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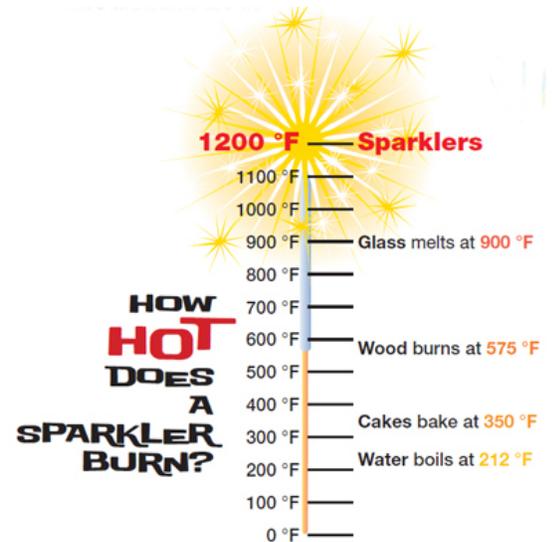
Fireworks Safety: Don't get burned this Fourth of July

Local Officials offer tips to stay safe and legal

Eau Claire, WI –June 29th 2018– On July 4th, many people in our community, and nationwide, will be celebrating our nation's birthday with fireworks. While fireworks bring excitement, they can also cause injuries. "The problem with fireworks is you are literally playing with fire," says Kelli Engen, Emergency Preparedness Specialist.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that on average, 250 people go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday. Fireworks can result in severe burns, fractures, scars or even death. The most injured body parts typically include: eyes, head, face, ears, fingers or hands. Even sparklers, which many people think are harmless, reach temperatures over 1,000°F.

Injuries aren't the only firework concern for residents--some fireworks are banned in the city (see [City of Eau Claire code](#)). A reminder-- the Eau Claire Police Department discourages the use of illegal fireworks, and is able to give citations. While sparklers, snaps, small fountains and other devices are legal, caution should be used.



The Health Department wants you to have a safe holiday. Here are a few tips to stay safe.

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities.
- Avoid buying fireworks packaged in brown paper, which often means they were made for professional displays and could be dangerous for consumers.
- Make sure you, your kids, and others watch fireworks displays from a safe distance.
- Call 911 immediately if someone is injured from fireworks.

Questions? Call the Health Department at 715-839-4718 or the Eau Claire Police Department at 715-839-4972. For more information about fireworks safety, please visit: <https://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-education-centers/fireworks>

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