



OSFM 2018 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 during the period from June 23 through July 20. During this seasonal reporting period, 44 hospitals and facilities reported a total of 134 injuries. There were no fatalities reported during the 2018 reporting period. Comparatively, 60 hospitals reported 204 injuries during the same seasonal period in 2017. The decrease in reported injuries is more likely related to a decrease in the number of facilities reporting as there is no requirement for healthcare providers to report fireworks injuries and the level of response varies from year to year.

Healthcare facilities reported 96 persons having been injured by fireworks during the 2018 seasonal reporting period. Approximately half of all injured persons suffered multiple injuries. Of those injured, 72% are male. More than half of all injuries (56%) occurred to persons over 22 years of age. Children under 6 years of age accounted for nearly 1 in 10 (9.3%) of all injuries.

The reported injuries were related to a wide variety of fireworks with "mortars" listed as the most frequent type of fireworks or pyrotechnic effect involved in injury (16%). This was followed by Sparklers (14%), Roman Candles (12%), Firecrackers (12%), and "unknown" is listed for 15% of all injuries. The balance of injuries reported were associated with various other effects including rockets, fountains, detonation/salute devices, and display fireworks. (The sale and use of Roman Candles, Firecrackers and salute devices is prohibited in Illinois.)

More than a third (39%) of all injuries (including many severe injuries) affected hands. Injuries to head/face, arms, and legs are each listed in 13% of injuries reported. Eye injuries accounted for 8% of reported injuries.

Severe lacerations, fractures, dismemberment, and third degree burns account nearly one third (32%) of all injuries. Temporary or permanent loss of hearing and/or sight account for nearly one in twenty injuries (4.5%). Minor injuries, including abrasion, first and second degree burns account for only about half (55%) of all reported injuries.

The OSFM Fire Prevention Division greatly appreciates the participation of all hospitals and reporting facilities who submit data. While the reporting of injuries during the designated seasonal reporting period of June 23 to July 20 is specifically requested, hospitals and treating facilities are encouraged to report fireworks related injuries throughout the year. While a few reports were received in paper format, the majority of these were received electronically via:

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

The injuries noted above represent only those injuries reported by the 44 voluntarily participating health care providers during the June 23 through July 20 (one month) seasonal reporting period. OSFM is aware of additional injuries (including several traumatic amputations) that are not reflected in this report because those injuries occurred outside of the seasonal reporting period and/or because they were not reported to OSFM by a healthcare provider.



2018 Illinois Fireworks Injuries

Type of Fireworks	Number of Fireworks Causing Injuries	Percent
Cones, Fountains Handheld	3	2.91%
Firecrackers/Lady Finger	12	11.65%
Jumping/Crazy Jack	2	1.94%
M-80/M-60/M-100/Silver Salute	6	5.83%
Missile Rocket	2	1.94%
Mortar	16	15.53%
Other Fireworks	0	0.00%
Roman Candles/Shots/Balls	13	12.62%
Sky/Bottle Rockets	6	5.83%
Smoke/Cherry Bomb	0	0.00%
Sparklers Wire/Wood Core	14	13.59%
Fireworks Display	10	9.71%
Homemade	3	2.91%
Unknown	16	15.53%
Total	103	100.00%

Type of Injuries	Table of Type of Injuries Number of Injuries	Percent
Abrasions	20	14.93%
Burns 1st Degree	22	16.42%
Burns 2nd Degree	34	25.37%
Burns 3rd Degree	6	4.48%
Dismemberment/Amputation	12	8.96%
Fatality	0	0.00%
Fracture	5	3.73%
Hearing Loss	3	2.24%
Lacerations	20	14.93%
Loss of Sight	3	2.24%
Other	9	6.72%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	134	100.00%

Gender	Number of Injuries	Percent
Female	27	28.13%
Male	69	71.88%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	0	0.00%
Total	96	100.00%



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JB Pritzker, Governor
Matt Perez, State Fire Marshal

Age	Number of Injuries	Percent
0-6	9	9.28%
7-10	4	4.12%
11-16	11	11.34%
17-21	17	17.53%
22 & Over	55	56.70%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	1	1.03%
Total	97	100.00%

Body Parts	Table of Type of Injuries	
	Number of Injuries	Percent
Arms	19	12.75%
Ears	3	2.01%
Eyes	12	8.05%
Feet	4	2.68%
Fingers	16	10.74%
Hands	35	23.49%
Head/Face	19	12.75%
Legs	19	12.75%
Neck	4	2.68%
Torso	17	11.41%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	1	0.67%
Total	149	100.00%

	Number of Injuries	Percent
Hospitalized Less than 24 Hours	9	9.09%
Hospitalized More than 24 Hours	16	16.16%
Treated and Released	74	74.75%
Unknown (<i>did not specify</i>)	0	0.00%
Total	99	100.00%

2 Facilities reported no injuries.

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