



## Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's Crime Prevention Tips

The MCPA strives to bring current information regarding prevention topics to its members. Please use these prevention tips to promote safety to the citizens of your community. These tips are great for brochures, newsletters, e-mails, etc.

### Topic: **Fireworks Safety**

Firework injuries have been on the increase in recent years, accounting for 9,500 emergency room visits and 24,000 fires annually. Children ages 14 and under are most vulnerable. The misuse of fireworks, frequently by unsupervised children, accounts for the majority of fireworks injuries.

- ✗ Children account for approximately 47% of those who receive emergency room treatment of fireworks related injuries.
- ✗ Burns are the most common type of fireworks-related injury. The hands, head, or eyes are involved in nearly 75% of these injuries.
- ✗ One third of all eye injuries result in permanent blindness.
- ✗ Injuries most often happen when a firecracker explodes in someone's hand, is dropped on a foot, or explodes in a pocket.
- ✗ Sparklers reach temperatures greater than 1000 degrees Fahrenheit at the tip and can cause serious burns by igniting clothing.
- ✗ Approximately half of all consumer fireworks-related injuries happen to children under the age 14.
- ✗ Some communities restrict or ban common fireworks. Know your local ordinances.
- ✗ Statistics from the Consumer Product Safety Commission show that about 2/3 of fireworks-related injuries involve small firecrackers and common household fireworks.

The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate and have fun. To make your holiday "sparkle," take safety precautions to protect you and your family. The Minnesota Safety Council recommends that you:

- ✗ Attend only community-sanctioned events. Many communities hold fireworks displays sponsored by fire department or other safety agency.
- ✗ Establish a safe viewing area. The safest place to sit is at least 500 feet away from the staging area.

Acknowledgments: National Fire Protection Association  
National SAFE KIDS Campaign  
Consumer Products Safety Commission

### **Consumer Fireworks Information**

The sale, possession and use of certain non-explosive and non-aerial consumer fireworks are now permitted in Minnesota. Examples of legal fireworks include items such as sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks, and novelty items like snakes, and party poppers. A more detailed list is available at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal>.

Consumer fireworks may not be used on public property (i.e. parks, roads, alleys, schools, government property, etc.). Purchasers of consumer fireworks must be at least 18 years old and retailers are required to check photo identification of purchasers before selling products.

Explosive and aerial fireworks are prohibited for public sale, possession and use. Prohibited fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets, missiles, roman candles, mortars and shells.