

SB030: FIREWORKS SAFETY

Summer brings barbecues, parades, and fireworks. UCF recommends enjoying fireworks only at professional public displays for safety. Despite some fireworks being legal, they can pose dangers, leading to thousands of injuries annually, especially among children and young adults. Many incidents arise from amateur use of professional-grade or illegal fireworks, but even small devices like firecrackers and sparklers can cause serious harm.

If you decide to use legal fireworks, please adhere to the following safety guidelines:

- Never use illegal fireworks.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Older children should only use them under close adult supervision.
- Avoid using fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Wear protective eyewear for anyone using fireworks or standing nearby. Do not hold lighted fireworks in your hands.
- Light fireworks only outdoors, away from people, homes, flammable materials, and animals.
- Ignite only one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never ignite devices while they are in a container.
- Do not attempt to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish any fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.

Sparklers are dangerous, burning at around 2,000 degrees, which can melt metals. The National Fire Protection Association reports that sparklers cause over 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. Consider safer alternatives like glow sticks, confetti poppers, or colored streamers.