



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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### SAFE KIDS JACKSON COUNTY URGES RESIDENTS TO LEAVE THE FIREWORKS TO THE PROS

Each July 4<sup>th</sup> thousands of people, mostly children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. This Fourth of July leave the fireworks to the professionals. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries and fires each year. The best way to protect your family is to not use any fireworks at home. Instead, attend public fireworks displays, which Jackson County has numerous events to choose from.

Safe Kids Jackson County offers a few safety tips for your family when it comes time for fireworks:

- Leave Fireworks to the Professionals. The best way to protect your family is to not use any fireworks at home. Instead, attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.
- Celebrate with Safe Alternatives. Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. Let young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun but they don't burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.
- Take Necessary Precautions. Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks. Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass. Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves and flammable substances.
- Be Prepared for an Accident or Injury. Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it. Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. Grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, sit back and let the experts handle the fireworks show!

For more information on Safe Kids Jackson County contact Coordinator, Martha Thomasson at 828-587-8257.

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