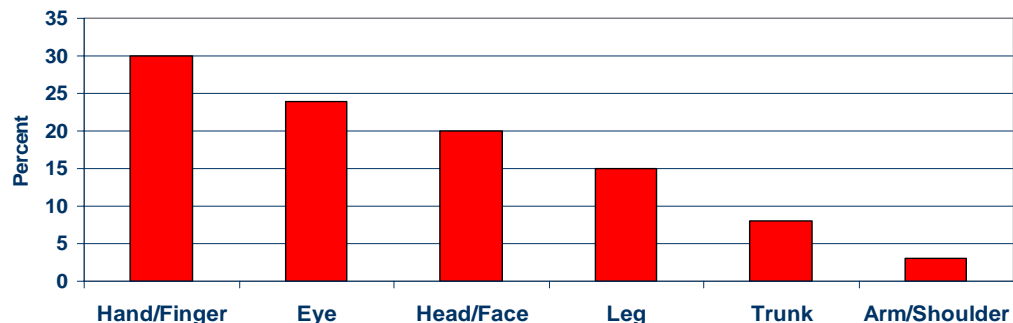
**Percent of Fireworks-Related Hospitalized Injuries by Age Category During July 4th, 2005, United States**



### What Body Parts Are Mostly Injured?

- Hands (30%)
- Eyes (24%) One-third of firework-related eye injuries result in blindness
- Head & Face (20%)
- Burns account for more than 50% of firework-related injuries, followed by lacerations and abrasions

**Fireworks-Related Hospitalized Injuries by Body Part Injured, July 4th, 2005, United States**



Source: National Fire Protection Association, Fireworks Report, April 2007

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## Types of Fireworks Responsible for Most Injuries or Deaths

- Firecrackers (31%)
- Rockets (21%)
- Sparklers (20%) - *A special note on sparklers:* Sparklers burn up to 1200 degrees at the end of the stick. Almost 50% of all sparkler-related injuries are among toddlers aged 0-4. Most are due to burns from other children, holding the stick improperly, and catching clothing on fire

## If You Choose to Use Fireworks-Follow These Important Safety Tips!

- While the Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health and County Fire Department recommend viewing public firework displays in your community, if you do plan on a private display, before you purchase them, make sure you:
  1. **Call your local City Hall** - ask if Fireworks are allowed where you plan to use them
  2. **Purchase "legal" fireworks from Firework Stands**
  3. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National County on Fireworks Safety offer the following tips:
    - Always read and follow label directions
    - Only "adults" should handle fireworks
    - Use outdoors only
    - Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket)
    - Never experiment or make your own fireworks
    - Light only one firework at a time
    - Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water)
    - Never give fireworks to small children
    - If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place
    - Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan
    - Never throw or point fireworks at other people
    - Never carry fireworks in your pocket
    - Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers
    - The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework
    - Stay away from illegal explosives

*Remember July 4<sup>th</sup> is a day of celebration of our Independence. There is likely a "free" community fireworks display in your community. Many are at parks, schools, stadiums, beaches, lakes where there is music, parades, picnics, food that begin early in the day with fireworks at night. For a firework show and celebration in your community call your City Chamber of Commerce or call (888) 654-FIRE!*



*Call 1-888-654-FIRE for a "free" firework celebration near you!*