

# Concerns Rise Over Fireworks Injuries as Public Displays Cancelled

New survey finds 16% buying fireworks this summer will do so because of COVID-19 cancellations

Orlando Health

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## NEWS PACKAGE

<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	A TIME-HONORED SUMMER TRADITION IS LARGELY PUT ON HOLD THIS YEAR. WHY EXPERTS ARE WORRIED WHAT THIS COULD LEAD TO A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, COMING UP.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	<p>FIREWORKS ARE A SIGNATURE SOUND OF SUMMER AND A TREASURED TRADITION AROUND THE JULY FOURTH HOLIDAY BUT THIS SUMMER WILL FEEL VERY DIFFERENT, WITH MANY CITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CANCELLING THEIR FIREWORKS DISPLAYS AMID COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING.</p> <p>NOW, HEALTH EXPERTS ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS COULD TRANSLATE TO MORE INJURIES AS PEOPLE SET OFF THEIR OWN FIREWORKS INSTEAD.</p> <p>BARB CONSIGLIO HAS MORE ON A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY THAT CONFIRMS THEIR CONCERNS.</p>
<b>(PACKAGE START) -----</b> <b>CG: Courtesy: Orlando Health</b> <b>:00 - :03</b> Shots of Josh and his family at home	(Nats - Sound) :02
<b>CG: Josh Baker</b> <b>Injured by fireworks</b>	IT HAPPENED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE. JOSH BAKER REACHED IN TO ADJUST A FIREWORKS MORTAR AS IT EXPLODED. :05
Photo of Josh's hand	<i>"I looked down and I could see straight through my hand." :03</i>
Shots of Josh and family at home	JOSH LOST HIS THUMB AND HAD SURGERY TO ATTACH HIS BIG TOE TO HIS HAND, BUT HE SAYS IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE. :06
<b>Josh Baker (CG'd earlier)</b>	<i>"If I wouldn't have turned my head the right way, if I'd have been closer, I have no idea what could have happened, but I could have maybe not left the dock that day." :06</i>

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<p>Shots of Orlando Health emergency entrance</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Gibson examining patient</p> <p><b>CG: Elizabeth Gibson, MD Orlando Health</b></p> <p>Shots of fireworks people setting off fireworks</p> <p><b>Dr. Gibson (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p><b>Graphic highlighting findings of survey</b></p> <p>Shots of family using sparklers</p> <p><b>Dr. Gibson (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shot of Josh getting boat ready</p> <p>Shot of Josh's hand</p>	<p>EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND SURGEONS BRACE FOR AN INCREASE IN FIREWORKS INJURIES AROUND CERTAIN HOLIDAYS.</p> <p>IT'S SOMETHING DOCTOR ELIZABETH GIBSON AND HER COLLEAGUES AT ORLANDO HEALTH FELT COMPELLED TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT AFTER SEEING SIXTEEN PEOPLE FOR SERIOUS FIREWORKS INJURIES IN THE ONE WEEK SURROUNDING JULY FOURTH IN 2018. :15</p> <p><i>“Certainly you can get injury to the skin, injury to soft tissue, injury to the bone and they can just be very devastating injuries.” :06</i></p> <p>AND THEIR OUTREACH DID A LOT OF GOOD, WITH A SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT DROP IN INJURIES THE NEXT SUMMER.</p> <p>BUT WITH PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAYS BEING CANCELLED IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID CROWDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THEY'RE WORRIED THOSE NUMBERS COULD SPIKE. :12</p> <p><i>“There are not going to be large firework displays and so people will be more tempted to create their own firework displays.” :06</i></p> <p>A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY ORLANDO HEALTH FINDS MORE THAN TWO IN FIVE AMERICANS PLAN TO BUY THEIR OWN FIREWORKS THIS YEAR WITH SIXTEEN PERCENT OF THEM SAYING IT IS SPECIFICALLY DUE TO COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS. :10</p> <p>(Nats of sparklers) :01</p> <p>EXPERTS SAY EVEN SEEMINGLY HARMLESS PRODUCTS LIKE SPARKLERS NEED TO BE USED WITH CAUTION AND SUPERVISION. :05</p> <p><i>“They can actually reach temperatures of up to 2000 degrees, which is enough to melt metal and certainly can melt your clothing, your skin, any other tissue like that.” :09</i></p> <p>(Nats of Josh working on boat) :01</p> <p>FOR JOSH, IT WAS A HARD LESSON, BUT ONE HE'LL NEVER FORGET. :03</p>
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**CG: Elizabeth Gibson, MD**  
Orlando Health

Gibson explains her concerns about fireworks this summer:  
*“You have more inherent risk of people getting bigger and better fireworks than they usually acquire for themselves, because there’s not going to be a large aerial show. They may try to take it upon themselves to have the best fireworks show in the neighborhood, or the best fireworks show that their family has ever put on.” :17*

**CG: Josh Baker**  
Injured by fireworks

Josh says its best to leave fireworks displays to professionals:  
*“You look at these professionals, I mean there’s thousands of hours of prep work that go into a firework show. And that’s not for no reason, that’s because there’s a systematic approach to how they do it so that they don’t end up with something that falls over, something that tips, something that goes off too early.” :17*

Josh recounts what he did after his injury occurred:  
*“I went ahead and wrapped the towel around my hand, went ahead and cinched the belt up on my arm pretty tight. I knew that I didn’t need a full fledged tourniquet to cut everything off, but I wanted to slow the bleeding quite a bit. At least until the guys got there to look at it and we could address what was going on.” :16*

Josh says it’s important to cautious because anyone can be injured by fireworks:  
*“Whether you’re a parent, whether you’re just hanging out with the guys, it’s just one of those things you’re going to have to have a healthy respect and a little bit of a caution towards, because it can happen to anybody. Just like anything else, it only takes a blink of an eye and it could be you.” :14*

### References

<sup>1</sup>*Summary of the 2017-2018 Influenza Season. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, August 31, 2018.* Online: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm>

<sup>2</sup>*Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018–2019. American Academy of Pediatrics, September 2018.* Online: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/08/30/peds.2018-2367>

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