

March 23, 2017

## *Fireworks Can Be Fun--And Fatal*

*According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fireworks can injure hands, the head, eyes, face, and ears; cause burns, including third degree burns and permanent scarring; cause blindness; and/or start life-threatening residential and motor vehicle fires.*

*Nevertheless, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC—[www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-education-centers/fireworks](http://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-education-centers/fireworks)) recognizes that fireworks are about as American as apple pie, so the CPSC provides these safety tips:*

- *Don't make homemade fireworks.*
- *Use only fireworks that are permitted in your area.*
- *Follow storage instructions, such as keeping fireworks in a dry, cool place.*
- *Don't allow young children to play with any fireworks, including sparklers.*
- *Only allow older children to use fireworks under adult supervision.*
- *Light fireworks outside in a clear area away from houses, dry leaves, grass, and other flammable materials.*
- *Keep a bucket of water on hand in case of emergency.*
- *Pour water over malfunctioning fireworks. Don't try to make them work; soak them and throw them out.*
- *Get everyone out of range before lighting fireworks. Also, keep unused fireworks out of the firing area.*
- *Never have any body part over a firework when lighting.*
- *Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.*