



CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION TRUST

Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) is a national charity committed to reducing accidental death and serious injury among children and young people.

“Accidents are the greatest single cause of death among UK children and accidental injury is a leading cause of disability and ill health,” explains CAPT Chief Executive Katrina Phillips. “However, most accidents are predictable events that can be prevented by taking the right safety precautions – and firework injuries are no exception.”

Last year, despite an overall reduction in firework injuries, hospitals treated 88 children under the age of five for various firework injuries and a total of 132 children were taken to hospital accident and emergency departments with injuries caused by sparklers.

“When lit, sparklers can get six times as hot as a pan of cooking oil,” explains Katrina. “The fact is that children under five are too young to be allowed anywhere near fireworks - and that includes sparklers - and older children need to learn how to use them safely to avoid being burnt.”

CAPT seeks to reduce accidental injury through publicity campaigns, providing information and advice to both practitioners and parents and running community programmes. Behind the scenes it seeks to improve the safety of children’s products, facilities and environments by working with government, other key organisations and decision makers. In particular, it participates in the development of safety standards, both British and international.



Fireworks are explosives
GET WISE OR GET HURT

Child Accident Prevention Trust joins DTI in fight against firework injuries

CAPT is once again giving its full support to the DTI's firework safety campaign to reduce firework injuries to children and young people - in particular injuries to very young children.

The charity has been invited to complement the government's publicity campaign by particularly targeting safety advice to parents with young children through women's and parenting magazines, as well as joining forces with the DTI in raising awareness of the issue and providing safety advice to families through local newspapers.

"Many firework injuries to children are caused by sparklers and the campaign aims to highlight to parents the dangers of these seemingly harmless fireworks that can cause such unnecessary pain and suffering" explained Katrina Phillips. "We want families to enjoy bonfire night and not end up rushing a child to hospital with a nasty burn."

To further support the DTI's firework safety campaign, CAPT is organising the distribution of posters carrying key firework safety tips to around 20,000 playgroups and nursery schools where they will be displayed for parents to read while dropping off or collecting their children.

CAPT can be contacted with regard to its support for the DTI's firework safety campaign and to obtain safety tips for parents and carers of young children via its press office on 020 7689 4742. Additional information on firework safety and child accident prevention can be found on its website www.capt.org.uk

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