

Fireworks Are Not Kid Stuff

If you want to celebrate with fireworks, we urge you to take your family to a public fireworks display. Back yard fireworks are not safe for children. Between 5000 and 6000 children are injured by fireworks every year. This includes about 120 hand or finger amputations annually. Permanent blindness results in about one third of all the eye injuries.

Pediatric emergency room doctors at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri reported a study of children injured by fireworks over a two-year period, and noted that 95% of the injuries occurred during the three weeks surrounding July 4. They note that careful parental supervision is not adequate, because a majority of the children treated for injuries were actually being supervised by an adult when the injury occurred! One quarter of the children injured were not even handling the fireworks; they were bystanders while adults were handling the fireworks!

Even sparklers are not safe. The intense heat generated by sparklers causes the majority of injuries in children under 5 years of age. All fireworks are banned in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, they are readily available just across the state line in New Hampshire. Please don't let this availability lead to permanent injury or blindness.