

EYE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK!

Approximately 12,000 Americans are treated in Emergency Departments annually for fireworks-related injuries. Of these, approximately 20% are eye injuries. As many as 400 Americans lose vision permanently in one or both eyes each year due to eye injuries caused by fireworks. The United States Eye Injury Registry has targeted bottle rockets as the major source of fireworks-related eye injuries.

Protect your eyes from fireworks injury:

- Do not use bottle rockets.
- Never allow young children to play with fireworks.
- Always provide close adult supervision if older children use fireworks (better yet, don't allow them to use fireworks).
- Protect eyes with safety glasses or safety goggles for both operators and spectators. Regular prescription glasses, sunglasses, or contact lenses provide little or no protection against fireworks injuries and can actually contribute to the injury.
- Read and follow manufacturer's label instructions.
- Never use illegal fireworks!
- Never use 'homemade' fireworks!
- Never put fireworks in glass bottles or containers, tin cans, or clay pots since these objects can shatter and cause serious injury.
- Always have a fire extinguisher or large container of water on hand to douse fireworks that misfire.
- In case of an eye injury, do not touch, rub or press on the injured eye. Seek immediate care from an Ophthalmologist or Hospital Emergency Room.

Attending public fireworks displays is recommended than using fireworks at home.

from the American Society of Ocular Trauma and the United States Eye Injury Registry.

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