



Fireworks Safety



By Drew Hinton, President/CEO of Arrow Safety, LLC

Leave Fireworks to the Professionals

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades, and fireworks. We, at Arrow Safety, advise everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal, but that does not mean that they are safe.

Since 2017, 13 people have died and over 21,000 have been injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Approximately 62% of injuries took place from June 22nd to July 22nd. While the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade, or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices, such as small firecrackers and sparklers.

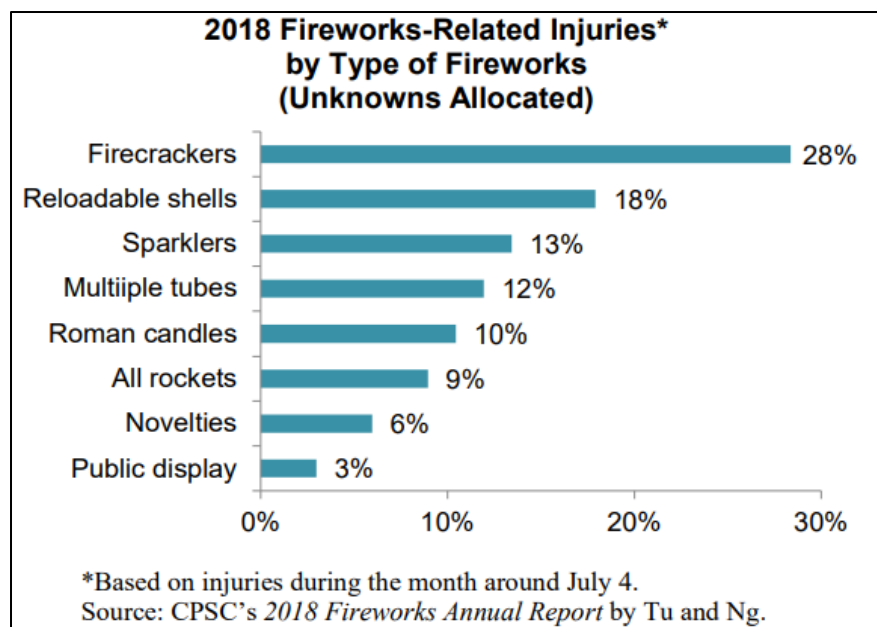
Additionally, fireworks start nearly 20,000 fires each year (28% on Independence Day alone), including 1,900 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and over 17,000 outside or other fires. In 2018, these fires resulted in 5 fatalities, 46 injuries, and \$105 million in direct property damage.

If you still want to enjoy the fun without fireworks, glow sticks make great alternatives for kids. Throw that in with some red, white, and blue silly string and you'll be having a blast! (Pun intended)

If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

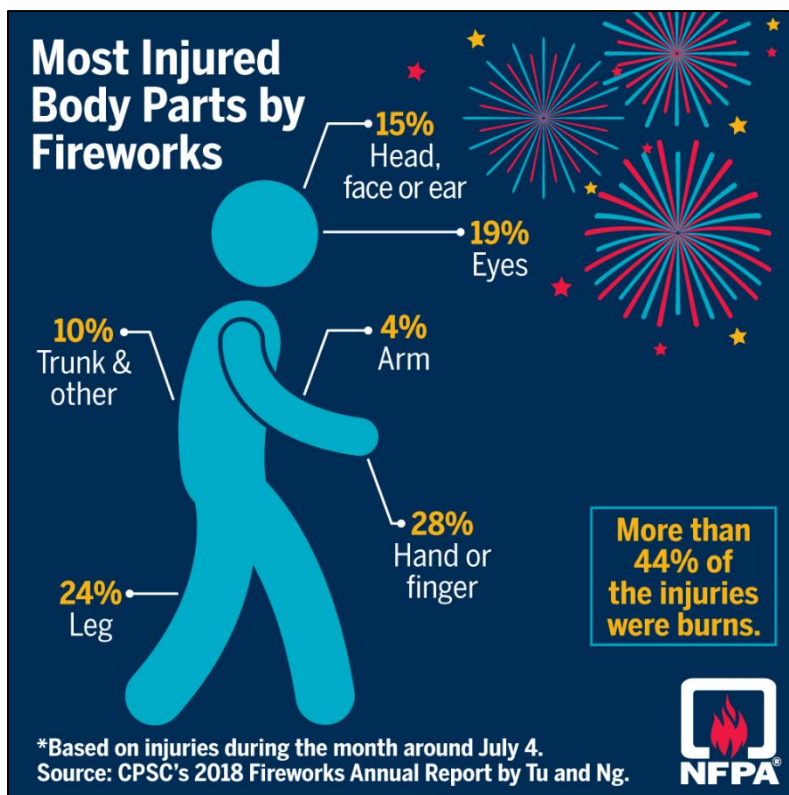
If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to play with and/or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper. This is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities.



- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher, a bucket of water, and/or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Never smoke or consume alcohol when lighting fireworks.
- Be considerate of individuals with PTSD and other types of medical conditions. The noise can cause severe stress and reaction in some of your neighbors.
- Think about pets. Animals have sensitive ears and can be very frightened or stressed by firework sounds.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back, and let the experts handle the fireworks show!



Even Sparklers Can Be Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers can burn at about 2,000°F – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. [According to the National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#), sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency department visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries. Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers, or colored streamers.

On the left is a chart showing a breakdown of fireworks-related injuries over the past 5 years, categorized by the parts of the body.

Summary

At Arrow Safety, we appreciate the hard work by people all across the country. However, we also care about your safety outside of the workplace. We encourage everyone to celebrate the 4th of July with your friends and family, but please do so responsibly!

Thank you and have a safe week!

If you have any questions about how Arrow Safety can help your employees stay safe and keep your business headed in the right direction, contact us and we'll be glad to help! We travel nationwide and all new customers receive **10% off** their first quote, regardless of the scope or size!



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