



# Prevent Think Life Safety

For additional information, call 503-805-8482

## Firework Safety

Fireworks are an annual celebration of our nation's freedom. Celebrations are great, but fireworks carry some danger, mostly when not used properly. Enjoy the annual celebration but be considerate of the safe practices necessary to keep yourself, your children, and your home safe from fire.

The spark and flame created by most fireworks is between 1,500 and 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This can quickly start almost anything on fire.

Consider the following:

- Fireworks are intended for adults. Kids can get the impression they are okay to play with when given responsibility at too young an age.
- Set the right example for kids when using fireworks. When fireworks are treated like toys by adults, it shows children they need not consider them dangerous.
- Have water **ready to go**. This means a hose charged with water and/or a bucket full of water (which can quickly cool a burn on a hand). If something goes wrong, you're ready to go with no delay finding water.
- Some fireworks are illegal to use. Being legal does not mean SAFE. Safe is how you use them. A legal firework used in an unsafe way can cause fire or injury.
- Use fireworks in a clear area that cannot burn (gravel, dirt, pavement, etc.). The heat from any firework can easily ignite grass, bushes, trees, leaves, etc.
- If your firework is a dud, DO NOT relight it. Leave it for up to 20 minutes then soak in water before disposing of it.
- All used fireworks should be soaked in water and allowed to cool for several hours before disposal. Putting them in the trash when they may still be hot can easily cause a fire.
- When you purchase fireworks, only purchase them from reputable dealers. Homemade fireworks are much more unpredictable and can more easily cause damage or injury.
- Animals can be very sensitive to the noise and bright lights. Be considerate of your pets and those of your neighbors.
- Report unsafe use of legal fireworks or use of illegal fireworks to the authorities when you see life or property threatened.