



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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## **PRACTICE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF FIREWORKS THIS JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

BALTIMORE, July 1, 2014 — Fireworks can be a fun and exciting way to celebrate our nation's freedom but they can also be harmful or even deadly if not used properly. According to [Fireworksafety.com](http://Fireworksafety.com), more than 65 percent of all fireworks-related injuries occur during the month of July. Of those, more than half are to the hands, fingers, and eyes.

It is up to consumers to use fireworks in a safe and responsible manner. Remember to practice these common sense safety tips while using consumer fireworks in hopes of minimizing injuries:

- Parents and caretakers should always closely supervise teens if they are using fireworks.
- Parents should not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors.
- Always have water handy if you are using fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; Read the caution label before igniting.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses whenever using fireworks.
- Only light one firework at a time.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Avoid using homemade fireworks or illegal explosives: They can kill you!
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.
- Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor, fire resistant garbage can away from buildings and flammable materials.

MedChi President, Dr. Russ Wright, says "It is important to follow common sense safety rules this Fourth of July during holiday celebrations. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses and be aware of their surroundings making sure spectators are out of range of the fireworks being used."

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).