

CAMP HILL, Pa. (June 29, 2023) — An estimated [74% of fireworks injuries](#) occur in the weeks surrounding the Fourth of July. To help prevent eye injuries this holiday season, consider implementing safety precautions so that you can relax and enjoy the festivities.

Research shows that the eyes are one of the most harmed body parts due to fireworks accidents, [comprising 14% of injuries](#). Frequent eye complications include contusions, lacerations and damage from foreign objects.

“While fireworks are an exciting way to celebrate the Fourth of July, a moment of carelessness could severely impact your eye — and overall — health,” said Roosevelt Allen, DDS, MAGD, ABDG, chief dental officer, United Concordia Dental. “Whether you’re watching them from home or in a public place, it’s important to use fireworks safely this summer and all year long.”

Here is what you need to know to stay safe:

- Always wear protective eyewear and keep a safe distance.
- When watching fireworks at home, light them one at a time, and then move away quickly.
- Never try to relight defective fireworks; run them under water and throw them away.
- Always supervise children, as even the smallest fireworks, including sparklers, can cause eye injuries when mishandled.
- Never light explosives in any type of container, especially those made of metal. It can cause an explosion and send shrapnel everywhere.

In the case of an eye injury, go to the emergency room to avoid permanent damage or vision loss. Do not:

- Remove objects from the eyes.
- Rub or rinse your eyes.
- Apply pressure or ointments or take medications.

Accidents caused by fireworks are most common at private parties. [The National Fire Protection Association](#) states that fireworks are unsafe in the hands of consumers and should be exclusively handled by professionals. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend public displays where a fire truck is often present, ready to respond swiftly if needed. If you plan on enjoying fireworks this summer, remember these tips and celebrate safely.

For more information on United Concordia Dental, visit [UnitedConcordia.com](https://www.unitedconcordia.com).

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