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Parent Awareness Can Prevent Fireworks Injuries

BREMERTON – Thousands of children are injured every year due to fireworks and nearly 75% of these injuries occur during the month surrounding the July Fourth holiday. The Health District asks parents to be aware of fireworks dangers and take steps to keep their family safe.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children are most likely to be hurt by fireworks. There were over 200 reported fireworks-related injuries in Washington in 2005. Last year, Kitsap County emergency services reported six people with fireworks-related injuries requiring a hospital visit, and a total of 31 fire or aid calls associated with fireworks.

The Health District offers the following fireworks safety tips for parents:

- Be especially wary of bottle rockets, sparklers, and firecrackers. They lead the list of fireworks causing injuries. Injuries to eyes, hands, and fingers are often the result.
- Sparklers seem harmless, but burn at temperatures over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Small children with sparklers need “hands-on” supervision.
- Injuries often result in being too close to fireworks when they explode. Injuries typically occur when someone tries to hold a firecracker in their hand, or when someone bends over to look more closely at a firework that has been ignited but has not gone off.
- In spite of state and local regulations, fireworks are plentiful, and kids will come in contact with legal and illegal fireworks. Make sure that family rules about fireworks are clear ahead of time.
- The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch a local show that’s professionally handled. Enjoy the holiday with your family and watch big fireworks light up the sky from a safe distance.

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