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## **GUY FAWKES NIGHT - PLAY SAFE TO AVOID ACCIDENTS**

### **ENJOY FIREWORKS NIGHT BUT BE PREPARED TO TREAT BURNS IF NECESSARY**

Guy Fawkes Night, the annual celebration of the gunpowder plot on 5<sup>th</sup> November, offers an opportunity for lots of fun and entertainment for the whole family. “While good family entertainment is to be welcomed, it is still worth remembering that last year there were 990 injuries in the UK caused by fireworks and fireworks do still have the potential to cause real harm”, says Mark Lait, Managing Director of Water-Jel. Water-Jel manufactures the leading emergency burn treatment range of gels, dressings and bandages, used by hospitals and emergency services around the world. For the first time, its trusted products are now available for home use in the Burn Jel range.

In recent years, there has been a move towards large public displays for firework night, rather than leaving it to mum or dad to do their best at a family party. However, last year 121 accidents actually took place at large public displays, which highlights the need to be careful and prepared wherever fireworks are being used. The chief villains are Rockets and Air Bombs (or Roman Candles) but the simple sparkler also accounted for 104 accidents last year.

Although not all of last year’s accidents were very serious, some certainly were and 62 patients were transferred to A & E, burns units or eye clinics. For a small number of families, Guy Fawkes night has been a night to remember for all the wrong reasons.

Although the general safety rules are obvious there are some things you should never do:

- Never give any fireworks to a small child.
- Never try to re-ignite a firework that has gone out. It could still, suddenly go off.
- Never throw fireworks around and particularly do not throw them directly at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in your pockets. Keep them in the box.

- Never try to make your own fireworks. Buy fireworks with the British Standard Kitemark BS7114.
- Never drink alcohol if you are the person in charge of the fireworks.

If you are careful, you should not have any accidents but given that many of the accidents that occur are burns to children, it is best to be prepared.

Burns of any size require immediate treatment, both to relieve pain and to prevent the burn from progressing deeper into the skin and causing further damage.

Water-Jel manufactures the leading emergency burn treatment range of gels and dressings used by hospitals and emergency services around the world. **Burn Jel** is a water based, water-soluble pain relieving gel for immediate use on burns. The thick, cooling gel offers fast pain relief, drawing the heat out of a burn and cooling the skin. By applying **Burn Jel** as soon as possible, the heat of the burn is dissipated, helping to prevent heat from progressing deeper into the skin and therefore reducing the risk of further damage and scarring.

The new **Burn Jel** range includes **Burn Jel** pain relieving gel – a fast acting, pain-relieving gel treatment that cools and soothes burns – and the **Burn Jel Emergency Burn Kit** – including 3 individual **Burn Jel** sachets, an impregnated dressing and a bandage.

The **Burn Jel** range is available from the Lloyd's Pharmacy chain and from independent pharmacies around the country. The 60ml pump dispenser retails at £4.99 and the **Burn Jel Emergency Burn Kit** retails at £5.99.

For further information visit [www.waterjel.net](http://www.waterjel.net) or email [info@waterjel.net](mailto:info@waterjel.net).

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Note to editors: Source of statistics: DTI Firework Injuries Statistics, 2005

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