



Fireworks Safety

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In Canada, we traditionally celebrate July 1st, Labour Day, and other holidays with all-day family events, barbecues and fireworks displays. Lighting off a few firecrackers or running around the backyard with a lit sparkler may seem like a relatively harmless way to have fun, but each year children suffer injuries by fireworks and many of them end up in hospital emergency rooms.



According to Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) from 1998 to 2004 (latest statistics) there were 30 fireworks related injuries that occurred to children from one to nine years of age and 42 injuries that occurred to children from ten to fourteen years of age. 49.5% of the incidents occurred at private homes; 10.5% occurred in a public park and 6.3% on a public road.

According to the United States 'Consumer Product Safety Commission' there are approximately 9,000 fireworks-related injuries each year. More than half of the victims are young children or teenagers and 21% involve eye injuries. Injuries sustained from fireworks include bottle rockets, sparklers and firecrackers. Sparklers typically burn at 1,200° Fahrenheit and cause 27% of all fireworks injuries, including third-degree burns. The most common fireworks injury involves the hands, fingers, eyes, head and face. Wayward bottle rockets can injure bystanders and cause eyelid lacerations, corneal abrasions, retinal detachment, optic nerve damage, rupture of the eyeball and even complete blindness. One in every six fireworks-related eye injuries results in permanent vision loss or blindness.

