



American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division
2 Flowers Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 766-1616
atspa@atspa.org
www.atspa.org

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2024

For More Information Contact:

Sadie Carns
(717) 766-1616 ext:106
(717) 433-7236
scarns@atspa.org

Ensuring a Safe and Spectacular Fourth of July: Firework Safety in Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, PA – June 25, 2024 – As the Fourth of July approaches, the American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division is reminding residents to prioritize safety while celebrating with fireworks. With a rise in fireworks-related incidents during this festive season, it is crucial for everyone to follow safety guidelines to ensure a joyous and accident-free Independence Day.

"Fireworks are a traditional and exciting part of our Fourth of July and summer celebrations, but safety must come first. Let's work together to prevent injuries and fires, ensuring a happy and healthy celebration for all," said ATSPA CEO, Krista Brands.

The ATSPA is offering these safety guidelines for firework use:

1. **Legal Fireworks:** Only purchase fireworks from licensed vendors. Check local ordinances to ensure that the fireworks you plan to use are permitted in your area.
2. **Supervision:** Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults. Children and pets should always be kept at a safe distance from fireworks.
3. **Preparation:** Always have a bucket of water, a hose, or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of fire. Douse used fireworks in water before disposing of them to prevent accidental fires.
4. **Safe Location:** Use fireworks in a clear, open area away from buildings, vehicles, and flammable materials. Make sure spectators are at a safe distance.
5. **Follow Instructions:** Carefully read and follow all safety instructions on the fireworks packaging. Never attempt to relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in water before disposing of it.
6. **Personal Safety:** Never hold fireworks in your hand or position any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear protective eyewear and avoid loose clothing that could catch fire.
7. **Sober Handling:** Never use fireworks under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Impaired judgment can lead to accidents and injuries.

In case of an emergency, call 911 immediately. For non-emergencies or to report illegal fireworks use, contact your local law enforcement agency.



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The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.
[Visit the National Fire Protection Association for more information.](#)

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The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit dedicated to injury prevention and mitigation through education, intervention, and advocacy. The ATSPA strives to help all Pennsylvanians survive and lead healthier lives through its trauma prevention education programs.