

2015 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

In June 2015, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 293 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. **Nearly one third of these hospitals reported fireworks injuries in the period June 23 through July 20, 2015.**

Some of the information on the injury reporting form was not completed in full; therefore we cannot guarantee 100% accurate information. The number of hospitals responding are up from last year's 61 to 93 respondents. Of the 93 hospitals responding to our survey, 11 had no fireworks related injuries during the time period of June 23 through July 20, 2013.

There were reports of 149 persons injured by fireworks in 2015. Reported injuries to males increased from 91 to 108; female injuries increased to 38 from last year's 36.

The fireworks causing the highest number of injuries was the "unknown" category at 40; followed by mortars (32) and sky/bottle rockets at 21. The "unknown" type 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 hands (42) and fingers (25) were the highest this year followed by head/face injuries at 19. Second degree burns were the leading type of injury at 55 followed by 20 first degree burns. The age range category of "22 and over" reported the most injuries with 87.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

2015 Illinois Fireworks Injuries

Type of Fireworks	Number of Fireworks Causing Injuries	Percent
Cones, Fountains Handheld	7	4.24%
Firecrackers/Lady Finger	5	3.03%
Jumping/Crazy Jack	2	1.21%
M-80/M-60/M-100/Silver Salute	9	5.45%
Missile Rocket	5	3.03%
Mortar	30	18.18%
Other Fireworks	0	0.00%
Roman Candles/Shots/Balls	14	8.48%
Sky/Bottle Rockets	21	12.73%
Smoke/Cherry Bomb	5	3.03%
Sparklers Wire/Wood Core	20	12.12%
Fireworks Display	3	1.82%
Homemade	5	3.03%
Unknown	39	23.64%
Total	165	100.00%

Type of Injuries	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Abrasions	14	9.46%
Burns 1st Degree	18	12.16%
Burns 2nd Degree	53	35.81%
Burns 3rd Degree	7	4.73%
Dismemberment/Amputation	6	4.05%
Fatality	0	0.00%
Fracture	10	6.76%
Hearing Loss	1	0.68%
Lacerations	16	10.81%
Loss of Sight	4	2.70%
Other	13	8.78%
Unknown	6	4.05%
Total	148	100.00%

Gender	Number of Injuries	Percent
Female	38	26.21%
Male	104	71.72%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	3	2.07%
Total	145	100.00%

Age	Number of Injuries	Percent
0-6	12	8.28%
7-10	17	11.72%
11-16	10	6.90%
17-21	16	11.03%
22 & Over	87	60.00%
Unknown	3	2.07%
Total	145	100.00%

Body Parts	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Arms	3	2.00%
Ears	6	4.00%
Eyes	22	14.67%
Feet	5	3.33%
Fingers	25	16.67%
Hands	41	27.33%
Head/Face	18	12.00%
Legs	19	12.67%
Neck	1	0.67%
Torso	8	5.33%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	2	1.33%
Total	150	100.00%

	Number of Injuries	Percent
Hospitalized Less than 24 Hours	11	7.59%
Hospitalized More than 24 Hours	15	10.34%
Treated and Released	119	82.07%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	0	0.00%
Total	145	100.00%