

Firework Safety

Most Americans will be celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks. Whether they are being shot off in the back yard or at a firework show there are safety tips to consider.

Young Children – Fireworks can be unsafe for young children. Even sparklers, they can heat up to over 2,000 degrees. They are not recommended for children under the age of 5. Use glow sticks as an alternative. For children over 5, if they insist on sparklers, try bamboo ones or put the sparkler through a plastic cup so the cup protects the child from the hot metal or sparks.

Some children may be sensitive to the loud noises of fireworks. In some cases, it can even affect hearing.

Pets – Many animals and especially dogs can get scared and even run away during the firework season. Purina dog behavior scientist Ragen McGowan says, “That one of the reasons is that dog’s acute hearing makes them more sensitive to fireworks.”

Another reason is while we expect fireworks to be loud, dogs do not. Loud noises can startle them and give them stress.

If you find your pet around fireworks, reassure them. Stay relaxed and calm. This shows the dog that they are not in danger.

It may be best to put your pet in a safe interior room of your home to avoid exposure to the loud noises. Never shoot fireworks or sparklers near your pets.

Alcohol – Fireworks and alcohol do not mix. The National Council on Fireworks Safety recommends making sure there is no alcohol consumed before or during setting off fireworks. Even a small quantity can impair a person’s judgement and ability to properly set fireworks off safely.

The National Council of Firework Safety also suggests the following tips:

- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Follow the directions on how to safely set off fireworks.
- Obey the laws, towns in Parker County do not allow fireworks in the city limits.
- Never give young children fireworks.
- Wear safety glasses
- Always have a bucket of water or water hose nearby.

Fireworks can be a lot of fun. However, there are many ways we can celebrate our nation’s independence and it doesn’t always have to be fireworks. However, if you do, be sure to keep you and your family and friends safe this year and always.