



## ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY FIREWORKS FACT SHEET 2021



### Know the Law

Even if fireworks are legal in your area, they pose a huge risk to life and property. Know the risks, know the law, and practice firework safety.

- Safe and Sane fireworks are legal in: Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, Stanton, Villa Park, and Westminster. In all other Orange County cities, *all* fireworks are illegal.
- Fireworks are prohibited:
  - At all State and County Parks
  - In County Harbors
  - In all State, County, and City Beaches
  - in Unincorporated Orange County
  - in the Cleveland National Forest
- Use of illegal fireworks may result in a fine and up to a year in jail. **(CAL FIRE 2020)**
- If you start a fire (even accidentally) from fireworks, you will be held liable for the fire suppression costs and property damage costs. **(CAL FIRE, 2020)**

**In Orange County, fireworks pose a severe fire risk, as well as a health and safety risk to kids and adults:**

- An estimated 19,500 fires started by fireworks were reported to local fire departments in the US during 2018. These fires caused five civilian deaths, 46 civilian injuries, and \$105 million in direct property damage. **(NFPA, 2020)**
- 59% of fires started by fireworks turned into brush, grass, or forest fires. **(NFPA, 2020)**
- Hand-held sparklers burn at 1200-2000 degrees. Wood and vegetation ignite at 356 degrees. **(FEMA, 2020)**
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that 9,100 consumer fireworks-related injuries were seen in US hospital emergency departments in 2018. **(NFPA, 2020)**

### Risk of Death / Injury:

- Every year, about 10,000 people are treated for injuries in emergency rooms due to the mishandling of live and misfired consumer fireworks. **(CPSC, 2019)**
- Burns account for 44% of the 9,100 injuries treated in emergency rooms in the month around July 4<sup>th</sup>. **(CPSC, 2018)**
- Children ages 10-14 had the highest rate of fireworks injury, with more than 36% of all victims of injuries under age 15. **(CPSC, 2018)**
- Sparklers account for roughly 25% of emergency room fireworks injuries. **(CPSC, 2018)**
- In 2019, 12 individuals died due to fireworks related incidents. Seven of the deaths were associated with misuse of fireworks and two deaths were associated with late ignition. **(CPSC, 2019)**

**Leave fireworks to the professionals.** Many Orange County cities and communities hold professional fireworks displays on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

