

Fireworks Safety for Homeowners



Fireworks-related injuries and fires are a common cause of preventable property damage and personal injury, particularly around holidays such as Independence Day and New Year's Eve. This document provides homeowners with practical guidance to reduce the risk of injury, fire, and insurance claims.



Fireworks Safety Hazards

- Fireworks are a leading cause of seasonal residential fires, especially around major holidays.
- Property damage resulting from illegal or reckless fireworks use may not be fully covered by insurance policies.
- Fireworks can cause severe burns and traumatic injuries, particularly to the hands, eyes, face, and head.
- Embers and sparks can ignite roofs, siding, decks, mulch, and dry vegetation, leading to house fires.
- Loud explosions from fireworks pose a risk of temporary or permanent hearing damage.
- Unpredictable flight paths caused by wind, product defects, or improper setup can result in unintended injuries or fires.
- Mortars and aerial shells carry a high risk due to their explosive power and erratic behavior.
- Rockets and bottle rockets are especially hazardous because of their unstable and unpredictable trajectories.
- Homemade or modified fireworks significantly increase the risk of malfunction and serious injury.
- Fireworks purchased from unverified or unregulated sources are more likely to be defective and unsafe.

Fireworks Safety Checklist

- Clear dry leaves, mulch, and other debris from roofs, gutters, decks, and surrounding areas before using fireworks.
- Keep a garden hose, bucket of water, or a fire extinguisher readily accessible at all times.
- Do not use fireworks during windy conditions or periods of drought, when fire risk is elevated.
- Maintain a safe distance from trees, propane tanks, and any flammable liquids or materials.
- Use only fireworks that are legal in your state and local jurisdiction.
- Follow all local fire restrictions, burn bans, and safety ordinances.
- Consider attending professional fireworks displays instead of using consumer fireworks at home.
- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks.
- Closely supervise sparklers at all times, as they burn at extremely high temperatures.
- Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk of stress, escape, or injury.
- Fully soak all used fireworks in water before handling or disposal.
- Dispose of used fireworks in a non-combustible container to prevent accidental ignition.

Check out our [Safety Tips page](#) for more safety information.

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