



## Fireworks Safety



Fireworks are a staple for Fourth of July and other celebrations throughout Pennsylvania. Despite the thrill, fireworks can be dangerous. Nationally, an average of 230 people visit the emergency room every day with firework related injuries in the weeks around July 4<sup>th</sup>. Most of these injuries are to the hands and fingers, but fireworks can also cause serious injuries to your eyes.

Typical fireworks injuries can be caused by firecrackers, bottle rockets, sparklers and more. Sparklers can burn at about 2,000 degrees, hot enough to melt metal!

### Safety Tips

- Know your ordinances regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area - away from buildings and vehicles.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Keep a bucket of water and a connected hose nearby.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them from metal or glass containers.
- Never set off fireworks within 150 feet of an occupied structure.

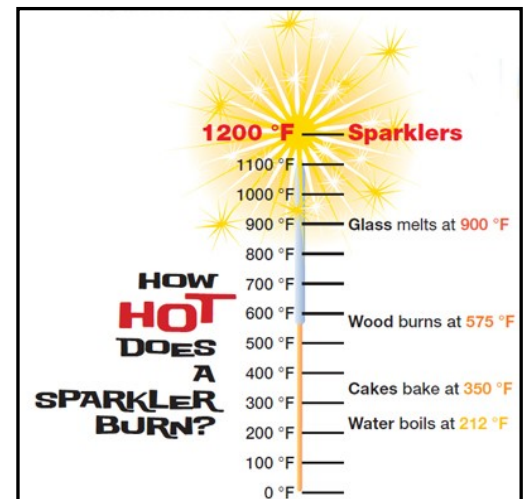
### Remember to celebrate safely with your pets



- Our pets are more sensitive to loud noises, flashing lights and strong smells.
- If fireworks are being used near your home, consider putting your pet in a safe, interior room to avoid exposure to the sound.
- Make sure your pet has an identification tag or is microchipped, in case it runs off during a fireworks display.
- Keep your pet busy. Pet treats or a new chew toy can help distract them during a fireworks display.

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## New Pennsylvania Fireworks Law



House Bill 542 was signed into law on October 30, 2017. Under the new law, the Fireworks Act of 1939 was repealed and replaced in its entirety. The questions and answers below highlight the most noteworthy changes.

### **Q Which fireworks are Pennsylvania residents now allowed to purchase and use?**

**A** Consumers can now purchase and use "Class C" or "consumer-grade" fireworks that include firecrackers, Roman Candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material. The expansion includes those fireworks that were previously only available to out-of-state residents.

"Display fireworks," which are classified as those that contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials, and professional-grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, are still only to be used by professionals with a permit from the municipality where the display will take place.

### **Q Who can purchase fireworks?**

**A** Anyone 18 years of age or older can purchase them.

### **Q What are the restrictions on where they can be used?**

**A** They cannot be ignited or discharged on a public or private property without express permission of the property owner.

- They cannot be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure.
- They cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.
- Also, it is recommended that you check with your local municipality, as you may also be subject to applicable local ordinances.

### **Q Where can fireworks be purchased?**

**A** They can be purchased at any licensed facility, including temporary ones. The licenses are issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Examples of temporary facilities include tents or other structures found in parking lots. These temporary structures can sell fireworks between the dates of June 15<sup>th</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> each year. For more information on licensing, visit the PA Department of Agriculture website at:

[http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business\\_Industry/fireworks/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business_Industry/fireworks/Pages/default.aspx)



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STATE POLICE

This information was provided by the Pennsylvania State Police  
([www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)).

## Extreme Heat

Can't stand the heat? That's OK because it can be deceptive, leading to heat illness or even death. In Pennsylvania, a heat wave is defined as three consecutive days with 90 degrees or higher temperatures. When heat lasts for several days or combines with humidity to push heat index values over 100 degrees, the potential for more widespread heat problems grows significantly. The National Weather Service will issue heat advisories and excessive heat warnings for extended periods of heat to alert the public to be prepared for potential illness or other problems.

As you can imagine, our big heat issues typically occur during the summer months. But did you know that certain populations may be more vulnerable to the heat? Children and older populations don't tolerate heat as well as a healthy adult. Here are a few tips on cooling down when things heat up:

- **Stay Hydrated!** Drink plenty of water on a regular basis. Avoid caffeine, sugar, and alcohol
- **Take a Break!** If you're working outdoors, make regular stops for time in the shade or air conditioning
- **10 to 3 - Not for Me:** Avoid strenuous activities outdoors during the hottest part of the day, typically from 10AM-3PM
- **Knock & Talk:** Be a good neighbor. Check on your older neighbors and those who are sick. Make sure they are drinking water and have a cool place to relax during the heat. If not, offer to take them to a cool place like a mall or library for a few hours
- **Look Before You Lock:** Check the back seat of your car every time to ensure you don't forget your kids or pets while running errands



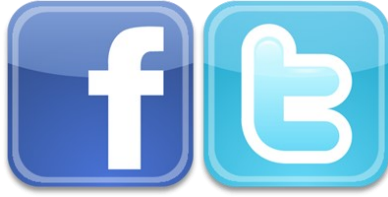
These simple tips can help reduce heat illness and unnecessary deaths. If someone is turning ill from heat, get them into shade or air conditioning and contact a medical professional. Know the signs of heat stroke, which is a medical emergency and can only be treated at a hospital.

Don't forget your pets. They also do not tolerate heat and are subject to heat related illnesses. And remember, do not leave your pets in the car on a hot day. The chart below demonstrates how little time it takes for the temperature in a car to reach deadly temperatures.



## PEMA is Social!

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<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

## PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

*Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!*



[www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)



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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

### Preparedness Events in July

#### Independence Day or 4th of July

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence\\_Day\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States))

#### Extreme Heat Awareness

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>

or

<https://www.ready.gov/heat>

#### National Parks and Recreation Month

<https://www.nrpa.org/July>

or

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/Pages/default.aspx>

### Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: [www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

ReadyPA: [www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)

SERVPA: [www.Serv.PA.gov](http://www.Serv.PA.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services: [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Health: [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)

PA State Animal Response Team: [www.pasart.us](http://www.pasart.us)

PA Department of Transportation: [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov)

PA511Connect: [www.511pa.com](http://www.511pa.com)

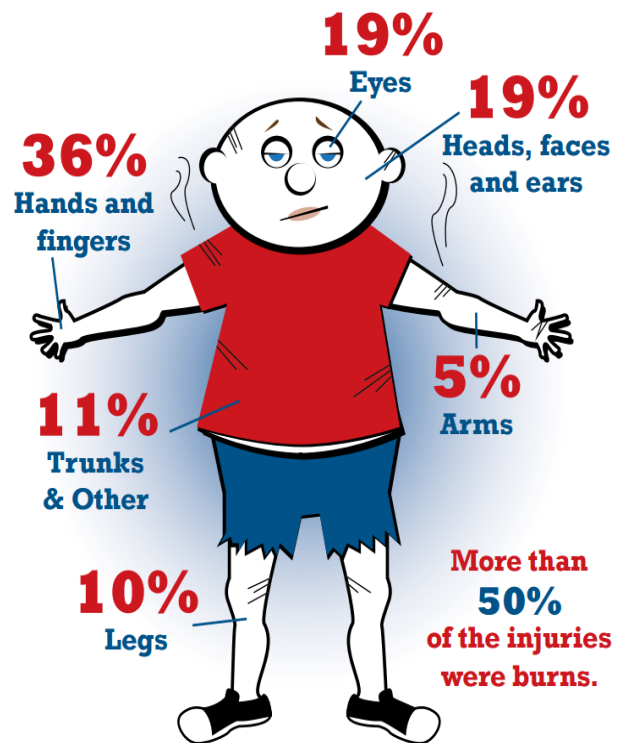
Pennsylvania State Police: [www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)

PAA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: [www.DCNR.pa.gov](http://www.DCNR.pa.gov)

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### Most Injured Body Parts



### Sparky the Fire Dog says...

Keep a bucket of water and a working hose nearby.



### Fireworks Injuries by Age

