

# gibca **SAFETY** TOOLBOX TALKS



## Fireworks Safety

Every summer, people of all ages visit emergency rooms because of injuries from fireworks, such as burns, loss of hearing, and amputations. In 2017, eight people died from fireworks-related accidents, and over 12,000 were injured and required medical treatment. Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including structure fires and vehicle fires.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees, meaning sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, paper, dry grass and clothing. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries and children under the age of 5 accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

If fireworks are legal to buy and use where you live, remember the following safety tips:

- Read the warning label before using fireworks.
- Never light fireworks indoors, or in a container.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks. Adults should supervise older children.
- Never use fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Use fireworks away from people, houses, and flammable material.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person or animal.
- Never hold lit fireworks in your hands.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- Keep pets safe by leaving them inside the home, sheltered from the noise.
- Only light one firework at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off, or in case of fire.

Remember: Fireworks are explosives, and sparklers are fires. Especially for children, consider using alternatives such as glow sticks, confetti poppers, or colored streamers.