

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fireworks Safety for Children **Celebrate Guy Fawkes Burns Free**



Safekids New Zealand, with the support of the New Zealand Fire Service, is advocating for a fun, colourful and burns-free Guy Fawkes celebration this November, with safety guidelines for families and children.

“A fun, yet safe way to celebrate Guy Fawkes is to attend authorized public fireworks displays, where children are at a safe distance, and burns injury risks from fireworks are minimized,” said Ann Weaver, Safekids New Zealand Director.

For a listing of public displays in your area, visit www.guyfawkes2007.govt.nz.

Safekids NZ and its partners also remind families that legislation on the age when a person can purchase fireworks has been increased to 18 years old (previously 14). “For their safety, we also advise parents against allowing their children to light or handle fireworks,” Ann added.

Fireworks Safety for children

For families who have decided to purchase fireworks, Safekids NZ strongly advises the following safety messages to keep their children safe.

- Do not allow children to handle or light fireworks.
- Teach your children the dangers of fireworks, and supervise them around fireworks at all times.
- Choose a safe place to light fireworks. Keep children at a safe distance.
- Keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy.
- Never throw fireworks or relight dud fireworks.
- Contact the police on 111 if fireworks are being used dangerously. If the fireworks have started a fire, or look likely to, call 111 and ask for fire.

Burns Injury First Aid

- Cool the affected area immediately under gently running cool water for 20 minutes. DO NOT use ice.
- Remove clothing from affected area. If clothing sticks don't pull it away-- cut around the fabric carefully.
- Don't touch the burns or burst blisters – It can cause infection.
- Cover the burn area with a clean, non-fluffy material to protect it. Plastic wrap or cling film can be used.
- Get advice immediately from your doctor, Accident & Emergency or call 111.

For more fireworks safety messages and more information, visit www.guyfawkessafety.govt.nz. For more burns injury prevention safety messages, visit www.safekids.org.nz.

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About Safekids New Zealand

Safekids New Zealand is the injury prevention service of Starship Children's Health and a member of SAFE KIDS Worldwide. Our mission is to reduce the incidence and severity of unintentional injuries to New Zealand's children aged 0 - 14 years.