

BONFIRE NIGHT

YOUR GUIDE TO A SAFER EVENT

Did you know...?

- ⇒ Fireworks can travel at speeds up to 150mph, the cruising speed of some biplanes.
- ⇒ It is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under the age of 18.
- ⇒ If three sparklers burn together, they will do so at the same heat of a blowtorch used for joining metal.
- ⇒ Until 1959 it was illegal not to celebrate bonfire night in the UK.
- ⇒ Bonfire night was originally called 'Bone fire'.
- ⇒ Throwing a firework is a criminal offence and you can be fined up to £5000 for doing so.





HOW ADULTS LIGHT fireworks safely

As fireworks are very dangerous it is important to be very careful and special precautions will need to be taken by adults.

- 1 Lay out the firework while it's standing on its bottom or stand. Adults need to make sure that there are no flammable materials or plants nearby.
- 2 The adult will then warn people in the area that they are about to light the firework.
- 3 Once the firework is lit, the adult will then make sure no one else is in the area of the firework and walk away.
- 4 The firework has been lit, it flies through the sky. Whoosh, bang! Time to clean up. An adult will have a bucket of water nearby to store them in for the time being.
- 5 When the night is over, it is safe to put the wet fireworks in the bin.



BONFIRE NIGHT ACCIDENTS



990

In a recent year, there were 990 injuries caused by fireworks in October and November.

494 of those were children who were injured by sparklers or fireworks.

494

479

479 people of all ages required hospital treatment after being injured by fireworks:

121 of those injuries happened during public displays.

121

475

475 occurred at family events or private parties.

out of the injuries, a total of 285 of them were eye injuries.

285



Pet safety

Your pets can be very timid around bonfire night as they do not understand the loud noises that fireworks make. In the wild, loud noises such as these usually indicate that there is danger afoot so they will be inclined to run away and hide.

Whizzzzz
Meowow
Meowow

Dogs will need a good walk before the evening. For smaller pets ensure that they have everything they need for the whole evening.

Close all windows and curtains so that the sounds of the explosions are reduced. Turn on the television to help distract from the noise.

If your pooch or tom is hiding under furniture or in a corner, leave them there. Trying to prise them out will only cause more fright.

Make sure your pet has a microchip fitted by the vet. This means if your pet runs away, he or she can be returned to you.

REMEMBER TO STAY WARM

It's pretty cold in November and standing around in the dark can be chilly! So wrap up warmly with thick socks, hats, jumpers, coats and scarves.



Don't forget your ear muffs!






YUMMY

BONFIRE NIGHT FOOD

Bonfire night is a great opportunity to try lots of scrummy food that you don't usually get to try during other times of the year.

Traditional bonfire food can include:

- ★ Bonfire toffee
- ★ Hot pork/beef sandwiches
- ★ Toffee apples
- ★ Cheesy jacket potatoes
- ★ Pie & peas

Don't forget your ear muffs! 

HEALTH ISSUES

If you suffer from a **heart problem**, **asthma** or **bronchitis** it may be a better idea to enjoy the fireworks from inside. Turning off your lights inside will enable you to see them better!



FIRST AID ADVICE

Advice on first aid can be obtained from:

St John
Ambulance



British
RedCross

08700104950

www.sja.org.uk

02072355454

www.redcross.org.uk



Bonfire night can be one of the most exciting nights of the year and it should be, but it is important to keep safe whilst attending a bonfire event. Whilst you are there, remember that there are certain things you should and should not do:

- Do** stand far away from both the fire and fireworks.
- Do** light only one sparkler at a time and do so at arms length.
- Do** only use sparklers if supervised by an adult.
- Do** keep your cat and dog inside during bonfire night
- Do** make sure an adult checks the bonfire for hiding pets or wild animals before it is lit.
- Do** keep a bucket of water ready for emergencies.

- Don't** go near a firework after it has been lit.
- Don't** go near a firework after it has gone off: leave it for adults to clean up.
- Don't** use sparklers without wearing gloves.
- Don't** give sparklers to your little brother or sister if they are under the age of five.
- Don't** keep the bonfire in the way of things such as trees and buildings.
- Don't** light fireworks after 11:00pm as this is illegal.



CHOOSING FIREWORKS

Make sure the fireworks you buy are meant for home use, are suitable for the size of your garden and are marked with British Standard number (BS 7114). You will also need the following:

- Metal box with lid for storing fireworks during your display
- Torch for checking instructions
- Taper for lighting fireworks
- Bucket of water
- Bucket or other container of soft earth to stick fireworks in
- Board or other non-flammable, rigid surface for flat-bottomed fireworks
- Supports or launches for Catherine wheels or rockets



SPARKLER FUN!



- 1 Find somewhere safe that is open, but not too windy.
- 2 Remember to wear gloves so that you do not get burnt.
- 3 Get an adult to light the sparkler whilst you are holding the base of the stick.
- 4 Make sure that only one sparkler is lit at a time. Remember that when they are first ignited, they give a very bright and heated initial spark!
- 5 Remember to hold the sparkler horizontally and as far away from your body and face as possible.
- 6 Once you have had fun with the sparkler (try writing your name!) and it is no longer burning, make sure to put it in a bucket filled with water.
- 7 Never touch the end of the sparkler, even long after it has stopped burning.

www.bonfire-night-safety.co.uk

[Click here](#) to find out how you can support The Fire Fighters Charity today.

Bonfire night accident statistics sourced from:

Camps Solicitors The Royal Society of the Prevention of Accidents.



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