

The CPSC & US Government Says “Fireworks Are Dangerous”

The True Facts (Taken to the Extreme)

Or: HOW NOT TO BE A SHEEP

We all know the US Government is a marvel to behold. It is a “necessary evil” lest we fall into total anarchistic chaos. For as much good as it does however, it can also be held up to all as a true model of inefficiency as well. It relies heavily on NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) to “take up the slack” in the areas it maybe doesn’t do so well in. This results in the legendary stories of the \$50,000 hammer, or the \$350,000 Office Makeover, etc.

Examples of this dependency on NGOs is everywhere. The US Govt. Has some alphabet-soup agencies like the CPSC and the AFSL, but it lacks in many areas of our own little niche - Fireworks - and thus depends on NGOs such as the NFPA, and other such agencies. Sometimes Government Agencies, and these NGOs get it right and sometimes they are - just flat wrong. One of the most famous instances of this is the CPSC’s claims that “Fireworks are Dangerous”.

We (hobbyists), figured out some time ago (1996 to be exact), that by not disputing their claimed numbers, and by using their own published facts against them was the best way to dispute their fictitious claims. Thus far, it has worked out great. After all, how can they lie about their own stated (written) “facts”? (hint: They really can’t). They write something stupid, we bash them. They shut up. That’s the way its been for a long time now and how it will be until they quit printing lies.

The US Government (USG) as a whole, for the most part simply goes along with whatever it’s departments, and the NGOs say. This results in Nationwide acceptance of that, or someone (like the PGI, or FF, or other group), cries foul. Probably the most famous of these (still ongoing) lies is the CPSC’s claim (parroted by many other anti-Fireworks groups), that “Fireworks are Dangerous”.

To highlight how ridiculous this claim is on it’s face has become pretty mundane to tell the truth. To date, no one in any Government, or NGO has been able to back that claim up. Examples showing exactly the opposite are everywhere - including in their reports claiming how “Dangerous” they really are(n’t). On Bar Charts included in almost every CPSC Annual Report (some of the early ones did not), we will find Firework injury/death totals in the (no pun intended), “dead last” column at the bottom of the page under ordinary and very mundane household products which might surprise you.

Today I’m going to take some of those ordinary and mundane products and highlight some of the utterly ridiculous and (because we are using their own facts), but completely true statistics proving once again that Fireworks Are NOT (by far), the most Dangerous product out there. We will begin by showing you how a very common household item, one you probably use once or more per day, could either put you in the ER, or the morgue, at a 16 to 1 rate higher than Fireworks will.

When drawing comparisons like these, you sometimes draw a pretty fine line between the two. To do this, you may need to use a **pencil** or a **pen**. With more than **15 billion** of them out there world-wide, they are among the most used items on the planet. If using a pen, don’t chew on it. Over 100 people per year, or roughly 16.5 times the number of people killed by Fireworks, will get the caps lodged in their airway and choke to death. If using a pencil, you might get stabbed, or choke, or some other similar fate may befall you - also accounting for just over 100 deaths. And remember, these ARE the CPSC’s own published “facts” we are using.

I have found ONE item to be almost as innocuous as Fireworks though it stretches the imagination somewhat. **Balloons** “only” cause an average of 6 deaths per year tying with Fireworks. Most often, one is near a child’s mouth, pops and gets inhaled, or they are playing with an already popped one, get it blocking the airway, and choke. For the record, I put the word “only” in quotes because 1 death per year, is 1 death too many.

OK, mowing through our list, we find **lawnmowers** causing some 75 deaths per year on average. That's only a bit more than 12 times the death rate of Fireworks. Yes, kids (what ARE baby Lemmings called?) "Fireworks Are Dangerous". Lawnmowers cause roughly 80,000 injuries also. Fireworks on average will cause 6,000 to 10,000. That's about a 10 to 1 ratio. Advantage - Fireworks again.

Climbing up our list, we come to **ladders**. Ladders account for approximately 113 deaths per year average - a little more than 18 times as deadly as Fireworks. 15,500 people on average go to the ER with fall-related injuries, as compared with the 8,000 (avg.) for Fireworks. Almost 2 to 1 ratio comparatively.

I'm not usually one to sit around or rest on my laurels, but when it comes to **furniture** beating out Fireworks as more deadly, you gotta laugh a little. There are 43,200 ER visits per year just due to furniture *tipping over* on people, and 26 of those people never make it to the ER.

Are you snoozing yet? Best be careful! Every year, 1,800,000 (that's 1.8 MILLION) people fall out of **beds**, and 450 of them die from doing it.

So wake up and smell the coffee (or should I say covfefe). Just don't get hurt, or die doing it. 143,000 people are injured by **coffee tables**. Unless they are included in the 'tipover' category, I couldn't find any fatalities for those.

We are shining the bright light of truth to their lies here, but to do the job right, we may want to use a **Light bulb**. Yes, light bulbs cause some 237 burns just from changing them. Wow. And; though I couldn't find anything categorized, I'm sure one or two people at least has died from sticking their finger into a "live" socket too.

If I'm going to keep the heat on them, I can think of no better way than by using a **space heater**. Of course that means they risk being in one of the 40% of ALL house-fires they cause, or becoming one of the 1,490 injured, or 450 people killed EACH YEAR. 450 people per year. That is incredible. If we take the SUM TOTAL of ALL the people Fireworks has killed in the past 70 years, this one innocuous little product has killed more than that number - in any ONE YEAR. Amazing.

So far, it looks like the claim that "Fireworks are Dangerous" is pretty much toast. To make sure though, you better use a **toaster**. Careful though not to become one of the 300 U.S fatalities (700 World-wide), who get electrocuted sticking knives in them though.

I know - I'm picking on them, but at least I'm not using a **toothpick** to do it. A TOOTHPICK is as Dangerous as a Firework! 3 to 6 people per year die from swallowing toothpicks. Some 9,000 go to the ER from choking on them. Who knew - right?

Zippering right along, we come to our last one - **zippers**. Specifically - pants zippers - male pants zippers to really narrow it down. 1,700 men go to the ER after they get their junk caught in these each year. No one died - they just wished they had.

So please feel free to call BS on the next person who says that Fireworks are Dangerous. They have pretty-much owned the very bottom line of the Death/Injury list every year for decades.