



# KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**For Immediate Release**  
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**June 26, 2006**  
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## Van Roy Urges You to Have a Safe Holiday

**MADISON** – It’s the season for fireworks, and Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) reminds people to use caution when celebrating this Fourth of July. Although relatively safe when used properly, fireworks can cause injuries including severe burns, blindness, and even death.

“Lots of people enjoy the Fourth of July by buying fireworks to set off at home,” said Van Roy. “But when you’re literally playing with fire, it’s always best to take precautions so your holiday is safe as well as fun.”

Each year more than 12,000 people are treated for injuries related to fireworks throughout the country. One-third of those injuries are to the eye, and most victims are under 15 years of age. The Wisconsin Optometric Association offers the following tips to keep you safer:

### Handling Fireworks

- Adults, not children, should handle fireworks.
- Use protective eyewear when using fireworks, and always set them off outside.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of fire.
- Never try to reignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never set off fireworks in metal or glass containers. The containers can explode and send out shrapnel like a bomb.
- Dispose of fireworks by soaking them in water and then depositing them in the trash.

### Treating Eye Injuries

- Seek medical attention immediately. Even if an injury seems minor, it may grow worse and cause serious and/or permanent damage later.
- Do not rub or apply pressure to the eye, as it may cause additional injury.
- Do not rinse out the eye.
- Shield the eye from pressure by taping a cover, such as a Styrofoam cup, over the cheek, eye, and nose bridge.
- Do NOT give aspirin or ibuprofen to try to reduce the pain. These drugs thin the blood and could increase bleeding.
- Do not apply ointment or other medications, as the wound is probably not sterile.

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