



OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

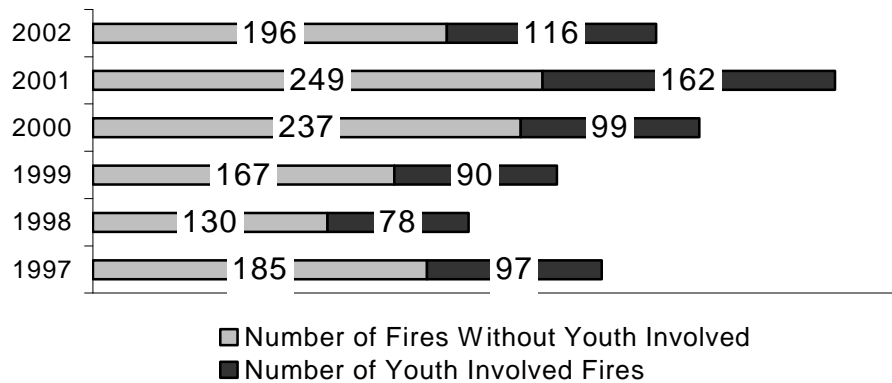
2002 FIREWORKS RELATED FIRES AND INJURIES

FIREWORKS-RELATED FIRES

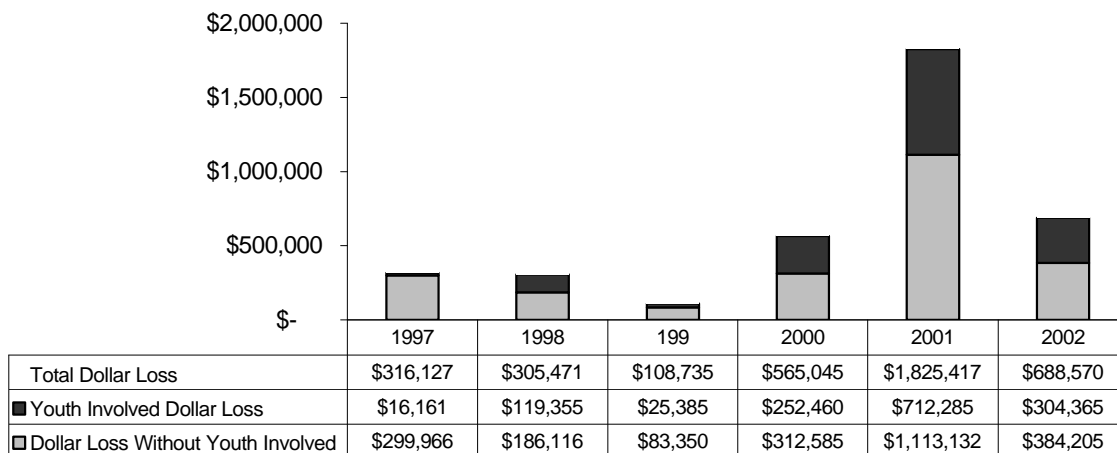
The number of fireworks-caused fires reported for the year 2002 was 24% lower than the 411 fireworks-caused fires reported for the year 2001. There were 312 fireworks-caused fires reported for the year 2002. Most of these fireworks fires, 88.8% occurred from June 1 through July 31, 2002. They caused an estimated dollar loss of \$688,570. Youths, 17 years or younger, caused 116 of the 312 fires or 37%. This same age group was responsible for the \$304,365 or 44.2% of the total estimated dollar loss for all fireworks fires.

The responding fire departments were able to classify the fireworks as legal or illegal in 27.8% of the fires reported. Based on the reports received, illegal fireworks were identified as the cause in 6.8% of all reported fireworks fires and resulted in \$3,800 loss of the estimated total loss from fireworks-caused fires. Legal fireworks were identified in 11% of the reported fires with a loss of \$3,100. In the remaining 82.2% of the fires, the type of fireworks was not identified by the fire departments.

Fireworks-Caused Fires by Year



Fireworks Fire Estimated Loss



Fireworks-Related Injuries from June 1, 2002 through July 20, 2002

Oregon's hospital emergency departments and immediate-care clinics were surveyed for fireworks-caused injuries for the period from June 1, 2002 to July 20, 2002. They reported the following:

Type of Fireworks Devices Involved in 61 Incidents Reported by Emergency Departments and Immediate-Care Clinics			
Status	Classification	Type of Device	Number of Incidents
Legal	Unclassified - 1.4S	Party Popper	1
		Smoke Bomb	4
		Sparkler (wire core)	13
		Unknown	1
Legal	Retail - 1.4G	Ground Bloom Flower	5
		Base Fountain	3
		Cone Fountain	3
		Handle Fountain	2
		Sparkler (wood core)	1
		Public Display Firework (aerial shells/cakes)	1
		Legal Subtotal	34
Illegal	Class C Limited - 1.4G	Bottle Rocket	2
		Mortars	2
		Aerial Spinners/Bees/Helicopters	2
		Roman Candle	3
		Regular Firecracker	1
		Missile Rocket	1
		Explosive Device (Silver Salute, M-100)	3
Illegally Manufactured	Explosive Devices	Ash Can (M-80)	1
		Unknown: Probably Homemade	7
		Illegal Subtotal	22
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown: Probably Explosive Device	1
		Unknown/Unreported	4
		Unknown Subtotal	5
		Grand Total	61

Of the 34 legal devices, 19 of these devices are unclassified and can be sold year round in Oregon without a permit. Wire Core Sparklers caused 13 or 38% of the incidents, followed by Ground Bloom Flowers at 5 incidents or 14.7%.

The 2002 survey showed an increase in the percentage of sparkler related incidents compared to last year. This year's percentage of 41% still remains higher than the percentages in 1996 through 1999. In 2002, 22.9% of the total incidents were sparkler related, compared with 15.6% in 2001, 17.7% in 2000, 0.3% in 1999, 13.6% in 1998, 9.5% in 1997 and 7.5 % in 1996.

Illegal fireworks were the cause of 11 incidents or 18% and 11 illegally manufactured explosive devices were responsible for another 18% of the incidents. While illegally manufactured explosive devices are not to be confused with fireworks, they are used during the same time as fireworks, so they have been included. Legal fireworks were responsible for 34 or 55.7%. Unidentified fireworks devices caused the remaining 5 incidents.

**Type of Injury Cause by Fireworks in 61 Incidents
Reported by Emergency Departments and Immediate-Care Clinics**

Type of Injury	Status of Fireworks			Grand Total
	Legal	Illegal	Unknown	
Burn (1st Degree)	7	2	3	12
Burn (2nd Degree)	13	9	1	23
Abrasion	0	2	0	2
Laceration	1	1	0	2
Eye Injury	10	2	1	13
Dismemberment	0	1	0	1
Fracture	0	1	0	1
Hearing Loss	0	1	0	1
Unreported	1	5	0	6
Grand Total	32	24	5	61

**Body Parts Injured by Fireworks in 61 Incidents
Reported by Emergency Departments and Immediate-Care Clinics**

Body Part	Status of Fireworks			Grand Total
	Legal	Illegal	Unknown	
Arm	3	3	0	6
Ears	0	1	0	1
Eyes	11	3	1	15
Face (except eyes)	3	2	1	6
Fingers	9	6	1	16
Foot	2	0	0	2
Hands (except finger)	1	1	1	3
Head (except eyes)	1	1	0	2
Leg	0	2	1	3
Neck	0	1	0	1
Torso	0	2	0	2
Unreported	0	4	0	4
Grand Total	30	26	5	61

**Age of Fireworks-Injured Person in 61 Incidents
Reported to Emergency Departments and immediate-Care Clinics**

Age	Status of Fireworks			Grand Total
	Legal	Illegal	Unknown	
0-5 years	2	1	0	3
6-9 years	6	0	1	7
10-12 years	6	1	0	7
13-14 years	3	4	2	9
15-17 years	7	3	1	11
18 years and older	10	11	1	22
Unreported	1	1	0	2
Grand Total	35	21	5	61