

News: For Immediate Release

Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

STAY SAFE THIS FOURTH OF JULY: A MESSAGE FROM MEDCHI

BALTIMORE, July 1, 2025 — July marks a time when Americans come together to celebrate Independence Day — often with fireworks lighting up the sky. While fireworks are a festive tradition, they also come with serious risks when not handled responsibly. MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, encourages all Marylanders to enjoy the holiday safely and responsibly.

Fireworks safety is especially critical for children, who are naturally curious and more vulnerable to injury. Teaching kids about the dangers of fireworks — and setting a good example — can help prevent accidents and ensure everyone enjoys a safe holiday.

Whenever possible, attend professional fireworks displays rather than handling fireworks at home. But if you choose to use them, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Keep all fireworks away from young children; supervise teens closely.
- Only use fireworks outdoors in a clear, open area — far from homes, dry leaves, grass, or anything flammable.
- Never place fireworks in glass or metal containers.
- Maintain a safe distance for bystanders before lighting fireworks.
- Never use fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby in case of fire or to soak duds before disposal.

Dr. Padmini Ranasinghe, President of MedChi, shares “As a physician and a parent, I know how joyful and meaningful July 4th celebrations can be. But behind the sparkle of fireworks, there’s also real risk. In 2024 alone, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, fireworks were responsible for an estimated 14,700 injuries, 1,700 emergency room visits, and 11 heartbreaking deaths.

These are not just numbers — they represent families whose holiday turned into a tragedy. At MedChi, we want every celebration to end with laughter and memories, not a trip to the emergency room. Please take a moment to talk to your loved ones, especially children, about fireworks safety. Celebrate smart, celebrate safe — because nothing matters more than protecting each other.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. 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.