



# Fireworks and Summer Safety

[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

Each year in the United States, more than 10,000 people suffer eye injuries and burns from fireworks. Three thousand fires are caused by fireworks. Most of these incidents are related to the use of illegal fireworks as well as state-approved fireworks that are lit by amateurs.

## All Types of Fireworks are Prohibited in Most Areas of Orange County

*Except public displays permitted by local fire departments*

Due to the risk of fire, eye injuries and burns, fireworks are prohibited in the following areas:

- Fireworks are prohibited at all State Parks and State Beaches [14 CCR 4314]
- Fireworks are prohibited in County Harbors, Beaches and Parks [O.C.C.O. 02-05-37]
- Fireworks are prohibited at all City Beaches [CFC 7802.3]
- Fireworks are prohibited in Unincorporated Orange County [CFC 7802.3]
- Fireworks are prohibited in the Cleveland National Forest [36 CFR 261.52(f)]
- Fireworks are prohibited in most Cities and City Parks\* [CFC 7802.3]
- Report the use of ANY ILLEGAL fireworks immediately to law enforcement or your fire department at (714) 538-3501.

\* Only the cities of Stanton, Buena Park, Santa Ana, Costa Mesa and Garden Grove allow state-approved fireworks. You must be over 16 years of age to legally use fireworks.

## Nationwide Firework-Related Injury Statistics

- Since 2003, 45% of persons injured from fireworks are children 14 years and younger.
- Children ages 5 to 9 have the highest injury rate involving fireworks.
- Sparklers are associated with the most injuries involving children under the age of 5.
- Sparklers can reach temperatures of more than 1000°F.

## What To Do If You Get Burned

- Cool the burn with cool water, not ice.
- Seek medical treatment or call **9-1-1**.
- Do not apply butter or ointments.

# Other Fire Hazards Associated With July 4<sup>th</sup>

## Beach Firepits

After a barbeque at the beach, many picnickers cover red-hot coals with sand thinking it will extinguish the hot briquettes. Instead, the sand acts as an insulator making the coals even hotter. The result of this action can lead to children walking over the covered fire pit several hours later and severely burning their feet. Every year, six to 12 youngsters suffer very deep burns on their hands and feet, which require skin grafts and months of recuperation.

## Barbeque Mishaps

Beware of mixing oil with fire! Every year, thousands of backyard chefs become impatient when their charcoal briquettes are slow to heat. To speed up this operation they apply more charcoal lighter fluid to smoldering coals directly from the can. The result of this action is that the hot briquettes ignite the stream of lighter fluid in an instant, racing to the can, and bursting into flames in the cook's hand.

## Public Firework Displays

You can enjoy a Fourth of July celebration with friends and family at a professional firework show. Many communities provide additional amenities including BBQs, concerts and children's activities along with a large firework show.

**Conducted by licensed, trained professionals, a public firework display is the smartest and safest alternative.**

## Safety Tips:

- **Spectators should stay behind barriers.**
- **Pets have very sensitive ears** and the sounds associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable. Leave pets at home.
- **Leave the lighting of all fireworks to the trained operator.** Most cities forbid the possession or use of any fireworks by private individuals.
- **To find a fireworks show near you, call (714) 573-6225.**

## Important Contacts

### Where to Find a Public Fireworks Display

(714) 573-6225

[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

### Report Illegal Fireworks

(714) 538-3501

### UCI Burn Center

(888) 622-BURN

[www.ucihealth.com](http://www.ucihealth.com)

### American Academy of Pediatrics – Section on Ophthalmology

(866) 843-AAP1

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)