

For Immediate Release

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State Fire Marshal Releases 2025 Fireworks Season Statistics

July 17, 2025 (TOPEKA) – Today, the State Fire Marshal released information and statistics concerning fireworks safety enforcement efforts and fireworks-related injuries reported in Kansas this fireworks season. The Kansas fireworks season started on June 20th and ended on July 7th this year due to a recent legislative change. Prior to this year, fireworks were only available for sale in Kansas for 9 days each year.

During this fireworks season, Special Agents of the State Fire Marshal, who are certified law enforcement officers, were authorized overtime hours to conduct random safety inspections at retail fireworks stands and stores across the state. Agents completed more than 360 inspections of these temporary businesses, encountering more than 300 violations of safety standards in the Kansas Fireworks Act.

During the majority of inspections, Agents were able to work with and educate owners on the steps they needed to take to comply with state law and maintain the safety of their business. However, Agents did find several instances where there was an immediate threat to safety, including fireworks being stored and sold in a building that also housed a licensed childcare center in Nemaha County, which had to be addressed immediately. Special Agents also made 10 seizures of illegal bottle rockets and illegal homemade fireworks from locations around the state.

Healthcare providers reported 165 fireworks-related injuries to the State Fire Marshal during the 2025 fireworks season, an increase from the 144 injuries reported in 2024. While most of the reported injuries did not require hospitalization, some victims suffered life-changing injuries that will require extended medical care and leave them with permanent disabilities. Some of these tragic incidents included:

- 12- and 13-year-old brothers in Wyandotte County who had ignited what are believed to be illegal or homemade fireworks. The 12-year-old suffered burns across his face, throat, and body, along with shrapnel wounds to the chest. His brother sustained burns to the face and lost a finger in the explosion.
- An 18-year-old man in Shawnee County who lost his hand and forearm while reportedly dismantling consumer firework mortar shells.
- A 60-year-old man from Topeka who suffered severe injuries to his chest and stomach while reportedly igniting and throwing a homemade explosive device.

The KSFM would like to thank all the local fire departments for their commitment to helping keep the public safe, with well over 500 total stands inspected this year between KSFM and our partners across Kansas. Thank you to all the fireworks stands that worked hard in their commitment to making sure Kansans were safe this year.

The attached fact sheet contains more information on fireworks enforcement and injuries in Kansas this year.

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**KANSAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIREWORK SAFETY COMPLIANCE STATISTICS FOR 2025**

Firework Safety Inspections completed by the State Fire Marshal in 2025:

- 361 inspections completed - more than 200 new stands were inspected
- Inspections completed in 81 counties
- 302 violations recorded
- 10 seizures of illegal fireworks

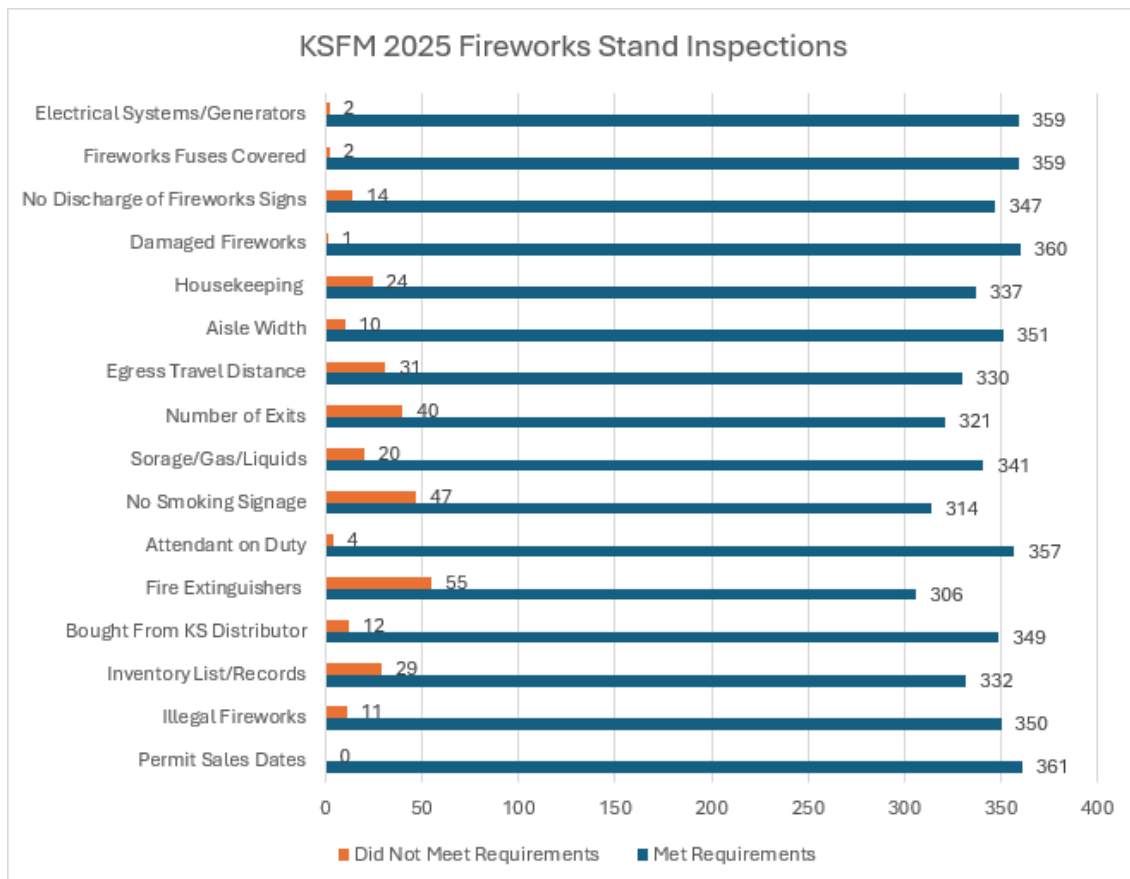
In comparison, in 2024, our Special Agents inspected 202 fireworks retailers, found 124 violations, and made 9 seizures of illegal fireworks.

Most common safety violations encountered during 2025 inspections:

- 55 violations for missing, improper, inaccessible, or empty fire extinguishers.
- 47 violations for “FIREWORKS – NO SMOKING” signs not present or clearly posted.
- 40 violations for not having at least 2 safety exits available for customers.
- 20 violations for general housekeeping issues, usually too many boxes or combustible materials in the area.

Special Agents of the State Fire Marshal seized more than 800 illegal fireworks from locations in:

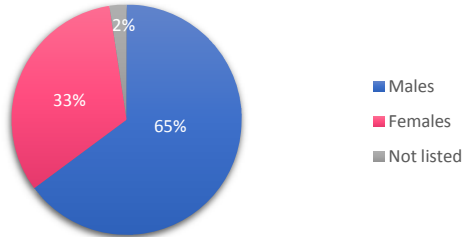
- Bourbon County
- Cherokee County
- Ellis County
- Johnson County
- Labette County
- Logan County
- Nemaha County
- Shawnee County
- Trego County



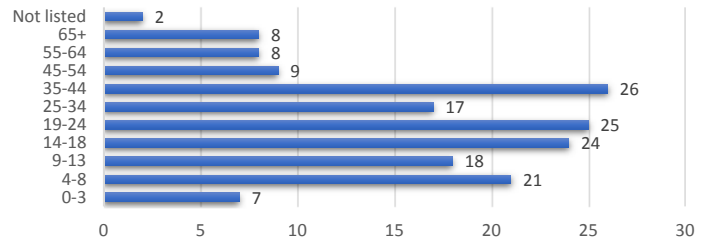
FIREWORK INJURY STATISTICS FOR 2025*

There were a total of 165 firework injuries reported in 2025. The individual shooting the firework was most likely to be injured; however this year those assisting the shooters showed an elevation in injuries. Hands remain the most common body part to be injured, outpacing other injuries by 2.5 times. Approximately 70% of the reported injuries occurred on the 4th of July. Although burns remained the most common injury, the categories of wounds/cuts/bleeding and trauma/blunt force both showed an increase. There was a noticeable decrease in injuries in people aged 9-13 and 19-34. However injuries increased for the age ranges 0-8 and 35-65+. Mortars, artillery, and firecrackers continue to cause the most injuries.

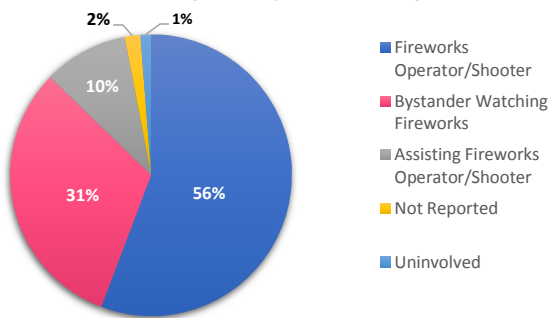
Gender of Injured Party



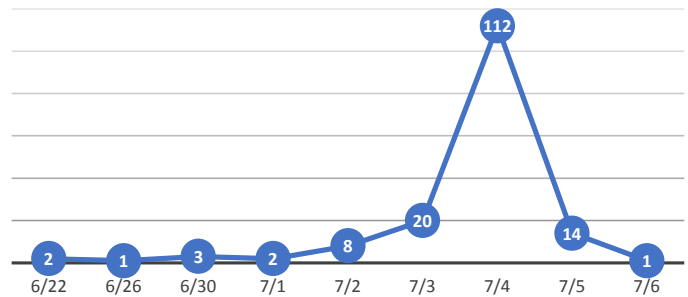
Age of Injured Party



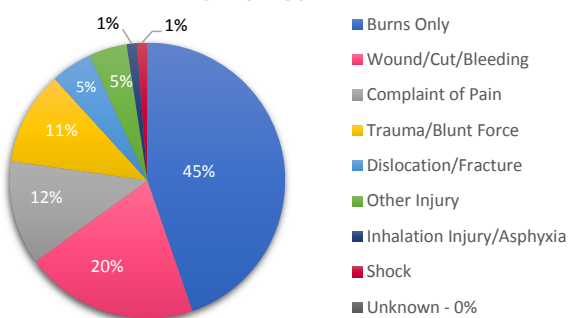
Activity of Injured Party



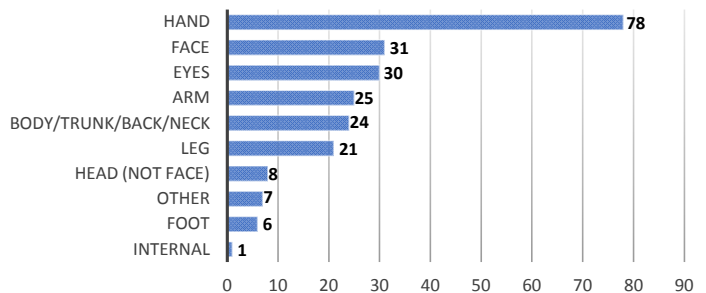
Date of Injury



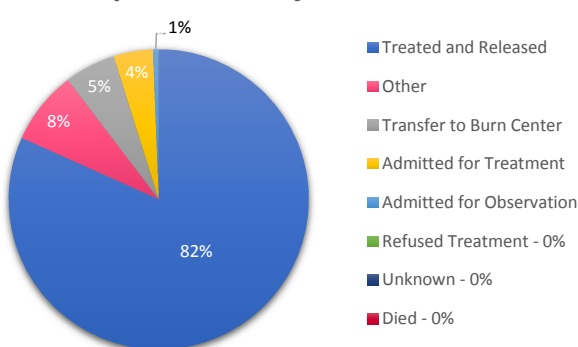
Injury Type



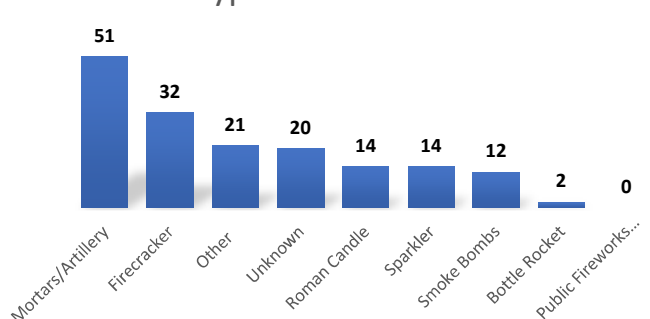
Part of Body Injured



Disposition of Injured Person



Type of Fireworks



*Statistics are current as of 07/10/2025 and are gathered from a voluntary report submitted by healthcare facilities in Kansas.