

# News Release

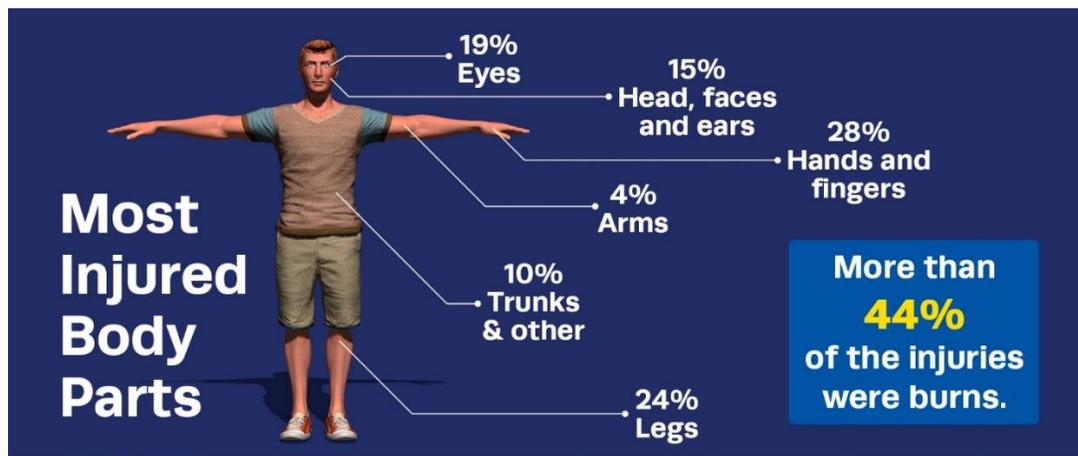
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News Release: 2020-15

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Frederick County Public Safety Divisions Provide Safety Tips for Fourth of July

(Frederick County, MD, June 17, 2020) – The Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, Frederick City Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, and Emergency Communications is encouraging families to attend professional, public fireworks displays this Independence Day. Attending a public fireworks display is the only safe way to honor our tradition, our shared values, and our hopes for a healthy future. We urge residents to take extra precaution when using fireworks. Every year, fireworks start [approximately 18,500 fires](#) and cause around \$43 million in direct property damage nationwide. Fireworks are responsible for an estimated [12,900 emergency room](#) injuries each year.



## #CelebrateSafely

We also wanted to remind you that ground based sparklers are the ONLY legal and permitted 'fireworks' that can be used in Frederick County. If you plan to celebrate using sparklers, please remember the following safety tips.

1. **Light one sparkler at a time and never relight a dud** – If too many sparklers are lit at one time, it can cause confusion about which ones are active, leading to possible injury or fire. Duds can malfunction and explode improperly if you try to relight them. It is best to douse them with water to ensure they are fully extinguished.
2. **Beware of allowing young children to play with sparklers** – Fireworks or sparklers can reach [temperatures of more than 1200 degrees](#), which can cause third degree burns. For a fun and flame-free way to light up the night, consider picking up a few glow sticks for young kids to play with.
3. **Keep pets indoors** – Pets can become distressed when sparklers/fireworks are launched and this can create more confusion and chaos, increasing the risk they will run loose or get injured. Pets should be kept inside and as far away as possible from fireworks.
4. **Keep a fire extinguisher nearby** – Be careful of how you dispose of sparklers and make sure you always have a fire extinguisher or water hose on hand. Once sparklers have stopped working, they are still extremely hot and need to be cooled off with water or a fire extinguisher so they can be disposed of properly.
5. **Only purchase approved sparklers** – APPROVED sparklers will note the following:



Any residents found to be celebrating with fireworks other than the approved sparklers can be issued a citation with subsequent fines and all illegal products will be confiscated.

For additional information regarding firework safety and statistics please go to:

[NFPA Firework Education](#)

Always have a sober adult in charge & never give fireworks to young children, even sparklers.

Only buy legal consumer fireworks from a licensed store, stand or tent. They typically have brightly colored labels with the manufacturer's name, directions and warnings.

Read and follow the directions on the labels.

Never carry a firework in your pocket or shoot fireworks from a metal or glass container.

Keep spectators at a safe distance.

Always wear safety glasses when igniting fireworks.



## Celebrate Safely

**Remember, even legal fireworks can cause injury if they're not used properly. Follow these rules to celebrate safely:**

The American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization focused on creating fireworks education & safety programs for youth.

Don't aim or throw fireworks at another person.

When finished, allow used fireworks to stand for at least 20 minutes, submerge in water, drain, place in a plastic bag & dispose outside in a covered trash can.

Never place any part of your body directly over a firework device.

Only use fireworks outdoors away from buildings on a flat, level, hard, fireproof surface that is free from debris.

Have a working garden hose or bucket of water handy.

Light only one firework at a time and never approach or re-ignite a firework that doesn't light the first time.