



"Your Local  
Health Department"

## Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Independence Day Fireworks Safety**

**Coldwater, MI.** Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency wants to make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in kids and adults. The best way to protect your family is to simply not use any fireworks at home. Attend local public fireworks displays, and leave the dangerous part to the professionals. If you choose to have a fireworks show at home, first check with your local city, village, or township for rules on when it is okay to have a fireworks show, then keep these safety tips in mind:

- Kids should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give kids sparklers, make sure they keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair.
- Buy only legal fireworks (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place.

- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others setting off fireworks. They can backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction.
- Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even as a joke.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush and leaves and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be easily frightened or stressed by the Fourth of July and other big celebrations. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. To learn more about services provided by the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency "Your Local Health Department", visit our website at [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org) and like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/](http://www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/).

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