



**Fort Wayne Fire Department**  
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**Leave Fireworks to the Professionals!**

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Fireworks are spectacular to watch, but can be extremely dangerous in the hands of amateurs. When celebrating the Fourth of July or other outdoor events, the Fort Wayne Fire Department urges residents to attend fireworks displays put on by trained professionals who follow state-of-the-art fire codes.

Statistics from a report by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that fireworks (objects designed to burn and explode) annually cause tens of millions of dollars in property damage and thousands of injuries, as well as some deaths. Injuries from the intense heat of fireworks, typically harming the eyes, head, hands, arms, or legs, can cause blindness, lacerations, amputations and burns. Some burns leave lifetime, disfiguring scars.

The Fort Wayne Fire Department advises, “Playing with fireworks invites disasters,” and “It’s just not worth the risk.”

Children are at greatest risk from fireworks, whether as spectators or active participants. According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 59 percent of the fireworks injuries were to a young person under 20 years of age, with children between the ages of 10 to 14 most at risk.

“As parents and adults, we have a responsibility to protect our children. While most parents work year round to keep their children safe, if they shoot off fireworks off in their backyards once a year, they are placing their children at substantial risk,” the Fort Wayne Fire Department advises “even sparklers, which can heat up to 1200 degree Fahrenheit, pose a serious danger in a child’s hand, or anyone’s for that matter.”

**Key Points:**

- Fireworks cause needless deaths, as well as thousands of serious injuries, each year.
- All fireworks can be too unpredictable to be used safely by amateurs.
- Attending public displays put on by trained professionals is the safer way to see fireworks.
- Children are most at risk to fireworks injuries.
- Even sparklers, which burn as hot as 1200 degree F, cause hundreds of injuries each year.

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