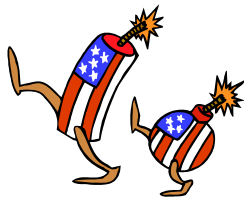




July / August 2010

FIREWORKS SAFETY



The City of Waynesboro Fire Department would like to share some information about fireworks safety with you since July 4th is around the corner.

According to PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA, nearly 13,000 firework victims are seen in hospitals every year. One of the most shocking facts is that over half of those injured are children. Fireworks not only injure the user, but 40 percent of bystanders are injured by fireworks mishaps.

There are three types of fireworks that cause the majority of injuries that are treated in hospitals during the holiday period: bottle rockets, firecrackers, and sparklers. **Firecrackers and bottle rockets are illegal in Virginia.** Firecrackers and bottle rockets can fly in any direction prior to exploding and sparklers burn at temperatures hot enough to melt gold.

Most fireworks injuries happen because people do not consider the danger of fireworks. So remember when setting off fireworks, make sure that you do not allow children to light them; make sure that they are on a level surface to prevent tipping; keep participants back at a safe distance; and ***DO NOT use illegal fireworks.***

Let's be safe this year and work together to prevent fireworks related injuries.

Statistical information by: Dr. Jeffrey G. Strauss

Basic Rules for Lawnmower Safety

Regardless of the mower, there are steps you can take to make sure you and your children stay safe.

- Don't mow when children are around. Make sure they're safely indoors and being supervised.
- Never let children help mow or ride as passengers on riding mowers, because that sends the wrong message.
- Clear the area of objects, such as rocks, wire and toys that could be thrown up by the blade.
- Make sure you wear sturdy shoes to mow, not flip-flops or sandals.

Web Extra: More Tips to Protect Your Kids

The following tips were provided by the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#). [CLICK HERE to visit the commission's website.](#)

- Be sure the area is clear of bystanders before operating. Stop the machine if anyone enters the area.
- Avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction. Material may ricochet back toward the operator.
- Stop the blades when crossing gravel surfaces.
- Never leave a running machine unattended.
- Slow down before turning.
- Do not operate the machine under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

For more tips on lawnmower safety, click to visit these resources:

- [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: Riding Lawnmowers](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics: Lawn Mower Safety](#)
- [Consumer Affairs: Lawn Mower Injuries Increase Nationwide](#)