GRABOW HAND TO SHOULDER CENTER

Ryan J. Grabow, MD

Board Certified, Hand to Shoulder Specialist

Providing Comprehensive Care from the Shoulder to Fingertips

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPARKLERS: THE BIGGEST JULY 4TH DANGER

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports sparklers cause more injuries than firecrackers or rockets and cause 50% of fireworks injuries to children under 5.

Every year there are more than 9000 injuries related to consumer fireworks use with the peak occurring the weeks around the July 4th holiday. Although firecrackers and rockets can be more destructive, sparklers cause the most injuries requiring a trip to the emergency room and are the cause of over half the fireworks related injuries to children under 5 and a third of all injuries to children under 15. In order to help parents prevent these injuries, Grabow Hand to Shoulder Center founder, Ryan Grabow, MD, has created a new educational website section for injury prevention and education and safety tips.

"While most parents recognize the inherent dangers of firecrackers and bottle rockets, many fail to see the risks sparklers pose to young children", said Dr. Grabow. "The glowing flame on a sparkler may look pretty, but it is over 1800° F which is hot enough to melt glass or aluminum. This intense heat translates into very severe burns that cause permanent damage to young hands." As one would expect, burns to the hands and fingers are the most common injuries, accounting for 31% of all fireworks injuries and over 50% of injuries related to sparklers according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Injuries from firecrackers and bottle rockets has seen a decline, however, the number of injuries from sparklers and related fireworks has remained steady over the past decade. There are several reasons to explain this trend. Since sparklers are sold in most stores around the holiday there is an implied sense of safety about the product. Because of the destructive power of rockets and firecrackers current public education focuses more on those devices and little on sparkers. Due to this sense of safety, sparklers are readily given to young children at holiday picnics and barbecues. Finally many parents who do understand the danger, feel that sparklers are a rite of passage for children celebrating Independence Day and feel the experience is worth it.

Dr. Grabow believes the solution is better education. "The parents of injured children always say they didn't realize sparklers were so dangerous, yet these same parents would never think of letting their young child hold a lit candle or get near the stove or grill because they know the risks. As a community we need to do a better job educating parents on the risk of sparklers, just like we did for firecrackers, stoves, and grills."

Committed to patient education and injury prevention, Dr. Grabow has developed a section on his interactive website, DoctorGrabow.com, dedicated to fireworks safety. Parents, teachers, scout masters, and coaches are encouraged to visit the Injury Prevention Section of his site and review the section on Fireworks Safety for articles, multimedia resources and fireworks and sparkler safety tips. Following sparkler safety rules, children can build lasting holiday memories that don't include the emergency room!

The Grabow Hand to Shoulder Center was founded by board certified and fellowship trained hand to shoulder specialist Ryan J. Grabow, MD. Dr. Grabow provides comprehensive care for the hand, wrist, elbow, and shoulder emphasizing non-operative and minimally invasive techniques. Through his website, **DoctorGrabow.com**, visitors have access to articles, animations, and videos related to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of injuries and conditions affecting the shoulder to fingertips.

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SPARKLER SAFETY TIPS

Dr.Grabow recommends all parents follow these safety measures to help reduce the risk of sparkler related injuries to young children:

- Sparklers should only be used under direct adult supervision.
- Never hold a child in your arms if you or the child are using sparklers.
- Never hold or light more than one sparkler at a time.
- Never hand a lighted sparkler to someone. Give them an unlit sparkler and light it for them.
- Teach children to hold sparklers away from their body with one hand at full arm's length.
- Always stand at least 6 feet away from anyone when using sparklers.
- Never throw, twirl, or wave sparklers. Especially ones with wooden sticks that can easily break.
- Always wear closed-toe-shoes when using sparklers. Burns to feet are common when burnt sparklers are left on the ground for others to step on.
- Sparklers should be dropped directly in a bucket of water after the flame goes out. The wire and stick remain hot long after it stops burning.

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For more information or to schedule an interview with Dr.Grabow, please call Rosa Morin at 702-433-9533 or email her at rosa@doctorgrabow.com

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