

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Poison Center Warns of Firework Dangers**

The Washington Poison Center warns of firework ingestion danger as families are starting to purchase their supply for this coming Fourth of July celebrations.

“Most people are aware of fire and physical injury dangers associated with fireworks,” said Jim Williams, Executive Director of the Washington Poison Center. “We want to remind families that fireworks need to be kept out of the reach of animals and children at all times.” This includes prior to igniting the fireworks and after.

Last year, the Washington Poison Center received 76 calls about fireworks and explosives, 55 were calls about children under 6 years old and 14 were calls about animals that ingested fireworks.

Unlit fireworks are often wrapped in pretty, attractive wrapping. Children have been known by the Washington Poison Center to eat one or several fireworks before the bad taste registers. Animals have been known to eat one to an entire box of fireworks. Ingestion of any amount of fireworks can be harmful. Call the Poison Center Poison Helpline at 1-800-222-1222 right away to speak with a Poison Information Specialist that can advise on the medical treatment needed, if any. They will also help make the decision if a trip to the Emergency Department is necessary.

Fireworks that have been lit are often more of a choking hazard than a poisoning issue. “If you are worried, call the Poison Center right away and get the answers you need,” said Williams. “There is no point spending your holiday worried your child or pet might be in harm when the Poison Center is a phone call and always available anytime of the day or night, even on holidays.” Calls to the Poison Center about humans are free; however, a \$30 credit card fee applies for calls about animals.

Keep a watchful eye on the supply of fireworks and quickly pick up firework remnants off the ground.

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