

# *New Year's Eve Eye Safety Tips*

*It's important to be aware of how to protect your eyes from dangerous hazards associated with New Year's Eve like flying corks, fireworks and confetti.*

## **Popping Bottles of Champagne**

It wouldn't be a New Year's Eve party without a champagne toast at midnight. But before the clock strikes midnight, make sure you review these tips because popping open your favorite bubbly can cause serious, even blinding, eye injuries if not handled properly.

For safe celebration, follow these steps from the American Academy of Ophthalmology: Never open a warm bottle. Never shake a bottle. Point the bottle at a 45-degree angle away from yourself and others. Hold down the cork with the palm of your hand while removing the wire hood. Use a towel to cover the bottle and twist the cork. Twist the bottle while holding the cork at a 45 degree angle to break the seal. Counter the force of the cork using downward pressure as the cork breaks free from the bottle.

## **Celebrate with Firework Safety**

Fireworks are fun on New Year's Eve but they can be very dangerous. When lighting sparklers, only light them outdoors and keep a bucket of water close by. Always point them away from your face and others and soak them in water before throwing them out.

For fireworks, responsible adults should supervise and they should never be given to small children. Light fireworks outdoors, away from people, buildings and vehicles. Light one at a time, and never throw at another person. Keep water close by and be sure to dispose of fireworks properly.

## **Flying Confetti Party Poppers**

Kids love party poppers! However, flying confetti and glitter can quickly become a problem if it gets in your eyes. Always point party poppers away from your face and others. If you got a dud, don't try to fix it as it could pop right in your face!

*As you ring in 2018 we hope you have a wonderful celebration surrounded by family and friends. Keep these safety tips in mind and you can enter 2018 eye injury-free!*