



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

The Rocket's Red Glare

Ah, summer...blue skies, glorious sunshine, the sizzle of hotdogs on the grill, the laughter of children dashing through the sprinkler. The Fourth of July will soon be here-a time when we Americans celebrate our rights and freedoms with friends and family. The food, music, and camaraderie are great, but the highlight of the celebration would be missing without the fireworks.

We pay tribute to our country and founding fathers when we celebrate this national holiday with such fanfare. However, we need to be mindful of the inherent dangers of fireworks, lest our tribute turns into tragedy.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to leave the fireworks displays to the professionals. However, if you decide to have your own fireworks display, make sure they aren't illegal in your state or local area and use these safety tips to make sure your Independence Day is free from hazards:

- Always read and follow instructions for each device.
- Do not allow children to light fireworks.
- Fireworks should only be lit outdoors, away from structures and any flammable materials.
- Keep a water bucket or hose nearby for emergencies.
- Do not modify, tamper, or dismantle fireworks or attempt to make your own.
- Do not try to light fireworks that have malfunctioned (DUDs).
- Do not throw fireworks at other people. Place them on the ground or a launch platform, light them, and get away as fast as you can.
- Do not place or light fireworks inside a metal or glass container or near a heat source.
- Store in a cool, dry place and out of sight of children.
- Dispose of properly. Soak DUDs with water, pick up with a shovel, and throw away.