

# Fireworks Position Statement



Bringing Americans to Eye Care

## Position Statement

Prevent Blindness supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks and sparklers, except those used in authorized public displays by competent licensed operators.

In order to eliminate the health and economic impact of fireworks accidents, Prevent Blindness further supports the following:

- All state governments should adopt a uniform model law that would establish standards and codes for public fireworks displays conducted under controlled conditions by trained and licensed personnel.
- The importation, general sale and indiscriminate use of all fireworks (including consumer fireworks and sparklers) by unlicensed adults and children should be banned. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission should work to ban the use of consumer fireworks and sparklers by the public.
- Federal agencies should enact and/or rigidly enforce regulations prohibiting the importation, Internet/mail order and interstate transportation of consumer fireworks and sparklers.
- Healthcare practitioners and local authorities should be required to report any fireworks or sparkler-related injuries, property damages and deaths. Injuries and incidents can be reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission by calling 800.638.2772 or filing a report on their website, <http://www.cpsc.gov/>.
- All professionals, organizations and agencies concerned with the safety of the American public should intensify educational efforts to inform adults and children of the hazards associated with the use of all types of fireworks and sparklers.

*Note: Sparklers include two classifications, based upon the type of combustible used: Certain sparklers are classified as 1.4G fireworks (often called "consumer fireworks"), while others are classified as "novelties." **Both types of sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.** For the purposes of this paper, the term "sparklers" refers to sparklers in both classifications.*

Prevent Blindness further promotes the following message:

- Fireworks are extremely dangerous.
- There is no safe way for you or your family to use fireworks.
- Do not purchase, use or store fireworks or sparklers.
- Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks and sparklers.
- Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

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