

Youth Health Bulletin



JULY 2015

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: BEING SAFE WITH FIREWORKS

Do you like the loud boom and bright colors of fireworks? Wally Cat remembers when he used to feel very scared of the loud noises that fireworks make, but now he loves to watch the beautiful bright colors and enjoys watching the show. Fireworks may be seen as a large show with many fireworks high up in the air. Fireworks may also be seen at home. Fireworks can be very dangerous if you do not keep safety in mind.

If you are celebrating this summer with fireworks, here are some safety tips for you to remember:

Only adults should light fireworks.

You should never light fireworks yourself. Have an adult help you. If you would like to help out, ask if you can pick which firework you would like the adult to light next. Sometimes it is better to just sit back and enjoy the show.

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If an accident happens and something catches on fire, having a bucket of water nearby can help put out that fire.

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Fireworks are for outdoors only.

Fireworks should never be lit indoors. They are made to be used outdoors. You also want to make sure that the area outdoors where the fireworks are being lit has no flammable materials nearby. You want to make sure that there are no leaves, trees or other materials that could catch fire. Fireworks should also be pointed away from homes that may be nearby.

Sparklers look like a lot of fun. But it is important to be careful because they get very hot — as hot as 1,800 degrees F. That is hot enough to melt gold!

Have a water bucket nearby.

Wally Cat hopes that you never have to use a water bucket when you have fireworks, but if an accident happens and something catches on fire, having a bucket of water nearby can help put out any fires that may start. You may even want to have two buckets. The water can also be poured on the duds — fireworks that do not go off after they are lit.

Light only one firework at a time.

Sometimes a big fireworks show will end with many fireworks going off at the same time. Although it looks beautiful, these fireworks are set up by professionals. At home, it is especially important that only one firework be lit at a time.

Sometimes fireworks do not work.

Sometimes a firework gets lit but then it fizzles out and never really goes off. That is okay. An adult should not try to relight it. Hopefully there is another firework that can be lit right after it.

Fireworks can cause serious injuries.

Most common burns caused by fireworks are to the hands and face. Fireworks also can cause



eye injuries. It is important to handle all fireworks carefully.

The best way to enjoy fireworks is watching a professional display that can be seen from a safe distance. But if you have fireworks at home, it is important to be safe.

SOURCES:

- Fireworks Pose dangerous risks especially to children. Accessed from: <http://www.kidsgrowth.com/resources/articledetail.cfm?id=2531>
- Nemours. Kidshealth.org. Finding out about fireworks safety. <http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/fireworks.html>

Word Scramble

EWRFIROK: _____

OMOB: _____

KARSPLERS: _____

WRTAE KUBCTE: _____

ANSWERS: FIREWORK, BOOM, SPARKLERS, WATER BUCKET

Youth
Health Bulletin

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