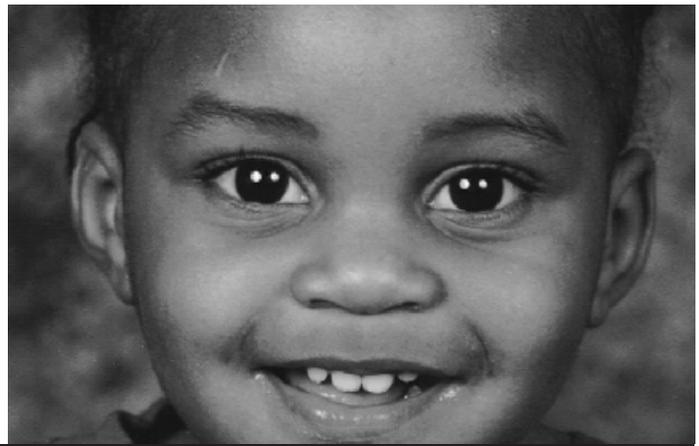




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FACTS ABOUT FIREWORKS INJURIES

Prevent Blindness America wants all Americans to know the dangers of consumer fireworks. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports the following fireworks injury statistics:

- Fireworks devices were involved in an estimated 9,200 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2006 (the latest year for which data is available).
- An estimated 6,400 injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms during the one-month period (June 16-July 16) surrounding the Fourth of July.
- Eyes were the second most commonly injured part of the body, with an estimated 1,500 fireworks-related eye injuries treated in the same one-month period of 2006.
- Firecrackers accounted for 20% of all injuries followed by rockets (13%), and sparklers (16%).
- Males suffered three times the number of injuries as females.
- Sparklers caused the greatest number of injuries in children 14 and younger, followed by firecrackers and rockets.
- Of the 1,000 estimated sparkler injuries, 200 were to children age 5 and younger.
- 2,300 of the injuries were to children under age 15.
- Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry shows that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than operators themselves.
- Contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies were the most common injuries to eyes.
- 11 people were killed by fireworks in 2006.
- Staff estimated that there were 100 emergency department-treated injuries at public fireworks displays.

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening training, community and patient service programs and research.

Keep These Fireworks-Related Injuries in Mind

- A 11-year-old boy was struck in the eye by a bottle rocket traveling horizontally. He has permanent vision loss.
- A 12-year-old boy was treated for a burn to the eye after debris from a professional fireworks display (launched from a boat) flew into the victim's eye.
- A 12-year-old girl suffered a corneal abrasion when her sister lit a bottle rocket that tipped over and launched into the victim's eye.
- A 13-year-old boy lit a Roman candle in the back of his father's truck. Sparks got in his eye and he required emergency treatment.
- A 26-year-old male received burns to his eyes and face after he lit a mortar shell that immediately exploded.
- A 48-year-old male was watching people setting off fireworks when some debris from those fireworks got into his eye. He required emergency treatment.

Source: Green M.A., Joholske, J., 2006 Fireworks Annual Report: Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities During 2006. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, June, 2007.

Our Position: Protect Your Sight by Celebrating Safely

Prevent Blindness America urges you to celebrate safely. Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Do not purchase, use or store fireworks of any type. Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks. Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

Call our toll-free hotline at 1-800-331-2020 to receive *Safe Summer Celebrations*. The booklet discusses the dangers of fireworks and offers safe alternatives. You can also request a copy of our *Fireworks Eye Injury Safety Quiz*.

Prevent Blindness America supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks, except those used in authorized public displays by licensed operators, as the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage. For more on Prevent Blindness America's position on fireworks, request a copy of our complete position statement.

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