

## Activity 1 - Consequences of misuse of fireworks

- Give children a photocopy of newspaper cutting each (see overleaf). Tell the children before reading it that they will be looking for two things that had led to the girl being injured by fireworks.
- Read the article then discuss what the youths had done - played with fireworks in an uncontrolled environment - and what the girl had done - picked up a firework. Possibly debate who was responsible for her injury.
- Discuss effects of fireworks on animals. (Refer to second paragraph from end of report.)
- Get the children to dramatise the story in the format of 'News at Six' or 'Crimewatch' with children taking parts of newsreader, reporters, victims etc.

### Resources

- Newspaper cutting (on reverse)

### Literacy links

- En1 3 Group discussion  
4 Drama
- En2 2 Understanding texts  
3 Reading for information  
9 Non-fiction and non-literacy texts: newspapers



**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE**

# FIREWORK GIRL

## 'May be scarred for life'

**A YOUNG girl today faces surgery in hospital for injuries caused by a firework.**

The ten-year-old suffered serious burns to her face, hands and arms when she picked up a rocket which then exploded.

She had been watching a group of youths setting off fireworks in a play area at Barton Street in Devonholme. People living nearby said the rocket had been placed in a bottle by one of the youths. The fuse had been lit but the bottle had fallen over.

The girl, who had been on swings nearby, ran over to pick it up and at that point the firework had gone off. An ambulance took the girl to the emergency unit at Devonholme Hospital where her condition was last night described as 'poor'.

Inspector Peter Smith of

Devonholme police said: "She was very badly burnt and it could be that she will be scarred for life. She is the innocent victim of the reckless actions of others.

"Fireworks can bring a lot of joy in their proper place, which is at organised displays or at properly supervised private parties. This is a tragic illustration of the dangers of misusing fireworks."

He said they had spoken to a number of youths following the incident and inquiries were being made as to how they had acquired the fireworks.

Insp. Smith confirmed that police had been called to a disturbance in the same area two nights earlier.

That followed complaints from people whose pets had been terrified by the noise of fireworks being set off.

However, the youngsters involved had run off before they could speak to them.

Fireworks are explosives

GET WISE OR GET **HURT**

