

FIRE & FIREWORKS

SAFETY AWARENESS TIPS



DID YOU KNOW?



In 2020, there was a **50% increase in firework related deaths and injuries** compared to 2019.

- US Consumer Product Safety Commission

Fireworks start an average of about **19,000 fires** each year.

- National Safety Council



Sparklers can burn at temperatures of about **2,000 degrees Fahrenheit** which is hot enough to melt gold.

- National Safety Council

Sparklers alone account for more than **25% of emergency visits** for fireworks injuries.

- National Safety Council



PREVENTION



The safest way to view fireworks is by attending a fireworks display. In the case that you and your loved ones utilize fireworks, consider the following:

Know the Law:

- It is illegal to discharge fireworks or to have fireworks in your possession in the city of Houston. Fines vary from \$500 - \$2000 for each individual firework.
- Due to the seriousness of the firework laws warnings are no longer issued.
- If a minor is caught with fireworks, the parent or guardian will receive the fine, even if they were unaware of the minor's possession and/or usage.
- Regardless of where you live, it is illegal to use fireworks near churches, hospitals, licensed childcare centers, and schools (unless you have written permission).
- Check with your local fire department for more information on firework laws in your area and check to see if a burn ban is in place before using fireworks.

Stay Safe:

- Only buy labeled fireworks - any unlabeled fireworks are illegal.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Keep cigarettes away from fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose close by.
- Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk injury, animals have sensitive ears and can become extremely frightened with the sound of fireworks.
- Do not wear loose clothing when lighting fireworks!
- Light fireworks one at a time and remember to point and shoot fireworks away from people.
- Soak any used fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them away.



CONVERSATION



Discussing fireworks safety and laws with minors is paramount to reducing injuries and preventing consequences.

Ask Yourself:

- Can I use fireworks in my area?
- Am I wearing clothing that could easily catch fire?
- Do I know how to safely use fireworks?

Ask Your Student:

- Do you know what can happen if a minor is caught with fireworks?
- Do you know why it is illegal to use fireworks in certain areas?
- How can you safely use fireworks?

WHERE TO REPORT



- Report fires and medical emergencies to **911!**
- To report complaints regarding illegal use of fireworks, call non-emergency phone numbers:
 - Houston Police Department: **713-884-3131**
 - Harris County Sheriff's Department: **713-221-6000**

PARTNERS & RESOURCES



- **Houston Fire Department:** Reports, Statistics, Safety & Public Education: houstontx.gov/fire
- **Harris County Fire Marshal's Office:** Responsible for ensuring buildings in Harris County are maintained to prevent fire and life safety hazards. Find details on the Fire Code, Annual reports, and Safety tips: <https://www.hcfmo.net/Resources>
- **Houston Public Library:** Find a plethora of electronic and physical media all related to fire safety for all members of the family. Visit houstonlibrary.org/home

RESOURCE CENTER



We are committed to keeping you safe by providing you with resources and safety tips every month. Visit our resource center on our website at crime-stoppers.org/resource-center to take advantage of monthly safety tips, safety hot topic videos, podcast episodes, and more!



Scan the QR code for more info!



To schedule a prevention presentation and learn more about teen dating violence, please fill out our presentation request link here: https://crime-stoppers.org/presentation_request