


# Play it safe this Independence Day

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand. It's always best to leave them to the professionals, but if you're planning on setting off backyard fireworks, remember to make safety a priority. In some parishes, fireworks are regulated or outright banned. Viewing a public display is a safe option.

Here are some tips from our Burn Center and Injury Prevention teams.




Fireworks should always be handled by an adult. For children, consider safe alternatives such as confetti poppers, glow sticks, or colored streamers. Sparklers aren't a safe alternative for kids; they can reach temperatures of 2000 degrees.




Be prepared. Have a hose or bucket of water available in case of a fire or mishap.

Always stand away from fireworks when lighting the fuse. Standing directly over a firework puts you at great risk of getting struck by the explosive.




If a firework malfunctions, it is best to discard it. To avoid a trash fire, always douse water on the completed device before placing it into the trash.



Never throw fireworks in the direction of another person. Exploding fireworks can cause burn injuries that cause permanent disfigurement and damage to your body.

Never use gasoline or an accelerant around fireworks. Ignitable liquids can ignite easily or explode.



**In the event of injury, please call 911 and seek medical help immediately**

**For more information about [umcno.org/burncenter](http://umcno.org/burncenter)**