



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ten Firework Safety Recommendations to Keep Your Fourth of July Fun

BREESE, HIGHLAND & GREENVILLE – HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospitals in Breese and Highland and HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville want to remind community members that while fireworks can be fun, they can also be dangerous. According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, there were an estimated 10,163 fireworks-related injuries in America in the year 2022.

According to emergency medical experts at both St. Joseph’s and Holy Family hospitals, most injuries from fireworks occur to the hands or fingers, legs, face and eyes. Fireworks should be left to experts trained and certified so everyone can have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Some safe firework and sparkler alternatives are party poppers, bubbles, silly string or glowsticks. These options provide the same amount of fun, but with less risk of harm for all involved.

If you do decide to use fireworks, here are 10 tips from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

1. Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before purchasing.
2. Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks and watch them closely while playing with sparklers.
3. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby in case of fire or other mishap.
4. Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
5. Don’t forget about your pets. Fireworks can cause extreme stress to animals. Keep your pets indoors.
6. Never place a part of your body directly over a firework or hold a firework in your hand while lighting. Light fireworks one at a time and move back to a safe distance quickly.

7. Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
8. Soak all spent and unused fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing away in a trash can. Never discard fireworks in a fire pit.
9. Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from houses, dry leaves and flammable materials.
10. Avoid buying fireworks packaged in brown paper. This is often a sign they were made for professional use only.

If you or someone you know is injured by a firework and in need of emergency care, call 911 or visit your nearest emergency room immediately. The emergency departments at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese and Highland and HSHS Holy Family Hospital are well-prepared to deliver high-quality emergency medical care 24/7:

- St. Joseph's Hospital Breese – 9515 Holy Cross Lane, Breese
- Holy Family Hospital – 200 Health Care Dr., Greenville
- St. Joseph's Hospital Highland – 12866 Troxler Ave., Highland

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About Hospital Sisters Health System

Hospital Sisters Health System's (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our physician practices and 15 local hospitals in two states - Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O'Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, and [Hospital Sisters of St. Francis](#) is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org. For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit www.hospitalsisters.org.