

# Fireworks and Safe Summer Celebrations



Illinois Society for the  
Prevention of Blindness



PICNICS, COOKOUTS AND PROFESSIONAL FIREWORKS SHOWS ARE JUST SOME OF THE GREAT TRADITIONS WE ALL ENJOY ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. BUT SETTING OFF FIREWORKS IS ONE SUMMER TRADITION THAT CAN CAUSE INJURY, BLINDNESS OR EVEN DEATH.

DON'T LET A SERIOUS INJURY SPOIL YOUR SUMMER CELEBRATIONS. HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO STAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN ON OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY AND ALL SUMMER LONG.

- 1. DON'T SET OFF FIREWORKS. THEY'RE NOT SAFE FOR YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN.**
- 2. PROMOTE SAFE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY.**
- 3. EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF FIREWORKS.**

## Promote safe activities for your family

Knowing what your children are doing is the best way to keep them safe. Supervise them. Help them find safe ways to celebrate and have fun. Host your own Fourth of July party for your kids and their friends.

- > Let your guests do the decorating. Kids love to decorate with crepe paper, construction paper, stickers and glue. These will provide fun and make the party look festive. Crafts or hobby shops have supplies and lots of good ideas.
- > Children love to help in the kitchen. Involve them in the cooking. Let them top their own pizza, make fun desserts (use blueberries, strawberries and whipped cream for patriotic treats).  
  
If kids help make it, they may be more likely to eat it!
- > Let the kids decorate t-shirts or hats with paint and glow-in-the-dark decals. Their creations will be dry and ready to wear when the sun goes down.
- > Take everyone to a professional fireworks show.
- > Provide safe sounds and sparkles.

## Safe Sounds

Part of the appeal of fireworks for children is the big noise that goes with them. There are lots of safe ways to help kids make all the noise they want:

- > Step or sit on an inflated balloon.
- > Inflate and pop paper lunch bags.
- > Buy noisemakers from a party store.
- > Bring out your pots, pans and wooden spoons.
- > Bicycle horns, whistles, bells and cymbals will also help kids make plenty of noise.



## Safe sparkles

Light and glitter are also part of the appeal of fireworks. Here are some safe, fire-free suggestions.

- > Glo-sticks, glo-ropes and glo-jewelry can light the night for kids.
- > Flashlights are fun nighttime toys. Add excitement by wrapping the flashlight in colored cellophane. Novelty flashlights offer a safe, fun alternative to dangerous sparklers.
- > Neon and glow-in-the-dark paint make a fun afternoon project and a special evening display.
- > Fireflies or lightning bugs are nature's little sparklers. Collecting them in jars is endless fun for kids. Just remember to release the bugs before going to bed!

## Educate your children about the dangers of fireworks

Most fireworks accidents happen during the 30 days surrounding the Fourth of July. It's important to tell your kids what they need to know to stay safe for the entire summer.

- > Tell your kids why you don't want them around friends, neighbors or other non-professionals who are shooting off fireworks.
- > "I wasn't going to shoot anything off. I just wanted to watch."
- > Fireworks injure bystanders more often than they injure the people who set them off.
- > Be sure your child knows that you don't want him or her anywhere around fireworks.
- > Tell your children how you expect them to act around fireworks. A little role-playing may help give your child the confidence to say "no."

If a child's eye is injured in a fireworks accident, what should you do?

**IF THERE ARE SPECKS IN THE EYE:**

- > Lift the upper eyelid outward and down over the lower lid.
- > Let tears wash out specks or particles.
- > If the speck doesn't wash out, keep the eye closed, bandage it lightly and see a doctor.
- > DO NOT rub the eye.

**IF THE EYE OR EYELID IS CUT OR PUNCTURED:**

- > Bandage lightly and see a doctor at once.
- > DO NOT wash out the eye with water.
- > DO NOT try to remove an object stuck in the eye.

**DO NOT ASSUME THAT AN EYE INJURY IS HARMLESS. WHEN IN DOUBT, SEEK MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY.**



## WE CAN HELP YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFE SUMMER CELEBRATIONS.

If you have questions or would like to know more, call the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness at 312-922-8710, or visit us at [eyehealthillinois.org](http://eyehealthillinois.org)

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## Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness

The Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness was founded in 1916 to prevent the tragedy of needless blindness. Dedicated to the care, protection and preservation of sight, ISPBI programs stress education, information, eye safety and research.

For more information on ISPBI, or to make a contribution, call 1.312.922.8710 or visit us on the Web at [www.eyehellinois.org](http://www.eyehellinois.org).

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