

In all my years of researching Fireworks “Accidents” (almost 30 now), and in doing Safety Training (about 25), the Number One weapon to use against those (misguided) souls who preach the gospel of “Fireworks are Dangerous”, has been and will undoubtedly continue to be - common sense.

I’ve stated over and over (ad-nauseum) that if you Really Read (read: REALLY Read) what the Facts put out by sources such as the NFPA, the CPSC, and other US Government Agencies, that the Back story will ALWAYS tell the truth.

What you read, or hear may simply be “Man loses hand in Fireworks Accident”, but suddenly it turns out to be is “Man ignores Dangers of Fireworks - Holds Lit Device in Hand as it goes off - Contrary to accepted Rules/Instructions - Loses Hand but Blames Firework Despite Facts”, when you read (and really understand the Facts). Just look at what they are telling you people.

This holds true time - after time - after time.

In the past, we have very successfully exposed Business, and US Government Agency Lies - not by making up our own - but by using the very “proof” they put out - year after year. It is so easy to do, I sometimes feel guilty by picking off these simpletons. Now, the Government is desperate. Going so far as to make up their own new ways to “prove” how Dangerous Fireworks are (and they still fail when you dissect .the stories).

A 2013 Article by one of the NFPA’s main mouthpieces, John R. Hall, Jr, (does the “R” stand for Rubbish?) attempts to tie “The use per Exposure time of using Fireworks”, vs that of “a Cigarette”. In the article - prominently displayed on their Website - found at this link:

<http://www.nfpa.org/research/reports-and-statistics/fire-causes/fireworks>

In it, Hall attempts this weak analogy in the following way - he states: **“Using 2000-2010 data, the risk of fire death relative to hours of usage is higher for fireworks than for cigarettes. On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks account for two out of five of all reported fires, more than any other cause of fire.”**

OK, look at what he is saying. The “exposure time” (the time you are “exposed” to a Firework going off”), is in the millisecond range. The “exposure time” of a cigarette is approximately 10 MINUTES. During the “exposure time” of a Firework, if Abused and/or Misused, as most every “Accident” that has happened in more than 60 years of Mandatory Government Reporting has proven, the chances of an “Accident” is very high.

But; how many cigarettes are smoked in a year? Not counting Cigars, Pipes, or “Vapping”, according to the US Tobacco Industry Website, its 2.8 BILLION Packs per year (20 to a pack) in the US alone, or 5.6 TRILLION cigarettes. Lets get ridiculous, and say it’s only 6 cigarettes per day - nationwide. Multiply that figure by 10 minutes. 6 cigarettes would equal an hour of “exposure time” per day. Now lets say our “true” average “exposure time” of a single Cake is a minute - even though the Largest Cake will burn in less than a minute - and an Aerial Shell will “go off” in under .4 seconds.

Further, for the sake of argument, let’s say the ratio is one aerial shell to every 100 cakes (which we know isn’t true). We have allowed that each cake takes a minute (which is also not true). But taking their lead, -we wont let facts get in the way of a good (fictional) story. Adding the “exposure time” of 100 Cake Minutes plus .4 seconds for the one Shell to go off (making this equation WAY Lopsided in favor of the cigarette), we obtain a ratio of 60:100.4 (in minutes). Golly, it looks like cigarettes are more than 40% safer than Fireworks - right?

Not really, but according to our figures now, Fireworks should still be 4 times MORE Dangerous than Cigarettes. Even using these WAY skewed figures, you cannot make the case that Fireworks are more Dangerous. We know their figures (as are ours), are not only intentionally WAY off - but in 180 degree different ways.

Figuring things conversely, if you smoke - your "exposure time" per cigarette being 10 Minutes or so, you could (for instance), lose "the cherry" down a shirt/blouse or onto your lap. You could drop it inadvertently onto a flammable ignition source and cause a fire. You could drop it accidentally within the confines of your car, have it roll under your seat or into a crevice in the upholstery, etc. All of those things have happened to me with the exception of starting a Fire, and I think I'm pretty careful with them overall.

When you use a Firework, your "exposure time" is so brief and if you misuse them - the possibilities are so endless, that yes, when compared to ANYTHING that "exposes" you to any Danger for longer than a few milliseconds is going to seem to be less Dangerous in comparison (but with almost anything, as with a Car, the "exposure time" of which causes HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS more injuries than Fireworks do - *PER DAY*). It is only your level of carefulness, carelessness, or pure chance/dumb luck which determines the outcome.

The reason for all this is garbage reporting by them is deceptively simple and easy to see. However, we can easily see that even though Fireworks use has bloomed from 9 Million Pounds per/year to almost 1/2 a BILLION Pounds per year there has been absolutely NO discernible increase in injury (despite either actual/skewed towards Fireworks being the bad-guy like we do, or averaged/estimated/non-provable like the Government says).

Why? The reasons behind this in part are: More/Better Training, a use of (yes) more "Common Sense" where Fireworks are used, and a Desire to "do it right" after perhaps even by thinking the consequences through. Yes, there are the Morons on YouTube, etc., who want the Notoriety of having someone shoot at your privates with a Firework, or placing Bottle Rockets between your butt cheeks and lighting them, videoing "Roman Candle Wars" in their Living Room, intentionally blowing themselves up in their Bedroom, etc. but these people will likely ALWAYS be with us (see the Article "Constant of Idiocy").

The Government - in a very thinly-veiled attempt to "Prove" Fireworks Dangers, has seemingly stopped reporting (or is at least burying), per-use, equalized facts which prove Fireworks to be the LEAST Dangerous of ALL products tracked - and are now stating point blank of their intent to cease all Fireworks Sales (ain't gonna happen), and using the new and "anecdotal evidence" - (which does not bear even the simplest of scrutiny) - to "prove" their point. They used to use only equalized figures - comparing Apples to Apples - not any more.

In the past, if 10 people who used Fireworks got hurt, so should 10 people of the same number of uses, get hurt by let's say Pencils. IF Pencils were equally as Dangerous as Fireworks. They aren't equal at all. Fact is: four times as many people are injured each year (to the Point of an ER Visit), by Pencils as by Fireworks. Now however, with their new way of Figuring (fuzzy Math?), not so much it seems. They have now seemingly gone anecdotal only - for obvious reasons (like the facts prove our point), they have stopped using facts and figures.

Yes - a common-give-it-to-a-5-yr-old-pencil. The NFPA's reports are grasping at best, and frankly sort of sad.

The real tragedy here? The Fact that you, and I are Funding multiple Private, and US Government Agencies like the NFPA, and CPSC, who flat-out LIE to the very people they are supposedly "serving". These facts really cannot be misconstrued in any way, twisted, or misreported (without lying) - and maybe that's why they are all silent on that issue.

But the even worse tragedy is that there are people out there that believe their drivel.

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