

# Toolbox Talks

## Fireworks Safety Part 1



### Fireworks Safety Starts With Common Sense

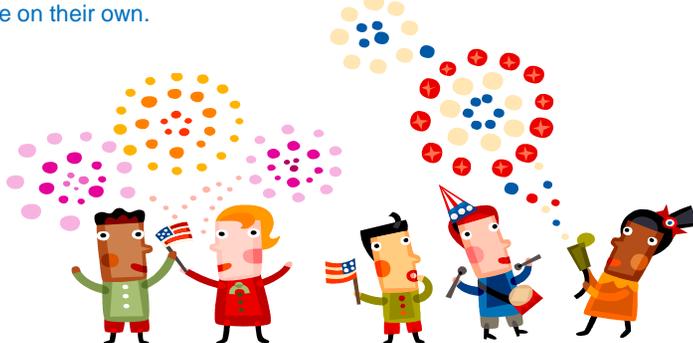
Using consumer fireworks on our nation's birthday is as American as apple pie, backyard barbecues, & parades on Main Street. & it is equally safe if a few common sense rules are followed, says Nancy Blogin, President of the National Council on Fireworks Safety. Nancy notes that thanks to testing of consumer fireworks in China, through the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory & other testing programs, & rigorous enforcement of federal fireworks regulations by the CPSC, consumer fireworks today are safer than ever before. But Nancy notes that fireworks related accidents do occur each year, however, most could be eliminated if some basic safety steps had been taken.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety offers these **common sense safety tips** for using consumer fireworks in the hopes that injuries to consumers can be greatly reduced this season:

- \* Parents & caretakers should always closely supervise teens if they are using fireworks.
- \* Parents should not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
- \* Know your fireworks. Read the caution label before igniting.

### Also note these special safety tips when using sparklers:

- \* Always remain standing while using sparklers.
- \* Never hold a child in your arms while using sparklers.
- \* Never hold, or light, more than one sparkler at a time.
- \* Never throw sparklers.
- \* Sparkler wire & stick remain hot long after the flame has gone out. Be sure to drop spent sparklers in a bucket of water.
- \* Teach children not to wave sparklers, or run, while holding sparklers.
- \* Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type on their own.



### Be Fireworks Smart Before, During, & After Your Fireworks Display

Consumer fireworks are a wonderful way to celebrate holidays. But they must be used carefully! With the opening of Maine to the sale of consumer fireworks, the National Council on Fireworks Safety urges consumers to be fireworks smart, before, during, & after their consumer fireworks display.

#### \*BEFORE

- ☀ Choose an open area away from spectators, homes, & buildings as well as dry vegetation.
- ☀ Use a garden hose to wet down the area before firing.
- ☀ Keep matches & lighters away from children.
- ☀ Obey local laws; if fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- ☀ Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets.
- ☀ Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives; they can kill you!
- ☀ Store fireworks out of children's reach.
- ☀ Keep pets safe indoors.
- ☀ Always keep water handy. (A hose or bucket).
- ☀ Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.

#### \*DURING

- ☀ Only adults should light fireworks displays.
- ☀ Only use fireworks outdoors.
- ☀ Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- ☀ Protect your eyes, always wear safety glasses when lighting fireworks.
- ☀ Use common sense; spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter.
- ☀ Alcohol & fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- ☀ Light one firework at a time & move away quickly.
- ☀ Never relight a "dud" firework; wait 20 minutes & then soak it in a bucket of water.

#### \*AFTER

- ☀ Soak used fireworks in water.
- ☀ Be considerate--clean up used fireworks.
- ☀ Place all used items in a covered, fireproof container or garbage can & leave it outside & away from homes & buildings.

\* All information found at [safetytoolboxtalks.com](http://safetytoolboxtalks.com) & [fireworkssafety.org](http://fireworkssafety.org)