

Leave Fireworks to the Experts!



Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal, but they are not safe.

In 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful...(continued page 2)

Make Safety a Priority This 4th of July!



National Safety Council calculations indicate 164 people may be killed on the road during the upcoming Fourth of July holiday period, and an additional 18,600 may be seriously injured in crashes.

Drivers can take measures to protect themselves. Tips to ensure a safer holiday weekend include:

- Practicing defensive driving; buckle up, designate a sober driver or arrange alternative transportation, get plenty of sleep to avoid fatigue, and drive attentively, avoiding distractions
- Recognizing the dangers of drugged driving, including impairment from prescription opioids.
- Learning about your vehicle's safety systems and how to use them.
- Fixing recalls immediately; visit [ChecktoProtect.org](https://www.safercar.gov) to ensure your vehicle does not have an open recall
- Asking lawmakers and state leaders to protect travelers on state roadways.
- Joining the Road to Zero coalition to understand how safety professionals are addressing motor vehicle fatalities.
- Looking before you lock a vehicle to ensure no child is left behind in the back seat; at least 18 kids have died in hot cars this year

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Leave Fireworks to the Experts!
- 1 Make Safety a Priority This 4th of July!
- 2 Fireworks Safety Tips
- 2 Sparklers are Dangerous
- 2 Too Tired to Drive?
- 2 Reminder!!!!
- 2 Did You Know?
- 2 Safety Tip of the Month
- 2 Note From the Editor

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(continued from page 1)

devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires

Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to

melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

Too Tired to Drive?

The signs and symptoms of drowsy driving:

- Frequent yawning or difficulty keeping your eyes open
- Nodding off" or having trouble keeping your head up
- Inability to remember driving the last few miles
- Missing road signs or turns
- Difficulty maintaining your speed
- Drifting out of your lane

Reminder!!!!

Summer is here and the temperatures can reach into the triple digits! Keep heat stress from becoming an issue. Have your workers drink plenty of water and if temperatures reach triple digits provide drinks with electrolytes also. Provide shaded areas if possible.

Did You Know?

National Safety Council analysis indicates that more preventable, accidental deaths occur during the two months of July and August than during any other two-month period of the year – a trend that includes drowning, pediatric vehicular heatstroke, pedestrian deaths, natural disasters and gun-related fatalities.

Safety Tip of the Month

Vacation time is here, don't let a tragedy ruin it. Take safety along with you. Avoid overexposure to the sun, wear plenty of sun block. Avoid overexertion, warm up and cool down when exercising and most of all relax - That's what vacations are all about.

Notes From the Editor

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