

2013 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

In June 2013, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 314 hospitals within the State to determine various facts about injuries associated with fireworks occurring during a four-week time period, which included the July 4th holiday.

Some of the information on the injury reporting form was not completed in full; therefore we cannot guarantee 100% accurate information. The number of responding hospitals are up from last year's 71 (23%) to 78 (25%) respondents. Of the 78 hospitals responding to our survey, 23 (7%) had no fireworks related injuries during the time period of June 23 through July 20, 2013.

There were 116 persons injured by fireworks this year. Injuries to males decreased 15% from 88 (77%) to 72 (62%); female injuries increased to 43 (37%) from last year's 27 (23%), an increase of 14%.

The fireworks causing the highest number of injuries were bottle rockets and firecrackers at 14% each. The "unknown" type was tallied at 17% and is usually marked when the person injured is not the one actually handling the firework, but happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Injuries affecting fingers and eyes had the highest percentage this year with a combined total of 50 (30%), followed by hand injuries at 22 (13%). Second degree burns were the leading type of injury at 58 (41%), followed by first degree burns with 29 (20%). The age range category of 22 and over reported the most injuries with 51 (46%).

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

2013 Illinois Fireworks Injuries

Type of Fireworks	Number of Fireworks Causing Injuries	Percent
Sparklers	15	11%
Roman Candles	16	10%
Bottle Rockets	19	14%
M-80/M-60/M-100	1	1%
Firecrackers	19	14%
Jumping Jacks	0	0%
Smoke Bombs	3	2%
Cone, Fountains	11	8%
Fireworks Display	18	13%
Other Fireworks	3	2%
Unknown	23	17%
Homemade	3	2%
Mortar	7	6%
Total	138	100%

Type of Fireworks	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Burns 1st Degree	29	20%
Burns 2nd Degree	58	41%
Burns 3rd Degree	5	3%
Lacerations	16	11%
Abrasions	11	8%
Fracture	3	3%
Loss of Sight	1	1%
Dismemberment	5	3%
Hearing Loss	2	1%
Fatality	0	0%
Other	9	6%
Unknown	4	3%
Total	143	100%

Gender	Number of Injuries	Percent
Female	43	37%
Male	72	62%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	1	1%
Total	116	100%

Age	Number of Injuries	Percent
0-6	16	14%
7-10	11	10%
11-16	19	17%
17-21	15	13%
22 & Over	51	46%
Unknown	0	0%
Total	112	100%

Body Parts	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Hands	22	13%
Fingers	24	15%
Eyes	26	16%
Legs	19	12%
Arms	15	9%
Torso	12	7%
Feet	10	6%
Neck	6	4%
Head/Face	18	11%
Ears	5	3%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	7	4%
Total	164	100%

	Number of Injuries	Percent
Treated and Released	94	81%
Hospitalized Less than 24 Hours	1	1%
Hospitalized More than 24 Hours	14	12%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	7	6%
Total	116	100%