

Safe Fun With Fireworks



photo courtesy Fireworks by Grucci Inc.

On July 4, our country celebrates its 240th birthday. Many of us will honor Independence Day with cookouts, reunions and fireworks.

Fireworks history

Today, the fireworks shows we watch may be controlled by high-tech computer equipment. They sometimes have music that plays along with the explosions.

But fireworks have been a part of celebrations for centuries. In many ways, fireworks haven’t changed much.

Most experts agree that the Chinese probably invented fireworks more than 1,000 years ago. Colonists from England and Europe probably brought them when they settled in America.

“Illuminations,” the Colonists’ word for fireworks, were used at the celebration of the new country on July 4, 1776.

Be careful

Fireworks are exciting and fun, but they have to be used carefully. In 2014, about 10,000 people were injured by fireworks.

Make sure you know how to safely use fireworks and have adults nearby to help. Of course, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to let the professionals put on the show for you.



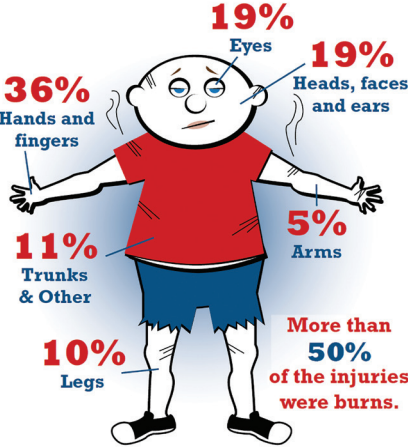
image courtesy Library of Congress

At the first inauguration of President Grover Cleveland in 1885, fireworks were part of the celebration in Washington, D.C.

Safety spelled out

- F**ire is always dangerous. Be careful with lighters, punks and sparklers.
- I** never use **I**llegal fireworks.
- R**ever **R**e-light a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in water.
- E**ye protection should be worn when using fireworks.

Most Injured Body Parts



This graphic shows which body parts are injured most often by fireworks accidents.

image courtesy Consumer Products Safety Commission

- W**ater: Have a bucket of **W**ater to put used fireworks in.
- O**ne: Light only **O**ne firework at a time.
- R**ead: **R**ead the directions on fireworks and use them as intended.
- K**ids: **K**ids should be supervised by adults when using fireworks.
- S**afe: It is not **S**afe to point fireworks at other people or animals.

Make a plan with your family about the fireworks safety rules you will follow on July 4. Hang up this issue of The Mini Page to help you remember how to stay safe.



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Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/1VITIUA
- 1.usa.gov/1TjIe2O

At the library:

- “The Explosive Story of Fireworks!” by Kama Einhorn
- “How It Happens at the Fireworks Factory” by Megan Rocker

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of fireworks are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:

ADULTS, BUCKET, CELEBRATION, CHINESE, DAY, DIRECTIONS, DUD, EXPLOSION, EYE, FIREWORKS, INDEPENDENCE, INJURY, PROTECTION, PUNK, SAFETY, SHOW, SPARKLER, WATER.

N O I S O L P X E V B E Y E E
I N J U R Y D C H I N E S E S
R K N U P A D U L T S M D A Y
E F D U D P R O T E C T I O N
L Y R W S A F E T Y W S H O W
K S N O I T C E R I D Q H Z I
R W U T E K C U B R E T A W T
A P I P J Q S K R O W E R I F
P R M E C N E D N E P E D N I
S B C E L E B R A T I O N P Z



Cook’s Corner

Pineapple Pudding Cake

You’ll need:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 3 whole eggs
- 1 (15.25-ounce) can crushed pineapple (with juice)
- 1 (1-ounce) box vanilla pudding mix (not instant)

What to do:

1. Prepare cake mix and bake according to package directions in a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish coated with cooking spray.
2. Remove cake from oven and immediately pierce holes in top of cake with a fork. Pour canned pineapple and juice over top. Allow to cool.
3. Prepare pudding according to package directions. Spread pudding over top of pineapple. Top with whipped topping and coconut. Chill before serving.

- 2 cups reduced-fat milk
- 1 (12-ounce) tub fat-free whipped topping
- 1 cup shredded coconut



* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. school cleaner (7) _____
2. break into small pieces (7) _____
3. house made of ice (5) _____
4. what you use to dig (6) _____
5. where you look up words (10) _____
6. people watching a show (8) _____
7. place to shop (5) _____

JANI	SHOV	AU	TION
RE	STO	OO	BLE
IGL	TOR	ENCE	ARY
CRUM	DI	EL	DIC

Answers: janitor, crumble, igloo, shovel, audience, store.



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Mini Jokes



Greg: What is the sleepest mountain in the world?
Gretel: Mount Ever-rest!

Sue: Why did the old man refuse to climb the mountain?
Sam: He was already over the hill!

Eco Note



Read the labels of the food in your kitchen. Some of it was grown or made in faraway places. That means a lot of energy was used just to get it to you. With your family, agree to eat at least one locally produced food each week. Visit farmers’ markets or farm stands. Click simplesteps.org/eat-local for more information.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for notices about July 4 fireworks displays.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

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