

Soundbite Script – Print – Red, white and boom – safely

Stathis Poulakidas, MD, burn center medical director at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rockford

"The simplest of fireworks, which anybody would think is a sparkler, can burn up to 1,800 degrees," says Dr. Poulakidas. "The first thing everybody wants to do is hand the baby the sparkler and say, 'go ahead. Run around and have a good time.' But then it falls to their shoes, they burn horrifically. So not even the simplest of fireworks is safe." (:18)

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"I see more adults than I see children with firework injuries. The only children we see are the ones that are too close to the actual fireworks, as the adults are manipulating them while intoxicated. Then the fireworks injure the child." (:12)

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"We'll see minor burns to the hands, to the face. We'll see digits or fingers get blown off," he says. "We've seen whole hands blown off and people lose arms." (:11)

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"We want everybody to use good judgment and safe measures to prevent injury. Because I think prevention is the key, instead of dealing with an injury after something has occurred." (:11)