



# FIREWORK SAFETY



Firework-related injuries, fatalities, and property damage are a serious concern, particularly around the Fourth of July, when fireworks are most commonly used. Here are some key points and safety tips to help prevent these incidents:

## KEY POINTS:

1. High Injury Rates: Over 10,000 firework-related injuries treated in U.S. emergency rooms in 2023 indicate the potential dangers of fireworks.
2. Fatal Incidents: Fireworks can be deadly, with 11 fatalities reported in 2023.
3. Common Injury Types: Injuries often include burns, lacerations, and eye injuries. The hands, fingers, head, face, and eyes are the most commonly affected areas.
4. Demographics: Children and young adults are particularly at risk, with a significant number of injuries occurring in individuals under the age of 20.

## SAFETY TIPS:

1. Supervision: Always have an adult supervise firework activities. Children should never handle fireworks.
2. Follow Local Laws: The sale and use of aerial fireworks are prohibited within the Middleton City limits.
3. Use Legal Fireworks: Within the City of Middleton and Middleton Rural Fire District the use of Nonaerial common fireworks is allowed from June 23rd – July 5th of each year. Please note that local noise ordinances do apply.
4. Read Instructions: Carefully read and follow all safety instructions on the fireworks packaging.
5. Safety Gear: Consider wearing safety glasses to protect your eyes.
6. Keep a Safe Distance: Maintain a safe distance from fireworks when lighting them. Once a firework is lit, move back quickly.
7. One at a Time: Light fireworks one at a time and never attempt to relight a dud.
8. Clear Area: Use fireworks in a clear, open area away from buildings, vehicles, and flammable materials.
9. Fire Safety: Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case of fire or other mishaps.
10. Disposal: After fireworks have finished burning, douse them with plenty of water before disposing of them to prevent a trash fire. Keep trash cans away from structures.
11. No Alcohol: Avoid using fireworks if you have been drinking alcohol, as it impairs judgment and coordination.
12. Support Community Fireworks Displays: Encourage neighbors to attend community-sponsored fireworks displays instead of setting off their own fireworks, reducing the risk of home fires.

By following these safety tips and being mindful of the dangers associated with fireworks, individuals can enjoy celebrations more safely and reduce the risk of injury, fatalities and property destruction.