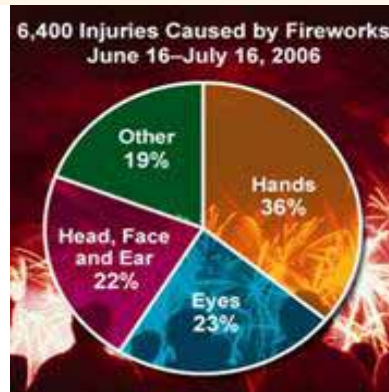




9,200 People Treated in Emergency Departments for Fireworks-Related Injuries



Be Safe: Leave Fireworks Displays to Trained Professionals

In 2006, eleven people died and an estimated 9,200 were treated in emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries in the United States. An estimated 5% of fireworks-related injuries treated in emergency departments required hospitalization.

An estimated 6,400 fireworks-related injuries – more than two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries in 2006 – occurred between June 16 and July 16. During that time period:

- one out of every three people injured were children under 15 years of age;
- about three times as many males were injured as females; and
- young people under twenty sustained nearly half (47%) of all injuries from fireworks.

People actively participating in fireworks-related activities are more frequently and severely injured than bystanders.

When do these injuries happen? Typically, 60% of injuries from fireworks in the United States occur in the month surrounding the July 4th holiday.

What types of fireworks cause injuries? Between June 18 and July 18, 2005, firecrackers (26%), sparklers (17%), and rockets (17%) accounted for most of the injuries seen in emergency departments. Sparklers were associated with over half of the estimated injuries among children under 5 years, during the same time period.

Who is likely to be injured? During the month around Independence Day (July 4th), children 14 years and younger sustained about 45% of injuries related to fireworks.

What kinds of injuries occur? Injuries from fireworks most often affect the hands, eyes, and the head, face, and ear.

Under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, the federal government banned the sale of the largest and most dangerous fireworks to consumers. Some states have banned the general public's use of fireworks altogether. Between 2000-2005, more than one third of the fireworks-related deaths involved professional devices that were illegally sold to consumers (CPSC 2006). The safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.

For more information contact the Risk Management Division,
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