

## Leave Fireworks to the Experts

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. UCF advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal, but they may not be safe. Every year, thousands of people are injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, with many of the injuries to children and young adults. While the majority of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant injuries.

### Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks. Follow the following Safety Tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Use them away from people, houses, flammable materials and animals
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunction fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

### Sparklers are Dangerous

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. According to the National Fire Protection Association sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. Consider alternatives like Glow Sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

