



FORT DEVENS

Fort Devens, Massachusetts



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14-06

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Fireworks Safety

Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Summer means picnics, barbecues, parades and fireworks displays, especially around the 4th of July. Summer also means an increase in injuries from backyard grills, bonfires and fireworks. In 2012, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,700 people for fireworks related injuries; 55% of 2012 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 31% were to the head.



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Here are some Safety tips:

- ◆ Designate a responsible adult to light fireworks. Do not let children light them.
- ◆ Use fireworks only outdoors, away from anything that can burn such as trees, buildings, bark dry fields, or wood storage areas.
- ◆ Keep a bucket of water nearby to place all used fireworks in before final disposal. Have a connected water hose or fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks.
- ◆ Duds can be dangerous! If a device does not light or fire, wait at least five minutes and approach it carefully. Do not try to relight. Place it in a bucket of water to soak.
- ◆ Never throw fireworks at people, cars, pets or things that burn.
- ◆ Never hold fireworks in your hands, or discharge them in glass or metal containers.
- ◆ Keep pets indoors, with doors and windows closed tightly. Be sure they have identification tags in case they become frightened and run away.
- ◆ In case someone is injured know basic first aid, the emergency number to call, and your address/location.
- ◆ Dispose of used fireworks after soaking in a trash can with water when finished. Don't leave a mess.

If an accident happens...

- ◆ Call 911
- ◆ If clothing catches on fire, stop, drop and roll until it is out.
- ◆ Cool burn with water for a short time. Never use ice on a burn because it can make damage worse.
- ◆ Cover the burn with clean, dry cloth or sheet.
- ◆ Many fireworks contain chemicals that can cause burns and all chemical burns should be seen by a physician because damage may not be obvious.
- ◆ Immediately go to a doctor or hospital.
- ◆ If an injury occurs, don't touch or rub the eye, as this may cause even more damage.

Talk to your kids:

Fireworks are a fun way to celebrate the Fourth and can become a great family tradition. Teach your kids the importance of safety around fireworks and the consequences of not following the rules. Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your kids are safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!



Celebrate safe and smart this 4th of July weekend!