

*This photo is of a victim; a young child, who was caught in a literal fireworks explosion.*

**It was supposed to be a fun time**, this past New Year's Eve; a time of family and friends gathered on sizeable acreage, to picnic, and play games together; a party with the New Year brought in by a fabulous fireworks show.

The fireworks were to be shot off from a dock over a lake, away from the onlookers---deemed a safe way to view them.

It was not quite dark, as the family and guests were mostly still up around the house, when these fireworks were just started to be shot off far below, and only a few were nearby...

But something went horribly wrong—a rocket shot off sideways, as they often do, instead of going up, and literally imploded the \$3000 worth of fireworks stored in the open boathouse. The report was that this boathouse and most of the dock were literally white with the intensity of the explosion.

There was total confusion, all the family and friends ran towards this fiery scene, and numerous calls were made to 911.

One caller had just told the 911 operator that there was no need for any emergency vehicles, but then he changed his mind---he saw this little girl, and announced that she had 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns and they'd better send medical help!

*She approached her mom slowly, shrieking in pain; her face and neck were visibly seared, her shirt burned off, as was half her once long hair, her arm had flesh hanging from it, and her shorts were still smoldering from the remnants of the intense heat and still burning chemicals from the implosion. Her mom grabbed her shorts and took them off quickly, and she saw more burned skin. Fear gripped her as now as she faced the reality that her child might die that night.*

*She tried to hold her, but this little girl screamed out in more pain, and no one could touch her, and all this charred child could do was sit on her daddy's lap without a mother's or father's loving arms to comfort her as they waited for the ambulance to come.*

This little girl was an innocent victim of an accident that shouldn't have happened.

She'll be going through surgeries for years to come, and will need to address the now grafted skin that does not stretch; more pain, and more screams. And she'll wear the outer scars, as well as the inner scars, every day for the rest of her life.

The cold hard facts reveal that *fireworks are dangerous; unpredictable* incendiary devices that need to be left to the professionals to set off.

**This child, as well as the thousands of recorded injuries to other children, have had to suffer not only literally a million screams from the chemical burns and intense heat, but they will carry all that happened to them; visible as well as invisible scars, throughout their lifetimes.**

***We must protect our children!***

**Please note: These photo's are very graphic.**



Shriner's Hospital: TMO prepped for surgery: firework burn victim



Shriner's Hospital Jan. 2008 (FL fireworks accident)



7 year old firework victim 12-31-08 central FL



Left arm: 7yo firework burn victim 12-31-07





7/14/08 Fireworks victim