



Georgia State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association

NEWS RELEASE

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Don't Let Fireworks Foul Up Your Fourth of July Celebration

State Fire Marshal Promotes What Is Legal in the Peach State, Georgia ENA Teams Up with Safe Kids to Protect Area Children

Columbus, GA – As plans for the Fourth of July holiday weekend are being made, Georgia's emergency nurses remind you to play it safe when it comes to fireworks. From a legal standpoint, only certain types of fireworks are permitted in Georgia. Georgia Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal John Oxendine puts it in easy-to-understand terms. "If it launches from the ground or explodes, it's illegal in the state of Georgia."

Fireworks may be exciting to watch, but they can also be very dangerous – especially to children. In 2007, an estimated 2,600 kids 14 and under were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for injuries involving fireworks during the fireworks season, which runs 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.

"Don't ever let kids play with fireworks, period," says Christy Hubbard, Safe Kids of Columbus coordinator. "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."

Safe Kids Columbus recommends these precautions for adults using fireworks:

- *Light fireworks only on smooth, flat surfaces, and point them away from spectators, buildings, dry leaves, and flammable materials.*
- *Do not try to re-light 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 devices you are using are not subject to any safety recalls.*
- *Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.*
- *Keep a phone handy, know first aid for burns, and keep a fire extinguisher close by 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," adds Hubbard. Where permitted by law, fireworks should be handled and used in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and all warning labels.

For more information about fireworks safety and burn prevention, visit www.usa.safekids.org.

About the Emergency Nurses Association

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) is the only professional nursing organization dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing and emergency care through advocacy, expertise, innovation and leadership. Founded in 1970, ENA serves as the voice of more than 35,000 members and their patients through research, publications, professional development, injury prevention and patient education. Additional information is available at ENA's web site - www.ena.org.

The Georgia ENA Council represents over 800 members all across the Peach State. Local chapters serve the Albany, Atlanta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah areas. For more information on the Georgia State Council, look at our web site at www.gaena.org.

About Safe Kids

Safe Kids Columbus works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Safe Kids Columbus is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury. Safe Kids Columbus was founded in 1998 and is led by Columbus Health Department.

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