



SAFE KIDS USA POSITION STATEMENT KIDS AND FIREWORKS

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that 7,000 fireworks-related injuries were treated in emergency departments in 2008. Between June 20 and July 20, 2008, children ages 14 and under accounted for 40% of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries, with children under 5 suffering 14% of the injuries during that period and children ages 5-14 accounting for 26%. For children under the age of 5, sparklers accounted for almost one-third of the injuries. Children ages 5-14 also had an estimated 200 injuries from sparklers. No fireworks-related deaths to children were reported in 2008. According to the CPSC's annual fireworks report, victims are often injured by fireworks used by other people.

The risks associated with fireworks are:

- **Burns:** According to CPSC, more than half of the fireworks-related injuries that occurred in 2008 were burns.
- **Contusions/Lacerations:** The second most common type of injuries were contusions and lacerations.
- **Long-Term Consequences:** Fireworks injuries may have long-term and lifelong consequences for victims, including missing extremities, scarring from burns and vision and hearing impairment.
- **Deaths and Injuries from Resulting Fires:** According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2006, an estimated 32,600 reported fires were started by fireworks. These fires resulted in 6 civilian deaths and 70 civilian injuries.

Safe Kids USA's policy is that consumers should never use fireworks around children or around structures that may catch on fire. Even sparklers, which burn at 2000 degrees, can pose risks, including burning children or setting their clothing on fire. Families are encouraged to enjoy public fireworks displays put on by professionals.

Among the concurring organizations are:

The American Academy of Pediatrics
PEDIATRICS Vol. 108 No. 1 July 2001, reaffirmed in 2005 and 2008
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/108/1/190>

The National Fire Protection Association