

## Activity 1 - Positive and negative effects of fireworks

- In groups on large sheet of paper - brainstorm all the reasons why young people might be attracted to the idea of lighting fireworks. (Boredom, easy to get hold of, thrill of seeing them, danger etc)
- Discuss results.
- Read through newspaper articles (on reverse). Discuss the negative consequences resulting from fireworks in each article, and why they each happened. Discuss other results that might occur due to misuse of fireworks. (e.g carrying them in their pockets, letting their pets out...)
- On another large sheet - brainstorm possible consequences of misusing fireworks. (Could injure themselves or others, animals may be scared...)
- As a class, make a list on board, starting 'Fireworks are...' listing both positive and negative points.
- Discuss results. Key points to elicit from the group:  
Positive associations with fireworks - fun, celebration, magical, bright, colourful, powerful.  
Negative associations - extremely dangerous, loud, scary etc.
- Look at the poster of a boy with a scar. Allow the group time to discuss the picture. What may have happened? Invent a background story - share with the group.
- **Possible activity** - in groups prepare a piece of drama called 'A bonfire night to remember' in which the boy in the picture plays a key role. Freeze the scene as the injury occurs.
- **Or** - in groups prepare a radio broadcast for a news item featuring the boy in the picture. Imagine that this was not his fault but the result of a thrown firework. The police have arrested a youth in connection with the crime. Have members of the group to take on the parts of the news reader, reporter, victim, witnesses etc.
- **Or** - write their own newspaper article describing an incident that happened due to careless handling of fireworks.

### Resources

- Poster of boy with scar
- Photocopy of newspaper articles (on reverse)



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

## Boy's hand blown off by rocket

A teenager had his right hand blown off when he picked up a firework on Friday night.

Police were alerted to the incident in Highfield Close, Northend, by a concerned member of the public who had heard a loud bang and seen someone injured.

The 17 year old has undergone surgery at the burns unit at Northend Hospital but has lost his hand and sustained severe burns to his face.

Adam Jones lit the firework in his garden on Friday night. It is believed he then went over to light it again as it had failed to go off and as his hand touched the firework it exploded, causing devastating injuries to his hand and face.

A police spokesman said: "Time and time again people are warned about the dangers of fireworks and the serious injuries they can cause if they are not handled correctly. Again, we would urge people not to meddle with potentially lethal fireworks."

## Two hurt as firework explodes at party

A woman and boy went to hospital with burns after a firework exploded in front of them in a friend's garden in Southway.

It hit the ground and exploded. Sparks set fire to the woman's jacket which then spread to her trousers. The woman, in her 20s, had 18 per cent burns to her back and the backs of her legs. A boy, 15, had burns to his right hand.

An onlooker said that the garden had been very crowded and there were fireworks going off everywhere.

A police spokeswoman said: "The organisers of the firework display had not adhered to the firework regulations. Many of the fireworks were Category 3 and therefore needed at least 25metres clearance in order to be safe. This highlights the importance of following the regulations on fireworks. We recommend that where possible people find a properly organised display to attend or make sure that the type of fireworks used are appropriate for a private party."

The organisers of the party were said to be very distressed by the incident.

## Fireworks frightened dog to death

Suki was a beautiful dalmation and mother to 15 puppies. But 10-year old Suki died earlier this month, frightened to death - literally - by a firework bombardment outside her home.

"It was horrible," says her heartbroken owner. "Youths were setting off fireworks on the piece of grass next to my house. Fireworks were being launched directly at my home. I don't mind pretty fireworks but these were like mortar bombs. The dogs were sedated but the noise still upset them, and Suki was so distressed that by midnight she was blind - her body was shutting down."

Suki was taken to the vets but there was nothing they could do except leave her to die.

Inspector John Smith said he would welcome tighter firework controls. "People aren't aware of the dangers they are putting themselves and animals in when they let off fireworks in an uncontrolled environment," he said.

