Yes. Fireworks contain hazardous chemicals. A variety of chemicals like arsenic, barium chlorate, phosphorus, and potassium nitrate are found in fireworks.

Q: Why do people call the poison center about fireworks?
A: Firecrackers and other small fireworks left unattended can easily be eaten by small children. Children under the age of 5 years account for the majority of poison center calls.

Q: How often does the poison center get calls about firework exposures?
A: During the summer, poison centers take more calls about fireworks exposures than at other times throughout the year. Most calls come in around the summertime holidays, like Independence Day.

Q: What are the best ways to avoid unintended exposures to fireworks?
A: • Avoid leaving fireworks unattended by responsible adults
  • Keep fireworks out of reach of children
  • Have a designated area to light fireworks
    ◦ Firework lighting area should only be accessible to adults
    ◦ Lighting area should be far from other people, homes, garages, and other buildings
    ◦ Use a bucket of water to submerge malfunctioned or used fireworks
  • All fireworks can cause burns
    ◦ Do not allow small children to use sparklers
  • Adults who use alcohol or other recreational substances should avoid using fireworks
  • Avoid relighting fireworks
  • Light one firework at a time
  • Pets should be kept in quiet areas during use of fireworks
  • Leave it to the professionals - Click here for a list from Michigan Fireworks Displays

Q: How hot do fireworks burn?
A: Fireworks burn at temperatures as high as 1,500 °F. Burn victims should be treated in a hospital emergency room. Most firework burn victims are under 20 years of age.

Q: What can happen to a person who has eaten fireworks?
A: Symptoms can be mild to severe for children or adults who have eaten fireworks.
  • Mild symptoms
    ◦ Upset stomach
    ◦ Vomiting
    ◦ Diarrhea
  • Life-threatening symptoms
    ◦ Irregular heartbeat
    ◦ Difficulty breathing
    ◦ Seizures

For anyone experiencing signs of physical or mental distress or showing signs of life-threatening symptoms call 911 immediately.

POISON HELPLINE
1-800-222-1222
Available 24/7/365
Free, confidential, & expert advice

Visit the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Agency for more about legal firework use. Click here.