Fireworks Safety Tips

The Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories, but before your family celebrates, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burn and eye injuries in kids and adults. Take extra precautions and your holiday will be a blast!

If you choose to light fireworks please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Kids should never play with fireworks. **Firecrackers, rockets, Roman candles, M-80/100 are illegal fireworks and should not be used**. Sparklers are dangerous too. If you give older kids sparklers, make sure they keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair. **Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) – hot enough to melt gold.**
- Buy only legal fireworks labeled "**Safe and Sane**" sold in Clark County from June 28 through July 4. These are the only fireworks permitted for use in unincorporated areas and the local cities.
- Never throw or point fireworks at someone. Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outdoors and have a bucket of water and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others – fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket – the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush and leaves and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash.
- While most are Ok, some children have very sensitive ears. Protect your kid's ears from the loud booms and noise of fireworks.
- Think about your pets, too! Animals have very sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. **Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.**
- If a child is injured by a firework, immediately call **9-1-1** or go directly to the hospital. If an **eye injury** occurs, don't allow your child to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention – your child's eyesight may depend on it. If it's a **burn** remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice).