

SAFETY TIPS FACTSHEET

Bonfire Night Safety Tips

**A simple and useful factsheet
to help everyone around you
stay safe and sound!**

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Guy Fawkes Night, or Bonfire Night, is a magical time for children to enjoy the bright lights, crackling fires, and festivities on a crisp November evening. However, as with any celebration involving fireworks and fire, safety is paramount, especially for little ones. With some planning and precautions, you can ensure your family enjoys the night safely.



Here are some key tips for keeping children safe on Bonfire Night:

1. Firework Safety

In the days leading up to Bonfire Night, ensure that firelighters, fireworks, and sparklers are securely locked away and out of children's reach.

It's best to attend a public, organised firework display, as these events are managed by professionals who adhere to strict safety regulations, minimising the risk of accidents.

If you plan to set off fireworks at home, ensure you purchase them from a licensed seller and follow the Firework Code:

- Keep a safe distance and ensure children stay well away from where the fireworks are being lit.
- Only adults should handle fireworks. Never give sparklers or fireworks to young children.
- Use a torch to read the instructions, and always light fireworks at arm's length with a taper.
- For extra protection, consider using ear defenders or noise-cancelling headphones, as the loud bangs can be overwhelming for babies and young children.

2. Sparklers – Fun but Risky

Sparklers are often a favourite with children, thanks to their interactive and dazzling nature, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures and cause serious injuries. If you allow children to hold sparklers, always supervise them closely. Here are some additional tips:

- Ensure children wear gloves while holding sparklers to protect their hands.
- Make sure they hold sparklers at arm's length and never run while holding one.
- After the sparkler has burned out, place it in a bucket of water or sand, as it will remain hot for a while.
- It's best to reserve sparklers for older children and avoid giving them to those under five years old.



3. Bonfire Safety

For families planning to build a bonfire at home, follow these important guidelines:

- Build your bonfire in an open space, away from buildings, trees, and fences.
- Never use flammable liquids like petrol to start the fire.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of emergencies.
- Never leave children unattended near a bonfire, and ensure they remain at a safe distance at all times.



4. Dress Safely

On a chilly November evening, it's important to keep children warm but also safe. Opt for wool or cotton clothing, as synthetic materials can catch fire more easily. Be mindful of loose, flowing clothing that could come into contact with flames or fireworks.

Reflective clothing or glow sticks can also help make children more visible if you're in a crowded area or if they're running around after dark.

5. First Aid Readiness

Accidents can happen, even with the best precautions in place. Make sure you have a basic first aid kit on hand, and know how to treat common firework injuries, such as minor burns. If an accident does occur, seek medical attention promptly. You can also refer to our Burns and Scalds Factsheet for first aid tips.

Bonfire Night is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together and celebrate a 400-year-old British tradition. By following these safety tips, you can ensure the night is memorable for all the right reasons. With a little forethought, you'll have peace of mind knowing your children are safe while enjoying all the magic of the celebration.

Would you like to learn more about dealing with first aid situations?

Check out our [Family and Parent online courses](#)

