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**EDWARD CASARES, JR.**  
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## Leave Fireworks to the Professionals

### NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE

(July 1, 2011)--- Statistics from a report by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that fireworks (objects designed to burn or explode) cause tens of millions of dollars in property damage, thousands of injuries, as well as some deaths each year. Injuries from the intense heat of fireworks typically harm the eyes, head, hands, arms or legs. Some burns leave disfiguring scars that last a lifetime.

Children are at greatest risk from fireworks, whether as spectators or active participants. According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately 62% of fireworks injuries are to young people under the age of twenty. Children between the ages of 10 and 14 amounted to approximately 20% of these injuries.

While most parents work year round to keep their children safe, fireworks discharged in their backyards place their children at substantial risk. Even sparklers, which can heat up to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, pose a serious danger in a child's hand.

Fireworks are believed to be safe and many are used annually without incident. However, fireworks consistent performance is based on many factors such as: surroundings (proximity to combustibles) and environmental conditions (wind, dryness, humidity). Untrained individuals often do not consider these factors and dramatically compromise their margin of safety.

Fire Chief Edward Casares, Jr. suggests, "Attend public fireworks displays exhibited by trained professionals. It's the safest way to enjoy fireworks on the Fourth of July."

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