



Firework Safety *Statistical Injury Report*

Every year hundreds of people, adults and children alike, are seriously injured through the unsafe use of fireworks. There were 669 fireworks incidents reported to the Washington State Fire Marshal in 2001 by fire departments and hospital emergency rooms.

The face and hands were the most common injury sites. The type of injury caused most often was burns. The next leading injury was trauma, and next was amputations. In some reports more than one type of injury and more than one body part was injured. The leading cause of fireworks-related injuries is holding followed closely by throwing.

Illegal fireworks caused 47% of the injuries, while legal fireworks were responsible for 37%. Of the legal fireworks, sparkers and candles were the leading cause of injury. Males between the ages of 6 and 16 are at greatest risk of fireworks related injuries.

Fireworks related fires caused an estimated loss of \$546,635 of property damage in 2001. Wildland fire areas are at great risk. Property damage from fireworks-related wildland fires was \$8,800.

BE PREPARED:

- Keep a bucket of water nearby in which to place all used fireworks.
- Have a water hose connected or a fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks.
- Clear a level area away from things that can burn.
- Teach children and adults to **stop, drop, and roll** if their clothing catches on fire.

BE SAFE:

- Have an adult light all fireworks.
- Use eye protection when lighting fireworks.
- Light one at a time, move away quickly and keep a safe distance from the display.
- Use fireworks only outdoors, away from anything that can burn

BE RESPONSIBLE:

- Clean up all debris when finished.
- Duds can be dangerous; if a device does not light, an adult should wait at least five minutes, approach it carefully, and place it in a bucket of water.

