



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Brian M. Satula
Administrator

Scott Walker
Governor

For more information contact: Tod Pritchard, WEM Office: (608) 242-3324
Cell: (608) 219-4008

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4th of July Holiday: Play It Safe
Injuries from fireworks a major concern for the week

(MADISON) – The 4th of July and fireworks just go together. With the holiday weekend approaching this is a great time to remember the dangers of fireworks which can cause serious injuries and death if not properly used.

- In 2010, 15,500 fires were started by fireworks resulting in eight deaths and \$36 million in direct property damage.
- Doctors treated 8,800 fireworks-related injuries in U.S. hospital emergency rooms
- 52% of fireworks injuries were burns
- 21% of injuries were contusions and lacerations
- 39% of those victims were under the age of 15.
- 65% of the injured were males.
- Sparklers, fountains and novelties accounted for 43% of emergency room injuries.
- Sparklers are designed to throw off showers of hot sparks with temperatures exceeding 1200 degrees.

(Courtesy National Fire Protection Association)

But you can protect yourself and your family by knowing these simple facts and tips:

- NEVER allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Adults igniting the fireworks should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Only buy fireworks from reliable sellers.
- Use fireworks only outdoors.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose or a bucket).
- Light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from buildings, dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people or animals.

- Keep your pets indoors to reduce the risk that they will run loose and get injured. Many animals have very sensitive ears and can be stressed or frightened due to the lighting of fireworks.

The best advice, leave the fireworks displays to trained professionals. Then sit back and “ohhh...ahhh” as you enjoy the show!