



American Burn Association

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Firework Safety American Burn Association Policy Statement

Due to the high risk of severe burn injuries, the American Burn Association discourages individuals from using consumer fireworks and strongly suggests they instead attend public fireworks displays conducted by professionals.

Nearly two-thirds of the 8800 injuries from fireworks treated in hospital emergency rooms in 2002 were burns. Injuries from the mishandling of fireworks can result in scars and disfigurement that can last a lifetime. Even seemingly harmless fireworks like sparklers can result in serious burn injury; sparklers can burn at temperatures of up to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit.

The misuse of fireworks can also lead to fires. In 1999 an estimated 24,200 reported fires were started by fireworks with an estimated \$17.2 million in property damage. At present, only seven states ban consumer fireworks: Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Such bans have been linked to significantly lower rates of fireworks-related injuries and fires.

The American Burn Association and its members dedicate their efforts and resources to promoting and supporting burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention. The ABA has more than 3,500 members in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, and hospitals with burn centers. For more information, contact Kitty Vineyard at the American Burn Association at (312) 642-9260 or vineyard@ameriburn.org.