



# Regional Medical Center at Memphis

## Be Fireworks Smart Before You Start

*Consumer fireworks are a wonderful way to celebrate. But they must be used carefully!*

The National Council on Fireworks Safety urges consumers to be fireworks smart, before, during and after their consumer fireworks display.

### Before:

- Choose an open area away from spectators, homes and buildings and dry vegetation.
- Use a garden hose to wet down the area before firing.

### During:

- As each device burns out, soak it using a hose, or bucket of water.

### After:

- Place all used items in a covered, fireproof container and leave it outside and away from homes and buildings.

“Fireworks are beautiful and add fun and excitement to holiday celebrations. But you must be fireworks smart when you use them,” says National Council Vice President Jack Leonard. And remember the following special fireworks safety tips for sparklers:

- **Children under the age of 12 should not use sparklers without *very close* adult supervision.**
- 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.
- Sparklers and bare feet can be a painful combination. Always wear closed-toe shoes when using sparklers.
- Sparkler wire and stick remain hot long after the flame has gone out. Be sure to drop the spent sparklers directly in a bucket of water.
- Never hand a lighted sparkler to another person. Give them the unlit sparkler and then light it.
- Always stand at least 6 feet from another person while using sparklers.
- Never throw sparklers.
- Show children how to hold sparklers away from their body and at arm’s length.
- Teach children not to wave sparklers, especially wooden stick sparklers, or run while holding sparklers.

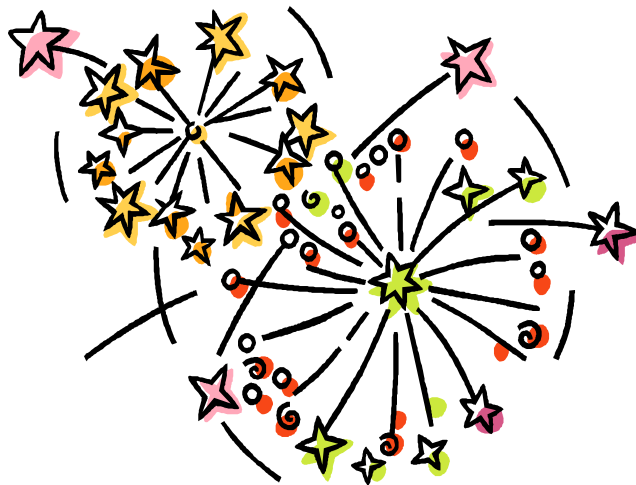


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## REMEMBER...

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Always have water handy. (A hose or bucket).
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives: They can kill you! Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.

**Source:** *The National Council on Fireworks Safety*



This information is brought to you by the  
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