Sparklers Are Fireworks -- Respect Them!

Just because the sparkler seems friendlier and quieter than its big cousin, the high-in-the-sky pyrotechnical explosion, doesn’t mean it can be treated casually. Even though it’s often enjoyed by children, the sparkler is a powerful firework. Its tip can get as hot as 1200 degrees!

For this reason and others, if you and your family will be enjoying sparklers this 4th of July, please follow these 10 tips:

1. Use sparklers only with close supervision by adults.
2. Don’t wave sparklers.
3. Stand when holding a sparkler; don’t sit.
4. Never hold a child in your arms while using sparklers.
5. Wear shoes! Sparks can burn toes.
6. Stand 6 feet or more away from someone else with a sparkler.
7. Never throw sparklers.
8. Hold a sparkler an arm’s length away from your body.
9. Never hand a lighted sparkler to someone. Instead, hand someone an unlit sparkler and then light it.
10. When you’re done with a sparkler, put it into a bucket of water or sand to be sure its fire is out.

Sparklers account for $\frac{1}{3}$ of all firework injuries to children 5 or younger. They’ve been a traditional means of celebrating our national holiday, so let’s teach our kids how to use sparklers safely and prevent needless injuries.

July Is Fireworks Safety Month

_Prayer:_ Thank you, loving God, for this exciting season of beauty and joy. Keep me safe and my judgement sound this summer. Amen.