

OSFM 2023 Seasonal Fireworks Injury Report

The OSFM Fire Prevention Division requested hospitals and emergency treatment centers in Illinois to provide information about injuries associated with fireworks starting in January and ending in December.

During the July seasonal reporting period, 34 hospitals and facilities reported a total of 108 injuries. There were no fatalities reported during the 2023 reporting period. Comparatively, 44 hospitals reported 168 injuries during the same period in 2022. There is no requirement for healthcare providers to report fireworks injuries and we appreciate their efforts.

Healthcare facilities reported 82 persons having been injured by fireworks during the 2022 seasonal reporting period. Approximately 1/4 of all injured persons suffered multiple injuries. Of those injured, 62 are male and 18 are female. Over half of all injuries (63%) occurred to persons over 22 years of age. Children's injuries in the 11-16 age group decreased (8) from the previous year of 18.

The reported injuries were related to a wide variety of fireworks with "Mortars" (47%) listed as the most frequent type of fireworks or pyrotechnic effect involved in injury. This was followed by Roman Candles (13%), Firecrackers (11%), and Bottle Rockets (10%). The balance of injuries reported were associated with various other effects including Fountains (4%), M-80s (4%), Sparklers (4%), and Smoke Bombs (4%). (The sale and use of Roman Candles, Firecrackers and salute devices are prohibited in Illinois.)

Nearly 50% of all injuries affected hands (21%), torso (13%), and eyes (14%). Lacerations were the leading type of injury at 21% followed by second degree burns at 20%. Abrasions accounted for 15% of the injuries and first degree burns at 13%. Dismemberment/amputation injuries decreased to 10 as compared to 20 in 2022.

The OSFM Fire Prevention Division greatly appreciates the participation of all hospitals and reporting facilities who submit data. While most injuries occur during the seasonal July reporting, hospitals and treating facilities are encouraged to report fireworks related injuries throughout the year. While a few reports were received in paper format, 87% of these were received electronically via: chrome-

<https://sfm.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/sfm/sfmdocuments/documents/pyrotechnichospitalfireworkssurvey.pdf>

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

2023 Illinois Fireworks Injuries

Type of Fireworks	Number of Fireworks Causing Injuries	Percent
Cones, Fountains Handheld	3	4%
Firecrackers/Lady Finger	8	11%
Jumping/Crazy Jack	1	1%
M-80/M-60/M-100/Silver Salute	3	4%
Missile Rocket	0	
Mortar	33	47%
Other Fireworks	0	
Roman Candles/Shots/Balls	9	13%
Sky/Bottle Rockets	7	10%
Smoke/Cherry Bomb	3	4%
Sparklers Wire/Wood Core	3	4%
Total	70	
		100.00%

Type of Injuries	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Abrasions	16	15%
Burns 1st Degree	14	13%
Burns 2nd Degree	22	20%
Burns 3rd Degree	0	
Dismemberment/Amputation	10	9%
Fatality	0	
Fracture	7	6%
Hearing Loss	2	2%
Lacerations	23	21%
Loss of Sight	6	6%
Other	8	7%
Unknown	0	
Total	108	100.00%

Gender	Number of Injuries	Percent
Female	18	22%
Male	62	75%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	2	2%
Total	82	100.00%

Age	Number of Injuries	Percent
0-6	2	2%
7-10	4	5%
11-16	6	7%
17-21	18	22%
22 & Over	52	63%
Unknown		
Total	82	100.00%

Body Parts	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Arms	10	8%
Ears	4	3%
Eyes	18	14%
Feet	5	4%
Fingers	13	10%
Hands	27	21%
Head/Face	15	12%
Legs	15	12%
Back	1	1%
Neck	2	2%
Torso	16	13%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	0	
Total	126	100%

	Number of Injuries	Percent
Hospitalized Less than 24 Hours	6	7%
Hospitalized More than 24 Hours	10	12%
Transferred	12	15%
Treated and Released	49	60%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	5	6%
Total	82	100%

	Injury caused by:	Percent
Public Display	8	10%
Homemade	8	10%
Bought at stand	23	28%
Unknown	43	52%
Total	82	100%