



Wildlife



Fireworks can be fun... but not for your animals

One of the main threats to our native wildlife from fireworks is the threat of fire. Low relative humidity, high winds and lack of rain all contribute to increased fire danger during the dry season. Sunshine and high temperatures rapidly dry timber and grass (fuel) which burn very quickly. Fires can kill and injure our Australian wildlife. Animals hit by the blazes include countless kangaroos, possums, birds and reptiles.

Follow these safety points to reduce the risk of fire.

- Designate a cleared area (minimum four metres) for lighting fireworks and ensure there is no flammable material such as dry grass or mulch for some distance on the windward side. Never allow people to enter the cleared area with more than the one firework.
- Have a hose connected to a tap on hand at all times. Ensure the hose also covers the windward side of the clearing. Buckets of water and wet towels or sacks can also be very effective in extinguishing small fires. If you have mulched gardens you should consider running the sprinkler system.
- Wet down all fireworks debris during and after your celebration. Don't drop them straight into a bin or leave them unattended. *Fires started as a result of inappropriate use of fireworks may attract an infringement notice.*

What should you do if you find injured wildlife

Be very careful in handling any injured wildlife. Animals can be very dangerous when injured. Use gloves and other forms of protection such as blankets or hessian bags. Keep the animal warm and provide drinking water. Contact your local wildlife carer group, local veterinarian (who will probably care for the animal for no charge), or local RSPCA office. Do not feed the animal. Do not provide feed for animals in areas affected by bushfires. The food attracts vermin and predators and brings the animals out to the dangers of roadways.

