

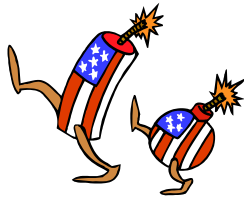


**WAYNESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION and LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION**

E-BULLETIN

July / August 2011

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



Lightning Safety

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, ***When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!*** Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the U.S.

The best way to protect yourself from lightning is to avoid the threat. You simply don't want to be caught outside in a storm. Have a lightning safety plan, and cancel or postpone activities early if thunderstorms are expected. Monitor weather conditions and get to a safe place before the weather becomes threatening. Substantial buildings and hard-topped vehicles are safe options. Rain shelters, small sheds, and open vehicles are not safe.



A safe shelter from lightning is either a substantial building or an enclosed metal vehicle. A **safe building** is one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, and has plumbing or wiring. Examples include a home, school, church, hotel, office building or shopping center. Once inside, stay away from showers, sinks, bath tubs, and electronic equipment such as stoves, radios, corded telephones and computers.

Unsafe buildings include car ports, open garages, covered patios, picnic shelters, beach pavilions, golf shelters, tents of any kinds, baseball dugouts, sheds and greenhouses.

A **safe vehicle** is any fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. While inside a safe vehicle, do not use electronic devices such as radio communications during a thunderstorm. If you drive into a thunderstorm, slow down and use extra caution. If possible, pull off the road into a safe area. Do not leave the vehicle during a thunderstorm.

Unsafe vehicles include golf carts, convertibles, motorcycles, or any open cab vehicle.



Lightning Victims

If someone is struck by lightning, they may need immediate medical attention. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch.

- **Call 911**
- **Monitor the victim**
- **Start CPR or use an Automated External Defibrillator if needed**

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

For more information please visit the following websites.

<http://www.lightningsafety.com/>

http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_pls/lst.html