

Fireworks best enjoyed from safe distance

DEAR ABBY: With Independence Day approaching, I'm asking for your help in reminding your millions of readers about the danger of fireworks, especially to the eyes. Each year during Fourth of July celebrations, thousands of adults and children are seriously injured as a result of fireworks and pyrotechnic devices.

Many of the injuries affect eye-



abigail van buren

• dear abby

sight, permanently damaging — and in some cases blinding — the victims.

In response, the American Optometric Association (AOA) urges people to refrain from using fireworks and to instead enjoy professional displays.

About two-thirds of fireworks-related injuries are burns. Most of the burns involve the hands, eyes,

head and face. Almost half of the victims are under 15 years of age, and 75 percent of them are male.

The most frequent cause of fireworks injuries requiring trips to the emergency room is sparklers. (Did you know that sparklers can heat up to 1,800 degrees, enough to melt gold?) A sparkler can also literally poke someone's eye out.

This may come as a surprise, but bystanders are also not safe from injury. Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry reveals that half of all fireworks injuries occur to bystanders.

So, on this Fourth of July, members of the AOA urge your readers

to protect their eyes by avoiding fireworks and enjoying professional displays from a safe distance. — DR. WESLEY PITTMAN, PRESIDENT, A.O.A.

DEAR DR. PITTMAN: Thank you for the timely reminder. Although many people, young and old, regard fireworks as harmless fun, the facts show otherwise.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, during 2002, an estimated 8,800 people were treated in hospital ERs for injuries associated with fireworks.

An estimated 20 percent to 25 percent of fireworks injuries are to the eyes — mostly contusions and

lacerations — and most of those are caused by firecrackers, rockets and sparklers.

So, a word to the wise: Have a "blast" on the Fourth of July — but do it in a way that will protect yourselves and your families.

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and currently involved with a guy from school.

The guy that I was with for a year and a half (my ex) wants to marry me. I still have feelings for him, but not like I used to.

I like my new boyfriend and don't really want to leave him. When my ex and I broke up, it was only supposed to be "a little time apart." My

ex showed signs that he was moving on, so I did the same.

Now that he wants to get back together, I don't know what to do. Should I go back with him and give it a chance or let him down gently? — PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS

DEAR PULLED: You are 17 years old and on the brink of a bright and exciting future. Why are you in such a hurry to make a permanent commitment? Since you have already "moved on," you should continue moving on. When the right man comes along, you won't need to ask anyone what to do — you'll know.

SATURDAY EVENING						E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone		JULY 3, 2004								
E	S	6 pm		6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30				
36	53	A&E	American Justice "A Soldier's Secret" 		Cold Case Files "Cold Hit; Silent Kill" 		City Confidential A family vanishes into thin air.		The First 48 "Body in the Park; Ruby Street"		American Justice "A Soldier's Secret" 					
4	6	ABC	*** "The Legend of Bagger Vance" (2000, Drama) Will Smith, Matt Damon. Premiere. A mystical caddy helps an ex-golfer regain his swing. 					News 		(7:35) Sein- feld 		(10:05) Entertainment To- night Celebrity news. (N)				
26	48	ANPL	Cell Dogs "Florence" A canine training program begins at a prison.				Amazing Animal Videos Cute kangaroos. 		Cell Dogs "Florence" A canine training program begins at a prison.							
63	54	BRAVO	***½ "Reservoir Dogs" (1992, Drama) Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth. 'R'				***½ "The Professional" (1994) Jean Reno. A hit man takes an orphan girl under his wing. 'R'				***½ "Reservoir Dogs" (1992, Drama) 'R'		Drew Carey Drew Carey			
7	11	CBS	*** "The Patriot" (2000, Drama) Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger. Premiere. A Colonial farmer leads a guerrilla band against the Brits. 					News 		Drew Carey		Drew Carey				
24	50	DISC	Rally Round the House Backyard makeover. 		Double Agents "Pure Energy" 		New Detectives: Foren- sic Science		New Detectives: Foren- sic Science		The FBI Files "Dead Run" 					
33	44	DISN	Kim Possi- ble 	The Proud Family 	Braceface 	Lizzie McGuire 	Phil of the Future 	That's So Raven 	***½ "Double Teamed" McElwain, Poppi Monroe. 		(2002, Drama) Annie					
49	81	ETV	Star-Makeovers		Star-Makeovers		Scream Play		Awards		Good to Be		Howard S. Howard S.			
22	56	ESPN	Women's Soccer Canada at United States. 					Baseball Tonight 		SportsCenter (Live) 		Baseball Tonight 				
54	57	ESPN2	Boxing: 1975 Ali vs. Frazier III		Billiards: Nine-Ball Final											
32	46	FAM	***½ "A Walk in the Clouds" (1995, Drama)					Whose? Whose?		America's Funniest Home Videos 						
59	-	FIT TV	Peak Performance 		I Want... 		Workout 		In Shape Workout		Peak Performance 		Resort & Spa			
35	31	FMC	(:01) *** "Call Me Madam" (1953, Musical)					(:01) Hour of Stars		(:01) *** "Laura" (1944) Gene Tierney.						
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America "Batali vs. Morimoto" 		Iron Chef "Giant Lobster" Makoto Osaka.		Unwrapped		Top 5		Emeril Live			
13	7	FOX	(5:00) NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series -- Pepsi 400. (Live) 					She Spies "Date to Mate" Held hostage. 		Mad TV Andy Dick; Mya. 		Blind Date (N) 		Blind Date (N) 		
40	38	FX	★ "Speed 2: Cruise Control" (1997) Sandra Bullock, Jason Patric.					***½ "There's Something About Mary" (1998)								
30	55	FXSP	Golf Live	Tee Time	Beyond the Glory 		Championship Poker		Boxing		Rocky Mt. America					
5	14	HBO	(5:30) *** "The Rocketeer" (1991) Bill Campbell. 		PG 		*** "Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights" (2002) 		PG-13 		*** "The Medallion" (2003) Jackie Chan. Premiere. 		PG-13 		Six Feet Under 	
62	67	HGTV	Sensible	Decorating	Mission	Designers'	Design	Design	Home	Smart	Sensible	Decorating				
58	52	HIST	SS "The Death's Head" 		SS "The Waffen-SS" 		Mail Call 		Tech Effect 		Sex in the 20th Century "Make Love, Not War" 		SS "The Death's Head" 			
25	35	IND	(5:00) *** "The Wed- ding Singer" (1998) 		*** "The Birdcage" (1996) Robin Williams, Gene Hackman. A son's engagement throws a kink into a gay couple's life. 				*** "The Birdcage" (1996) Robin Williams, Gene Hackman. 							
18	63	LIFE	"Dying to Belong" 					***½ "Mistaken Identity" (1999, Drama) 		***½ "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994)						
23	77	MTV	Real World Real World		Road Rules Road Rules		True Life "I'm Obese" 		Newlywed Newlywed		Ashlee Ashlee					
3	9	NBC	Greeley Stampede Pa- rade Rodeo and parade. 					*** "The General's Daughter" (1999) (PA) John Travolta, Madeleine Stowe. 		Crime & Punishment "People v. Terry Hall" 		News 		Saturday Night Live		
8	8	NBC	***½ "The General's Daughter" (1999) (PA) John Travolta, Madeleine Stowe. 					Crime & Punishment "People v. Terry Hall" 		News		Saturday Night Live Andy Roddick; Dave Matthews. 				
34	43	NICK	Grown Up Romeo! 		All That 		Amanda		Fatherhood Cosby		Roseanne	Roseanne	Cosby	Cosby		
2	2	PBS	Keeping Up As Time Goes By 		The Lawrence Welk Show (N) 		Baxter Black		Red Green		Austin City Limits "Steve Winwood" 		Soundstage "Fleetwood Mac" (N) 			
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) "Momentum" 		"Timecop 2: The Berlin Decision" (2003) 		***½ "Timecop" (1994) 		Mia Sara 							
61	41	SPK	(5:00) *** "Thunderball" (1965) 		WWE Velocity (N) 		Ride		Ride		"Man With Golden Gun" 					
39	51	TLC	In a Fix "Virtual Island" Caribbean visions. 		Trading Spaces: Family 		While You Were Out "Buffalo: Egyptian Spa" 		Clean Sweep "Gold Medal Mess" (N) 		Trading Spaces 					
28	37	TNT	*** "Tombstone" (1993) Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer. Premiere. 					***½ "The Quick and the Dead" (1995) 		Conagher 						
51	86	TRAV	Kings of the Road 		Great Outdoors 		Ends of the Earth 		Kings of the Road 		Great Outdoors 					
21	82	TVLND	Flip Wilson Flip Wilson		Flip Wilson Flip Wilson		Flip Wilson Flip Wilson		Flip Wilson Flip Wilson		Flip Wilson Flip Wilson		Flip Wilson Flip Wilson			
60	89	UNIV	Sábado Gigante Astros de Durango.					Impacto		Noticiero		Otro Rollo				
20	34	USA	Law & Order		Law & Order		Law & Order		Law Order Cl		Monk 					
12	3	WB	(5:00) "Two Small Voices" (1997, Drama) 		"When Innocence Is Lost" (1997, Drama) Jill Clay- burgh, Keri Russell. 		News 		***½ "Laws of Decep- tion" (1998, Suspense) 							
99	36	WGN	***½ "Red Heat" (1988) James Belushi 		WGN News at Nine 		Erech Br		***½ "Misericord Burning" 							

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