

101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER 2014

Risk management has a role in everything we do, both on and off duty. It continues to be the job of the safety professionals to provide guidance to all Airmen about the dangers of the season. Airmen use sound risk management every day on duty and, while the main focus of the Critical Days of Summer campaign is off duty activities, Airmen must use the same risk management techniques in all circumstances.

*Chapter 6
June 27, 2014*



101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER



Chapter 6: The Jerk

Topic: 4th of July Activities

We look forward to spectacular fireworks displays sponsored by many organizations wherever you're stationed. There are many locations where certain types of fireworks are legal for individual use. If your July 4th celebration includes fireworks – even “just” sparklers – beware. Many injuries are caused and fires started with sparklers and fireworks.

According to the National Safety Council, in 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, including 1,100 structure fires. These fires resulted in an estimated 8,600 people treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, 61 percent of whom were over 15 years of age. Nothing should be taken for granted if you are using fireworks. The following mishap illustrates what can happen when setting off fireworks:

On 4 July, an Airman and a friend decided to create a fireworks display for their friends and family. The Airman placed the fireworks onto a piece of dunnage in the corner of the backyard as a launching point. He began lighting the fireworks and stepped back approximately 10 feet in order to look up and watch the display. Somehow, a firework tipped over. Someone told the Airman the firework had fallen over and was coming at him. While the friend had barely finished the warning, the firework struck the Airman in the right eye. He was admitted to the hospital for two days, undergoing surgical repair for a lacerated right retina and ruptured globe. He received 90 stitches and placed on convalescent leave for a month. He didn't weigh the risk and didn't think it could happen to him.

There are many websites with safety tips for using fireworks. Below is a summary:

- Never disassemble or try to make your own fireworks.
- Don't point sparklers, or fireworks at yourself or others, especially while they're being lit.
- Only light fireworks on the ground and in areas that are dry and fire resistant.
- Don't attempt to light multiple devices at the same time.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks or sparklers.
- Always keep a portable fire extinguisher close by. Also keep a water hose or buckets of water nearby to put out fires.

Enjoying the fireworks is only one part of most July 4th celebrations. Barbeques are also part of the day for many. Review all the safety tips in Chapter 2 to be sure you're ready for your grilling adventure.

More information to stay safe this 4th of July:

Additional resources:

<http://www.protection1.com/home-security-systems/learn/home-security-basics/safety-tips/4th-of-july-safety-tips/>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks/>

http://fireworkssafety.org/?page_id=188

<http://www.americanpyro.com/state-law-directory>

