



The Maryland State Medical Society

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Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

PRACTICE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF FIREWORKS THIS JULY 4TH

BALTIMORE, July 2, 2018 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, wants to remind people to be safe and responsible while handling fireworks this 4th of July. 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.

Practice common sense safety tips while using consumer fireworks in hopes of minimizing injuries:

- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Only use fireworks outdoors and keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and avoid using homemade fireworks or illegal explosives, they can kill you!
- 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.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully. Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor, fire resistant garbage can away from buildings and flammable materials.
- Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.

MedChi President, Dr. Gary Pushkin, says "fireworks can cause serious burns and eye injuries. Spectators should keep a safe distance from whoever is launching the fireworks and the launcher should wear safety glasses. It is also important for the launcher to make sure all spectators are out of range."

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.