



2021 FIREWORKS SAFETY TALKING POINTS

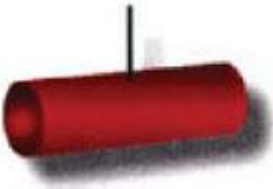
Based on [Consumer Product Safety Commission's 2020 Fireworks Annual Report](#)
Posted on June 29, 2021:

- CPSC staff received reports of 18 non-occupational, fireworks-related deaths during 2020. Twelve of the deaths were associated with misuse of fireworks, 1 death was associated with fireworks device malfunction (electric match malfunction), and 5 incidents were associated with unknown circumstances. *Reporting of fireworks-related deaths for 2020 is not complete, and the number of deaths in 2020 should be considered a minimum.*
- Fireworks were involved with an estimated 15,600 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2020 (95 percent confidence interval 12,300 – 19,000). The estimated rate of fireworks-related, emergency department-treated injuries in the United States is 3.1 per 100,000 individuals.
- An estimated 10,300 fireworks-related injuries (or 66 percent of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries in 2020) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during the 1-month special study period between June 21, 2020 and July 21, 2020 (95 percent confidence interval 7,800 - 12,700).
- Of the 15,600 estimated fireworks-related injuries sustained in 2020, 71 percent were to males and 29 percent were to females.
- Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for 24 percent of the estimated fireworks-related injuries. Similar to past years, nearly half of the estimated emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries were to individuals younger than 20 years of age.
- Children 0 to 4 years of age had an estimated rate of emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries of 5.3 injuries per 100,000 people. Teens 15 to 19 years of age had an estimated rate of 6.1 injuries per 100,000 people.
- There were an estimated 900 emergency department-treated injuries associated with sparklers and 600 with bottle and other rockets.
- There were an estimated 1,600 emergency department-treated injuries associated with firecrackers. Of these, an estimated 19 percent were associated with small firecrackers, 25 percent with illegal firecrackers, and the remaining 56 percent were associated with firecrackers of an unspecified size.
- The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (an estimated 30 percent); legs (an estimated 13 percent); eyes (an estimated 16 percent);

head, face, and ears (an estimated 22 percent); and arms (an estimated 12 percent).

- Forty-four percent of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to hands, fingers, arms, and legs. Contusions and lacerations were the most frequent injuries to eyes, which included foreign bodies in the eye.
- CPSC Firework Information Center <https://cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks>

Some indicators that a device may be an illegal explosive are:



- *It resembles a roll of coins with a fuse.*
- *It consists of a cardboard tube or oddly shaped item wrapped in brown paper and filled with an explosive material.*
- *It is red, silver, or brown in color*
- *It may be 1 to 6 inches long and up to an inch or more in diameter.*
- *It is sold on the street or out of the back of someone's vehicle.*

<https://www.atf.gov/explosives/fireworks>

A Directory of State Laws for Fireworks by state: <http://www.americanpyro.com/state-law-directory>

Prevent Blindness recommends:

- The best defense against severe eye injuries and burns is to not play with any fireworks.
- Do not purchase, use or store fireworks of any type. Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks. Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.
- Prevent Blindness supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks, except those used in authorized public displays by licensed operators, as the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage.