



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Montgomery County**  
Public Health District

Mark E. Escott, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Public Health Authority

# FIREWORK SAFETY

Celebrating the New Year with friends and family is a wonderful time to create memories. However, it is also important to be safe while celebrating and using fireworks. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States there were an estimated 10,500 firework injuries ranging from mild to severe treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments.

- 67% of these injuries occurred between June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup> 2014
- Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for 35% of these injuries
- 54% of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns
- 4 victims died in house fires caused by fireworks and 7 died from direct impacts

## PURCHASING FIREWORKS:

- Before purchasing fireworks check with the Montgomery County Fire Marshal's office to determine if fireworks are legal in your area.
- Only buy consumer regulated fireworks, they are packaged in bright colors and have safety warnings on the packages
- Illegal explosives are often unpackaged and wrapped in brown paper. They are unlikely to have any safety warnings or country of origin. Many of them are handmade in basements or illicit factories without any quality control. **DO NOT BUY THESE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY**

## WHILE USING FIREWORKS

- **NEVER** leave a child unattended with fireworks, always have a responsible adult handling the fireworks
- Only use fireworks outside, have a bucket of water, a fire extinguisher, and a hose in case of an accident
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear Safety eye protection to prevent blindness and eye injuries
- Never carry fireworks in your **POCKET** or shoot them into **METAL** or **GLASS** containers
- Do not attempt to make homemade fireworks



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Montgomery County**  
Public Health District

Mark E. Escott, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Public Health Authority

- Never relight a “dud”, you run the risk of it exploding in your hands and light one firework at a time
- **ALWAYS** point fireworks away from **HOMES, PEOPLE, and PETS**
- Do not allow children to pick up used firework pieces after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time
- **BEFORE** disposing of your used fireworks soak them in water
- **PETS** are also part of the family. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured

### **ALTERNATIVE INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN**

- Paint flower pots with red, white and blue paint and glitter. Then plant a seed
- After the sun goes down, wrap flashlights in colored cellophane to provide fun shades of light
- Create your own noisemakers by banging wooden spoons on pots and pans. Search your house for horns, whistles and bells and other items to create a marching band. Do not attempt to make homemade fireworks
- Let kids create in the kitchen by making fun desserts using blueberries, strawberries and whipping cream for star-spangled treats
- Have children design and decorate their own t-shirts and hats using glow in the dark paints. Add puffy paints and glitter to make them sparkle

**Remember fireworks are supposed to be fun. By following these guidelines and using other safety measures you are decreasing the possibility of injury to you and your loved ones. If an injury occurs call 911 immediately or go to your nearest emergency room or healthcare professional**