

# FIREWORKS SAFETY

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Fireworks can brighten celebrations, and proper fireworks safety can help keep the festivities going longer and can protect spectators from injury.

## SAFETY TIPS

Always remember the following safety tips when interacting with fireworks:

- Use extreme caution when lighting fireworks in the wind. Keep spectators where the wind is blowing smoke and debris away from them.
- Never smoke or consume alcohol when lighting fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from the reach of children.
- Steer clear of others setting off fireworks. They can backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction.
- Do not attempt to make or alter any fireworks or firework devices.
- Always have a fire extinguisher or water supply, such as a hose or bucket of water, nearby.
- Only light one firework at a time and never attempt to re-light or fix a “dud” firework.
- After a firework has finished burning, douse it with plenty of water before throwing it away to prevent starting a trash fire.
- Be considerate of individuals with PTSD and other types of medical conditions. The noise can cause severe stress and reaction in neighbors.
- Think about pets. Animals have sensitive ears and can be very frightened or stressed by fireworks sounds.



## FIREWORKS LAWS

Become more familiar with the state [fireworks laws](#) in Indiana. It is also important to check local ordinances for any fireworks limitations that might exist in the area:

- Throughout the year it is legal to set off fireworks from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., but this may be limited further by local ordinances. Citizens should check with local officials.
- On state holidays it is legal to set off fireworks from 9 a.m. to midnight, but this may be limited further by local ordinances.
- The times on the following dates are protected in Indiana for consumer use of fireworks and may not be prohibited by local ordinance:
  - **June 29 to July 3**: from 5 p.m. until two hours after sunset;
  - **July 4**: from 10 a.m. to midnight;
  - **July 5 to July 9**: from 5 p.m. until two hours after sunset; and
  - **December 31**: from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- Fireworks can only be purchased by persons 18 years of age or older.
- Fireworks use is limited to personal property, the property of someone who has approved the use of fireworks or a location designated specifically for the use of consumer fireworks.

## INJURY STATISTICS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission compiles an [annual fireworks report](#) and for the year 2019 found the following:

- There were an estimated 7,300 fireworks injuries treated at hospital emergency departments nationwide between June 21 and July 21 (about 10,000 total for the whole year).
- Seventy-three percent of all reported firework injuries occurred between June 21 and July 21.
- Most fireworks injuries were sustained by males (66 percent).
- About half of the estimated emergency department-treated fireworks injuries happened to people younger than 20 years old, and 36 percent of fireworks injuries were to children younger than 15 years old.
- Injuries due to sparklers accounted for about 900 trips to the emergency room; firecrackers, 800; and bottle rockets, 400.
- The most common body parts injured were hands and fingers (30 percent), legs (23 percent), eyes (15 percent) and head, face and ears (15 percent).
- About 58 percent of fireworks injuries were burns.

