

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) held a press conference on the National Mall to demonstrate the dangers of sparklers and some illegal fireworks, including M-80s and salutes. Improper use of fireworks or use of illegal fireworks can result in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns.

"Detonating these devices is best left to the professionals, because even fireworks that seem innocent can cause serious injury," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "For example, sparklers, that are often used by young children, burn at temperatures of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit."

"Fireworks can add fun and excitement to a holiday celebration, but they can also turn a backyard celebration into a rush to the emergency room," said Brown.



CPSC advises consumers to leave fireworks to the professionals. But if fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose handy in case of a malfunction or fire.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FIREWORKS SAFETY

FIREWORK SAFETY TEST

1. What is the first thing to do before lighting a firework?
2. How do you know if you are buying quality legal fireworks?
3. Where should you light watch fireworks?
4. It's always good to have _____ handy when having a fireworks display.
5. How many fireworks should you light at a time?
6. If a firework does not work after lighting it, how long should you wait before trying to light it again?
7. Should small children handle and light fireworks?
8. What should you do if a firework fails to work after lighting it?
9. Where should you store fireworks?
10. How should you dispose of a discharged firework?
11. How should you carry fireworks?
12. What part of your body should be over a firework while lighting it?
13. What safety equipment should you wear when lighting a firework?
14. Are illegal explosives like M-80's and Cherry Bombs really dangerous or just more fun?
15. Is it safe to throw or point a firework at another person?
16. How do you find out what fireworks are legal to buy and shoot in your city?
17. Should kids and teenagers be allowed to handle and shoot fireworks without a responsible adult close by?
18. How many fireworks should you carry to the lighting area?
19. What device should you use to light a firework?
20. Is it OK to drink alcohol and light fireworks?

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FIREWORK SAFETY TEST: ANSWERS

1. **Read the warning or caution label carefully and follow all directions.**
2. **Always buy from a reliable seller.**
3. **Always light outdoors away from combustible material, buildings and plants.**
4. **Water.**
5. **Light only one firework at a time.**
6. **Never try to re-light a firework.**
7. **No.**
8. **Wait for 15 to 20 minutes and then dump the firework in a bucket of water and let it soak.**
9. **If at all possible, don't store fireworks. If you have to store them, store them in a cool dry place and keep them out of the reach of children.**
10. **Soak them in a bucket of water before disposing of them in a trashcan.**
11. **Carry fireworks in their original bag or box.**
12. **No part of your body should be over the firework while lighting it.**
13. **Eye protection should be worn when lighting fireworks.**
14. **Illegal explosives are really dangerous and should never be used.**
15. **It is never safe to point or throw fireworks at other people or animals.**
16. **Ask a reliable seller or your local police or fire department.**
17. **Close adult supervision is always needed.**
18. **One. All other fireworks should be kept at a safe distance so they don't accidentally become lighted.**
19. **Except for sparklers, a punk should be used to light fireworks. A match or lighter is required for sparklers.**
20. **No. Have a designated lighter.**