

HOCKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Fireworks will be lighting up the sky this weekend in celebration of Independence Day. Having family and friends over for a fireworks display of your own can be a ton of fun but, it can also be dangerous. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were estimated 9,600 fireworks related injuries during the Fourth of July season in 2011. Most of these injuries could have been prevented if there had been close adult supervision and proper safety measures. The National Council on Fireworks Safety provides these tips to stay safe during your holiday celebration.

- Always purchase fireworks from a reliable source.
- Use fireworks as directed on the consumer product safety label; never alter products.
- Observe local laws and use good COMMON SENSE.
- Have a designated person organize and light the fireworks for your family show.
- A responsible ADULT should supervise all firework activities.
- Parents should not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Use fireworks OUTDOORS in a clear area; AWAY from buildings and vehicles.
- NEVER carry fireworks in your POCKET.
- Wear safety glasses whenever using fireworks.
- Always have water ready if you are shooting fireworks.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor trash can.
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety urges you to follow common sense safety rules in your holiday celebrations. Have a great and safe holiday!