

FIREWORKS SAFETY MONTHS

JUNE 1 - JULY 31

Safe Kids Kansas gives tips for an injury-free holiday

The Fourth of July is a time for celebration across the country, and here in Kansas, fireworks are a crowd favorite each year. Whether at a professional show or in the backyard, fireworks can be fun to watch – but they can also be very dangerous.

In 2007, an estimated 2,600 children ages 14 and under were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for injuries involving fireworks during the fireworks season, from the middle of June until the middle of July. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 40 percent of the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.

In Kansas, from 2000-2008, there were 21 hospital discharges due to fireworks injuries among children 14 years and younger. During the months of June and July 2008, there were 13 emergency room visits for injuries due to fireworks, among children 14 years and younger. Unfortunately, many fireworks injuries are not even reported.

“Don’t ever let kids play with fireworks, period,” says Cherie Sage, State Director of Safe Kids Kansas. “They’re intended for use by adults in open spaces and children should watch from a safe distance with plenty of adult supervision to make sure they don’t get too close.”

As with any activity involving hazardous equipment, keep all children



under active supervision at all times and give them your undivided attention.

“The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch them at a community event where professionals handle them,” says Sage.

Safe Kids Kansas recommends these precautions for adults using fireworks:

- Light fireworks only on smooth, flat surfaces and aim them away from

spectators, buildings, dry leaves and flammable materials.

- Do not try to relight fireworks that malfunction.

- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.

- Visit www.recalls.gov to make sure the pyrotechnic devices you are using are not subject to any safety recalls.

- Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.

- Keep a phone handy, and know first aid for burns. Also, keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.

Fireworks, including sparklers and flares, can cause serious burns as well as blast injuries that can permanently impair vision and hearing.

“Teach your children how to call 911 in an emergency. Also teach them what to do if their clothing catches on fire: ‘stop, drop and roll,’” Sage said.

Consumer (Class C) fireworks are legal in the state of Kansas with the exception of bottle rockets. However, many Kansas counties and cities have ordinances that are stricter than the state law. Where permitted by law, fireworks should be handled and used in strict accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and all labels.

For more information about fireworks safety and burn prevention, contact (785) 296-1223 or visit www.usa.safekids.org.



1190 S. Range • Colby, KS
785-462-6714



Have a safe 4th of July!

•OPEN 7 A.M. TILL MIDNIGHT•
1835 S. Range, 462-7138



John Deere Quality - Backed By Great Service!!

405 W. Horton • Colby, KS
785-462-3391 • 800-532-6529

Get \$5 Off a Subscription!

Have a safe 4th of July from our family to yours!



COLBY
FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth
(785)462-3963

