



2017 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

The Fire Prevention Division is pleased to announce the majority of the 2017 Firework Injury Reports were received electronically. While we do still accept paper reports, we are committed to going green. Please visit the website link below for the electronic reporting form.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/PyrotechnicHospitalFireworksSurvey.pdf>

The Division requested data from hospitals and emergency facilities within the State to determine various facts about injuries associated with fireworks during the June 23 through July 20 reporting period. During the specified time period 60 hospitals and facilities reported a total of 204 injuries including one fatality. While the injuries reported decreased to 204 from 240 in 2016, we attribute the decrease to a 50% drop in reporting. Two of the 60 facilities responding reported no fireworks related injuries. We continue to see a few incomplete injury survey forms and therefore cannot guarantee 100% accurate information.

There were reports of 181 persons injured by fireworks in 2016. Reported injuries to males decreased from 139 to 104; female injuries decreased to 29 from last year's 40. While we would like to attribute the decreased injuries to awareness and safety, we feel the decrease in reporting is most likely the issue.

The fireworks causing the highest number of injuries was the "mortar" category at 32; followed by the "unknown" (28) and sparklers wire/wood core (18) and roman candles and bottle rockets at 16 each. 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 (51) and eyes (34) were the highest this year followed by head/face injuries at 28. Second degree burns were the leading type of injury at 49 followed by 28 first degree burns and 27 finger injuries. The dismemberment/amputation category rose to 16 from last year's report of 15. Injuries that required hospitalization for more than 24 hours doubled to 38 from last year's 18. The age range category of "22 and over" reported the most injuries (87).

The Fire Prevention Division and the citizens of Illinois greatly appreciate the participation of all hospitals and facilities who submit the necessary information that allows us to compile the data. We receive multiple inquiries regarding the reporting period of June 23 through July 20 for fireworks injuries. While the survey focuses on the July 4th holiday, we encourage and support all facilities and hospitals to report their fireworks injuries year-around.



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JB Pritzker, Governor
Matt Perez, State Fire Marshal

2017 Illinois Fireworks Injuries

Type of Fireworks	Number of Fireworks Causing Injuries	Percent
Cones, Fountains Handheld	3	2.03%
Firecrackers/Lady Finger	10	6.76%
Jumping/Crazy Jack	2	1.35%
M-80/M-60/M-100/Silver Salute	14	9.46%
Missile Rocket	2	1.35%
Mortar	32	21.62%
Other Fireworks	0	0.00%
Roman Candles/Shots/Balls	16	10.81%
Sky/Bottle Rockets	16	10.81%
Smoke/Cherry Bomb	2	1.35%
Sparklers Wire/Wood Core	18	12.16%
Fireworks Display	2	1.35%
Homemade	3	2.03%
Unknown	28	18.92%
Total	148	100.00%

Type of Injuries	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Abrasions	27	13.24%
Burns 1st Degree	28	13.73%
Burns 2nd Degree	49	24.02%
Burns 3rd Degree	5	2.45%
Dismemberment/Amputation	16	7.84%
Fatality	1	0.49%
Fracture	11	5.39%
Hearing Loss	4	1.96%
Lacerations	24	11.76%
Loss of Sight	7	3.43%
Other	21	10.29%
Unknown	11	5.39%
Total	204	100.00%



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Gender	Number of Injuries	Percent
Female	29	21.17%
Male	104	75.91%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	4	2.92%
Total	137	100.00%

Age	Number of Injuries	Percent
0-6	13	9.49%
7-10	10	7.30%
11-16	10	7.30%
17-21	17	12.41%
22 & Over	87	63.50%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	0	0.00%
Total	137	100.00%

Body Parts	Table of Type of Injuries	
	Number of Injuries	Percent
Arms	20	9.01%
Ears	6	2.70%
Eyes	34	15.32%
Feet	5	2.25%
Fingers	27	12.16%
Hands	51	22.97%
Head/Face	28	12.61%
Legs	18	8.11%
Neck	9	4.05%
Torso	22	9.91%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	2	0.90%
Total	222	100.00%

	Number of Injuries	Percent
Hospitalized Less than 24 Hours	14	10.22%
Hospitalized More than 24 Hours	38	27.74%
Treated and Released	85	62.04%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	0	0.00%
Total	137	100.00%

2 Facilities reported no injuries.

*Data is based on surveys received from participating hospitals and emergency facilities.