

PRESS RELEASE



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Headline: *July 4th celebrations with fireworks is a national tradition, common-sense is the key to a fun and safe holiday.*

Example Subhead: *Fireworks: Safety tips to prevent fire and injury.*

Sparklers burn at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. That's almost six times hotter than boiling water, cakes bake at 350 degrees, and glass melts at 900 degrees Fahrenheit. The safest choice is to attend professional fireworks displays. According to the State Fire Marshal's Office, sparklers account for 41 percent of fireworks-related injuries.

In 2013, fireworks caused an estimated 15,600 reported fires, including 1,400 total structure fires, 200 vehicle fires, and 14,000 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated 30 civilian injuries and \$21 million in direct property damage.

For Texans who choose to use fireworks, Red Oak Fire Rescue offers these tips to protect you and your family from fires and injury this 4th of July holiday:

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- **Fireworks are illegal inside the City limits. Never light fireworks inside the City limits.**
 - Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
 - A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
 - Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
 - Keep a charged fire extinguisher within reach.
 - Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and instructions before igniting.
 - Wear safety glasses.
 - Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
 - Use fireworks on a hard, level surface.

- Use fireworks in a clear, open area away from buildings and vehicles. Never shoot fireworks indoors and avoid shooting fireworks in an area where there is dry grass or brush. Shoot fireworks away from homes and other flammable materials.
- Purchase fireworks only from a licensed and approved dealer.
- Do not point or throw fireworks at people.
- Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials.
- Do not transport fireworks in your checked baggage or carry-on luggage.
- After the fireworks display is over, keep watch for fires for at least 30 minutes to assure that everything has been extinguished.
- Have a bucket of water, garden hose or other water source available for emergencies.

Source: NFPA's Fireworks report, by Marty Ahrens, June 2016. Retrieved from <http://www.nfpa.org>

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