

# Hand Safety With Fireworks

Many will gather with family and friends to celebrate the Fourth of July, and for some that will mean handling fireworks. It is important to keep in mind that the use of even the smallest fireworks can result in devastating injuries. Sparklers reach temperatures over 1000 degrees and can easily burn skin or ignite clothing. Larger fireworks can cause the loss of fingers or portions of the hand.

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**The safest way to enjoy fireworks is at a public display conducted by professionals. But, if you choose to use fireworks, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has the following tips:**

- Never allow young children to hold or ignite fireworks.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a firework device. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting the fuse, and only light one at a time.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, wait 20 minutes and then douse them with plenty of water before discarding in a trash can.

*Content provided by Emily Pitassi, MS, OTR/L, CHT*