

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: June 28, 2017
Release Date: Immediate End Date July 4, 2017
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RE: Fireworks Injuries

Fireworks is a holiday honored tradition to help celebrate the Fourth of July. But during the period around the July 4th holiday, an average of 200 people go to the emergency room every day with fireworks related injuries. The Genesee County Health Department is advising residents to protect themselves and their families from fireworks injuries. Genesee County residents are encouraged to follow these tips to stay safe when around fireworks:

- Fireworks should only be used outdoors. Read the caution label before igniting and wear eye protection. Obey local laws and guidelines.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities for both children and teens. Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks. Young children can suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- People igniting fireworks should avoid drinking alcohol until after the show. Mixing alcohol and fireworks can be dangerous.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Do not hold a firework in your hand when lighted unless specifically stated on the caution label.
- Light fireworks one at a time. Back up quickly to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks. Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully. Soak dud fireworks with water after waiting 20 minutes.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Have water ready in a bucket and a charged garden hose in case of fire or another mishap.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks stop burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket, or hose before discarding fireworks and discard it in a nonflammable trash can outside, several feet away from a house, garage, deck or anything flammable.
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- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.

The Genesee County Health Department urges residents to be aware of fireworks-related injuries and play it safe. For more health and safety information visit our website at www.gchd.us. Additional information regarding fireworks and safety is available by visiting The National Council on Fireworks Safety website at www.FireworksSafety.org or the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov.

Genesee County Health Department. Your Health. Our Work.

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