

Health Awareness

A County Health Pool Publication



June, 2011

Fireworks Safety - Avoiding the Dangers

The upcoming 4th of July holiday is one of the busiest days of the year for eye surgeons and others who treat victims of accidental trauma. The American Academy of Ophthalmology has launched a vigorous campaign to discourage the purchase and use of fireworks by amateurs. Here are some powerful numbers about fireworks injuries:

- There are approximately 8,500 fireworks-related injuries each year in the United States. Of these, about 2,000 are eye injuries.
- One-third of these injuries result in permanent eye damage and one-fourth in permanent vision loss or blindness.
- Almost one in 20 victims lose all useful vision or require the removal of the injured eye.
- 25% of all eye injuries caused by consumer fireworks happen to bystanders.
- 75% of all fireworks-related eye injuries happen to boys between the ages of 13 and 15.

Bottle Rockets and Sparklers

Did you know that the most dangerous fireworks are bottle rock-



ets? Bottle rockets fly erratically, often causing bystander injuries. The bottles and cans used to launch bottle rockets often explode, showing fragments of glass and metal.

Sparklers account for a large number of injuries to preschoolers. Young children find these sticks of fire – burning as hot as 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit – irresistible to touch.

Eye safety experts make these suggestions:

- Never let children play with fireworks of any kind, including sparklers.
- View public fireworks displays from at least 500 feet away or up to a quarter of a mile.
- Respect safety barriers set up to allow pyrotechnicians to do their jobs safely.

- Leave the lighting of fireworks to trained professionals.

Facts About Fireworks Injuries

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission provides some interesting fireworks injury statistics:

- Fireworks devices were

(Over)



involved in an estimated 9,800 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in the latest year for which data is available.

- An estimated 6,300 injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms during the one-month period (June 22-July 22) surrounding the Fourth of July.
- Eyes were the second most commonly injured part of the body, with an estimated 1,400 fireworks related eye injuries treated in the same one-month period.
- Firecrackers accounted for 1,300 injuries, sparklers (1,000) and roman candles (800).
- Males accounted for 70% of fireworks injuries.
- Firecrackers caused the greatest number of injuries in children 14 and younger, followed by sparklers and rockets.
- Of the 1,100 estimated sparkler injuries, 200 were to children age 4 and younger.
- 2,600 of the fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.
- Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry shows that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than operators themselves.

Benefits Corner

Reminder

ADDRESS CHANGE

If you have an address change, please make sure to fill out an application for change of address and give it to your CHP contact to submit to CTSI for documentation and data system update.

HIPAA Qualifying Events for Special Enrollment

In order to add dependents outside of the open enrollment time frame during the year, one of the following circumstances must have occurred;

If you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption you must enroll the new dependent(s) within 31 days.

For A qualifying event defined as a loss of Medicaid, SCHIP coverage or eligibility for state premium assistance the dependent must be enrolled within 60 days.

Express Scripts Clinical Safety Review (Home Delivery/Mail Order) *Correction to May 2011 Benefits Corner*

Therefore, the following refill process will be followed for any drugs in this category unless a prescription from your doctor states otherwise;

- If patients have less than 35 days on hand, prescriptions will process immediately.
- 36 – 38 days on hand with no change in the prescription or therapy will be held and filled once the patient has a 35 day supply. No letter will be sent to the patient.
- **More than 39 days on hand the patient will get a letter.**
 - Updated letters include the next refill date so patients know when they can make a refill request.
 - A FAQ document will also be included.

If you have any questions, please call the Anthem Mail Order customer service at 1-800-962-8192 or contact your CHP Benefits Administrator at 303-861-0507.

- Contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies were the most common injuries to eyes.
- There were 11 fireworks-related deaths in the same.

If you find unexploded fireworks, don't touch them! Immediately contact your local fire or police department.

Fireworks injuries are so devastating and yet so preventable. Control your urges and make it a safe time for all.