

Firework Safety Games

We've found a number of online games with a 'bonfire night' theme, including virtual firework displays and virtual sparklers. Check out the firework [safety games](#).

Fireworks are great fun. But taking care is important especially as children are more likely to get hurt by fireworks than adults. There are simple things that can reduce the risk.

Did you know...?

- Over 550 children under 16 are taken to A&E in the four weeks surrounding bonfire night alone.
- Many more boys than girls are injured by fireworks – especially boys aged 12 to 15 years.

General safety reminders

Children under five are too young to safely hold a sparkler and don't really understand why they might be dangerous. Avoid giving them one to hold.

Babies or children can wriggle in your arms and reach out unexpectedly. Avoid holding a baby or child when you have a sparkler in your hand.

Children over five will still need you to supervise them when they use sparklers. It's safest if they wear gloves when they're holding them. They might seem like 'fireworks lite' but sparklers can reach a temperature of 2000°C. Have a bucket of water handy to put them in so that no-one can pick up a hot one off the ground. Teach them not to wave sparklers near anyone else or run with them.

Safety reminders for your own event

If you want to be safe on bonfire night take your child to your local organised event. If you are holding your own or going to a friend's, it's good to remember the following things.

- Children do need careful supervision. Have a marker, like a rope, for the children to stand behind at a safe distance from the display.
- Avoid noisy fireworks late at night, especially after 11.00pm.
- Use a torch – rather than a naked flame - to carefully read the instructions. Remember the rule to light a firework, hold the firework at arm's length and light it with a taper or firework lighter.
- Store fireworks in a metal box until you are ready to use them.
- Never throw spent fireworks onto a bonfire.
- It's best to be fully in control when you're lighting fireworks. Avoiding alcohol until you've set them all off is the safest option.
- Don't go back to it once a firework has been lit. Sometimes they can be very slow to get started and may take you by surprise.

- The safest place for a bonfire is at least 18 metres (60 ft) away from the house and surrounding trees and hedges, fences or sheds.
- After you've finished the display, make sure that anyone who is helping you to clear up uses tongs or gloves to collect all the spent fireworks to avoid burning themselves.

Reminders in an emergency

- Cool any burns immediately with cold water. Keep the burn under the running water for at least 10 minutes.
- Don't touch the burn or pull at any clothing that might be stuck to it.
- Cling film is an ideal cover for the burn to stop any infection getting into it. If you don't have cling film then any clean, non-fluffy material will help.
- If someone's clothing catches on fire, get them to stop and drop to the ground and roll them any heavy material (like a curtain).
- Get advice from a doctor, the A&E department at your local hospital, or NHS Direct. 0845 4647 (England and Wales); NHS 24 08454 242424 (Scotland).
- Get medical advice for any burn on a child larger than a postage stamp.
- If the burn involves a child's face, hands, feet, joints or genitals, it should be seen by a doctor.