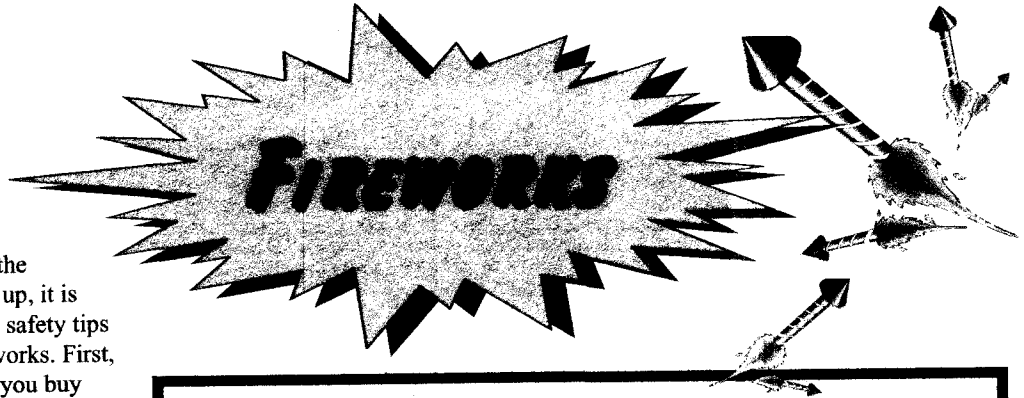


Safety With



With the celebration of the nation's birthday coming up, it is once again time for a few safety tips about fireworks. First, where can you buy them legally? From retail outlets and stands that are licensed by the State Fire Marshal. These stands are inspected by the fire department to insure that no illegal fireworks slip through. One objective, of course, is to avoid personal injury and the damaging fires caused each year by fireworks.

The other objective is to avoid having children buying illegal fireworks such as **bottle rockets** and **firecrackers** from someone selling these items from their car.

It has been recognized for years that fireworks, for all their patriotic associations, present a very serious safety hazard. Deaths, blindings, amputations, and severe burns have all too often been the result of fireworks misuse.

Fireworks should be used only with extreme caution. Used carelessly, they can cause painful, possibly severe, injuries. Before using fireworks make sure they are permitted in your state or local area. Many states and local governments prohibit or limit Class C fireworks, the most common fireworks and firecrackers sold for consumer use. To assist you in using fireworks safely, here are some recommendations.



- * Do not allow younger children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Remember, fireworks are not toys for young children. The sparkler, considered by many to be the ideal "safe" firework for the young, burns at a very high temperature and can easily ignite clothing. Children do not appreciate the danger involved and rarely act correctly in case of an emergency. Each year, many bushes and lawns are burned by the "innocent sparkler."
- * After a sparkler is out, place it in a bucket of water! The core wire remains hot for some time. A young child grabbing the core wire can suffer a serious burn instantly!
- * If you permit older children to use fireworks, be sure they use them only under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horse-play while they are being used.
- * Before using any fireworks, read the label and follow all warning instructions.
- * Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses and flammable materials, bushes, grass, gasoline cans, etc.
- * Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for dousing fireworks that don't go off. Never handle or try to relight fireworks as they may unexpectedly ignite.
- * Check your surrounding area. Make sure you do not have any people in range of your fireworks.
- * Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container. These are amateur grenades that could put you in a hospital or worse.
- * Check the instructions for safe storage of fireworks and follow them. Storage conditions do make a difference!

