



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 06/19/09**

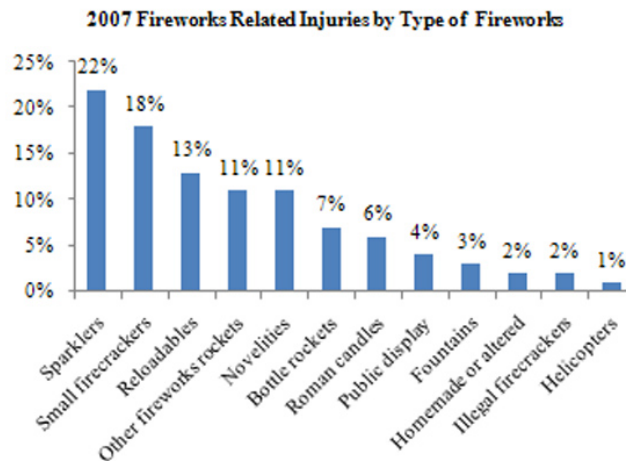
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### **NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE ASKS CITIZEN TO SKIP PERSONAL FIREWORKS THIS YEAR**

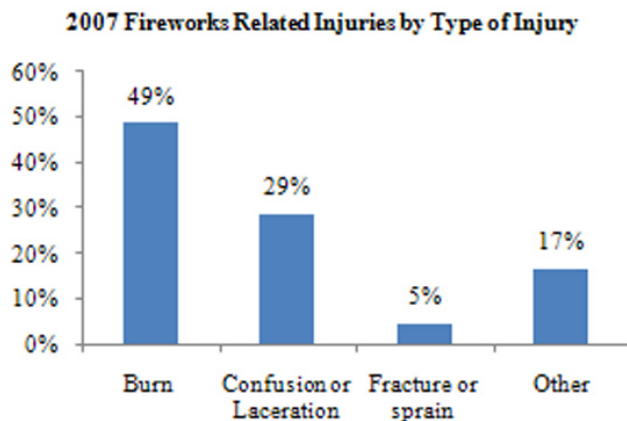
**Northglenn/Broomfield, CO**— Each July Fourth, thousands of people, too often children, are injured while using consumer fireworks. In 2007, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,800 people for fireworks related injuries. Even if there are some firework products permitted in your community, there simply is no such thing as **“safe and sane”** fireworks.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July has more fires in the United States than on any other day of the year and fireworks account for half of those fires (National Fire Protection Association, 2009). While many individuals consider personal firework use a matter of family tradition and an expression of their “rights”, the greater issue of safety is often ignored. Unintentional fireworks injuries occur at every age level—however, children under 15 experience **nearly half** of all injuries. Even with adults present, mishaps still occur due to delayed or early fireworks explosions, errant flight paths of rockets, debris from aerial fireworks and the mishandling of sparklers.

Both legal and illegal fireworks have been known to cause injury; therefore parents should not assume that they are protected because they purchased fireworks at a stand or storefront. In fact 95% of the fireworks injuries treated in emergency rooms involved fireworks that Federal regulations permit consumers to use (see graph provided by NFPA).



Parents need to know that when things go wrong with fireworks, they go very wrong very fast. Fireworks injuries are often extremely painful and can have long-term as well as permanent effects. The following statistics from the NFPA breaks down the types of fireworks injuries found to be most common in 2007.



North Metro Fire Rescue wants to encourage all residents to avoid a needless court appearance, loss of property, or injury by refraining from the personal use of fireworks. Enjoy your City's or County's professional fireworks display. Celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July doesn't have to exclude fireworks all together—your family can join others in our community to enjoy a public fireworks display!

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**About North Metro Fire Rescue District**

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to our community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 103,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.