

FIREWORKS SAFETY



Keep the Sparks in the Sky this Fourth of July



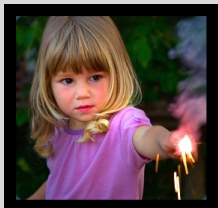
There is no doubt that fireworks are breathtaking, but the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District would like to remind you that each July Fourth, thousands of people, are injured each year while using fireworks.

According to the National Fire Protection Association in 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires. These fires resulted in an estimated 8 civilian deaths, 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage. U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,600 people from firework-related injuries. Injuries are most commonly treated as burns to all body parts as well as contusions and lacerations to the head, eyes, and ears. The risk of firework's injury is typically highest for children ages 5-9, and adults ages 25-44.

BSFD's primary message this July season is to leave fireworks up to the professionals!

However, if you are planning on purchasing fireworks, please make sure to take these precautions:

- ◆ Remove all flammables within 10-15 feet around the designated area.
- ◆ Establish a well-defined space into which only ONE person will enter to set up and light the fireworks.
- ◆ Children should not handle, play with, or light fireworks for any reason.
- ◆ Approach a firework after 45-60 seconds has passed since its last activity to ensure it is out.
- ◆ Keep a bucket of water or a hose within reach, and make sure the hose is long enough to reach 10 ft. beyond the fireworks.
- ◆ Always discharge fireworks outside. After lit, move away slowly to avoid tripping and falling.
- ◆ Verify that the firework is 100% cold before placing it in the trash.
- ◆ Never relight a dud; if a firework fails to make any action, wait 5 minutes before removing it.



Did you know that sparklers burn at over 1000 degrees? That's enough to melt gold...and little fingers! Even seemingly "safe" fireworks can cause severe injuries if not used safely.