

How can I keep everyone safe around fireworks?

In 2019 alone, there were about 10,000 injuries and 12 deaths in the United States connected to fireworks. In our own little Crystal Lake Township community, a tragic death as well as other injuries to multiple others happened as a direct result of errant firework ignition in 2022.

So here's some advice:

Always remain sober, and urge your friends and family to do so, as well. Don't let the celebratory spirit get out of hand.

Or, better yet, find a different way to celebrate the country and our democracy that doesn't entail potentially dangerous.

Know the legality of the fireworks you have. Avoid all homemade commodities or "underground" sales.

Always read instructions. Too many believe they know how to ignite fireworks so don't bother with reading the directions.

It's always smart to have a bucket of water or hose, or a blanket for wrapping someone on fire, handy in case things get out of control.

Adults should always supervise their children's firework use, including sparklers. Yes, even sparklers! Though small, they can hit a whopping 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, causing burns to skin, clothing damage and grass fires. They can cause injury when stepped on or used to "poke" another, resulting in piercing of another. Over 50 percent of sparkler-related injuries occur in children under 14 nationwide.