

Fireworks Enforcement After Action Review

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**PREVENT FIRES
AND INJURIES
CAUSED BY
FIREWORKS.**



Sacramento County Fireworks Enforcement

Regional & County Taskforces

- Fire Departments
- Law Enforcement
 - Sacramento Sheriff's Office
 - Rancho Cordova PD
 - Citrus Heights PD
 - CHP
 - ATF & Cal Fire
- Sacramento County Code Enforcement
- Sacramento County Parks
- Public Information Officers
- Hosts Liability Ordinance

Metro Fire Primary Objectives

- Community outreach and education
- Emergency response
 - Fire department has statutory responsibility to perform fire origin & cause determination
- Code enforcement
 - Fireworks booth inspections
 - Public fireworks displays
 - After the fire follow up

Sacramento County Hosts Liability

- **Sacramento County Code §4.54.425** - Unlawful for any individual to permit, allow, aid, or abet any discharge of illegal fireworks (including a public display), if such a person either knows or reasonably should know that an individual is discharging illegal fireworks on his or her residential or other private property.
- Violation is a *misdemeanor* & a public nuisance:
 - 1st offense \$1,000
 - 2nd offense within one year of first violation \$2,500
 - Each additional offense within one year of first violation \$5,000
 - Each violation within the American River Parkway \$10,000

Community Education & Outreach

- Based on previous years loss data, messaging began earlier in 2023:
 - May 7-13 Arson Awareness Week
 - Law enforcement fireworks amnesty
 - Decals on 30 fire apparatus
 - Sacramento County Code Enforcement advisory letters
 - 636 sent by June 30, 2023
 - Social media campaign
 - Press releases & interviews
 - Handouts



Reporting Methods

- **Unincorporated Sacramento County:** reportfireworks@saccounty.gov or Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency 916-874-5115
 - All emails automatically forwarded to Metro Fire CRRD
- **Citrus Heights:** Citrus Heights PD Non-Emergency 916-727-5500
- **Rancho Cordova:** Rancho Cordova PD Non-Emergency 916-362-5115
- Call 3-1-1 if unsure who to report to
- 919 complaints received in Metro Fire's jurisdiction in 2023
 - **52% of these complaints were received on July 04, 2023**
 - 40% of all complaints submitted in 2023 **DID NOT** contain actionable information
 - 151 complaints forwarded on to the correct jurisdiction

Metro Fire Incident Statistics July 01-05

Total Call Volume*

- 2021: 1,538
- 2022: 1,565
- 2023 1,706

**9% Increase Over 2022
Statistics**

* Total dispatches for Metro Fire including response to automatic and mutual aid incidents

Fires in Metro Fire's Jurisdiction

- 2021: 129
- 2022: 108
- 2023: 160

**48.1% Increase in Fire
Activity Over 2022
Statistics**

Fires Related to Fireworks July 01-05

- Peak fireworks related fire activity was in 2021
- Fires related to legal fireworks increasing year-over-year
 - **100% increase over 2021**



Type of Firework Involved in Fire Incident

	Legal	Illegal	Undetermined	Total	% of Fires	% of Total Calls
2021	6	23	27	56	37.2%	3.1%
2022	8	9	13	30	27.7%	1.9%
2023	12	19	31	48	30%	2.8%

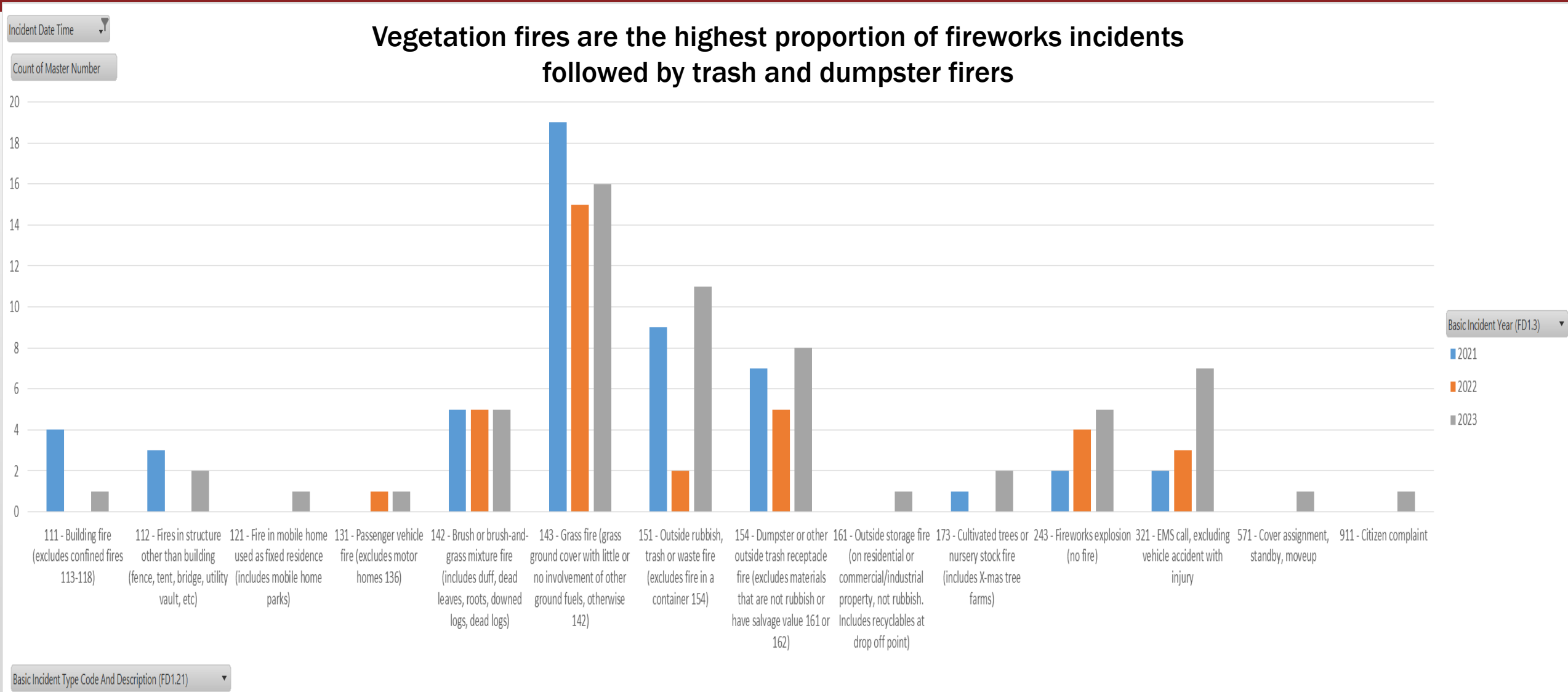
- Undetermined means evidence of fireworks located in area of origin, but there was too much damage to determine if the firework was legal or illegal.

Fireworks - The Big Picture For Metro Fire

Year	Total Call Volume	Calls Related to Fireworks	% of Total Call Volume
2021	105,415	94	0.09%
2022	108,660	62	0.06%
2023	89,949 (Jan. 01 – Oct. 31)	92	0.10%

Fireworks Incident Type July 01-05

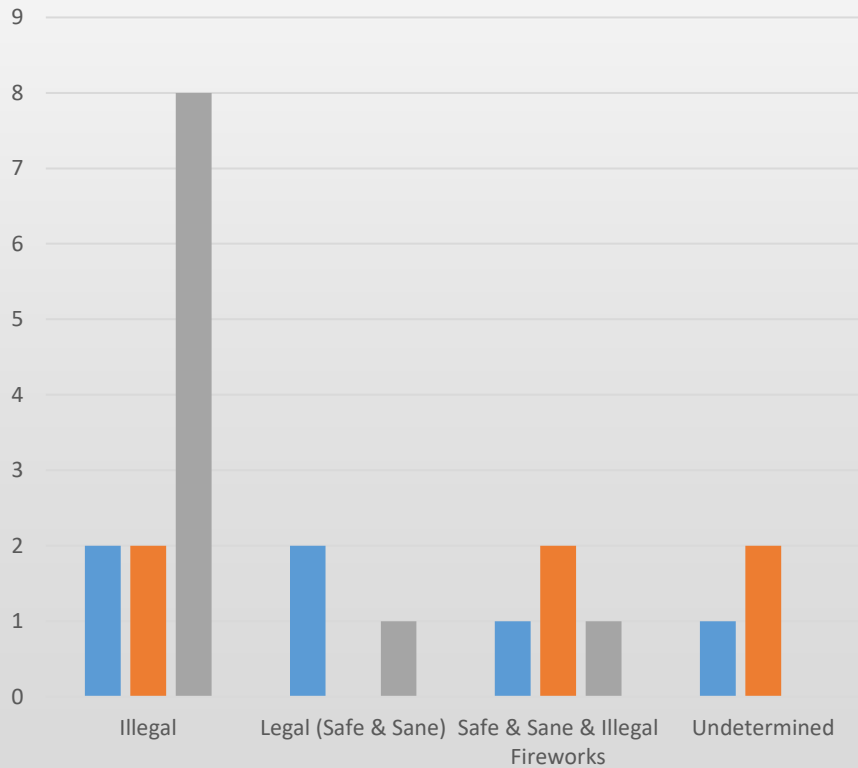
Vegetation fires are the highest proportion of fireworks incidents followed by trash and dumpster firers



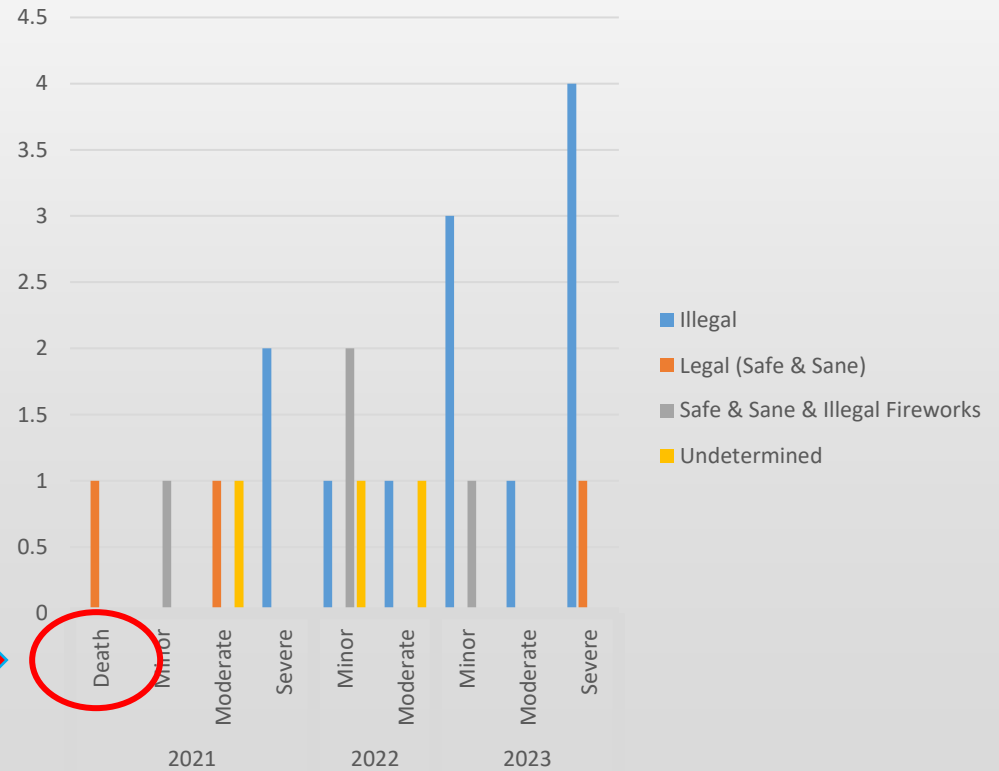
Fireworks Injuries YTD

FIREWORKS INJURIES INCREASED 66% Over 2021 & 2022

Injury by Firework Type

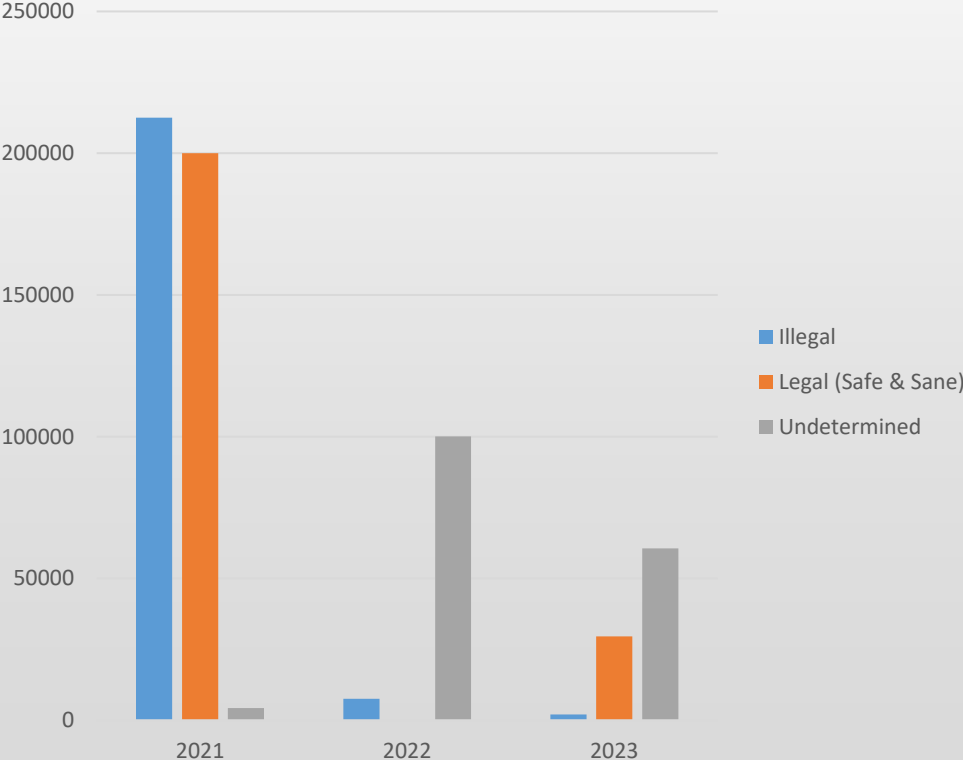


Injury Severity by Firework Type

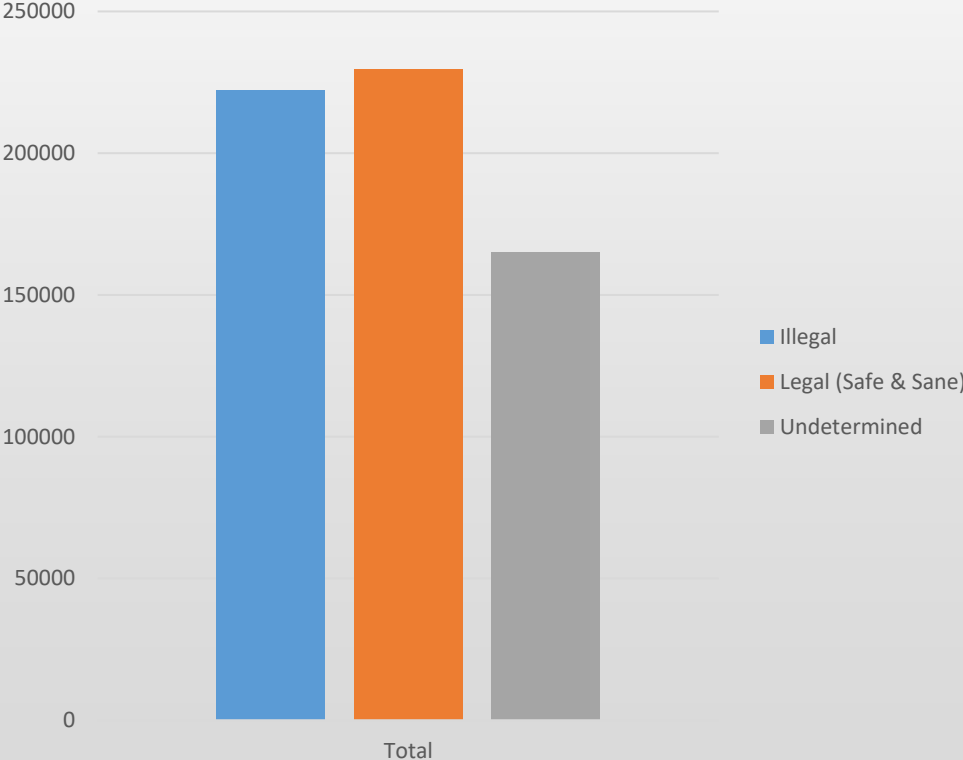


Annual Fireworks Property Losses

Annual Property Loss



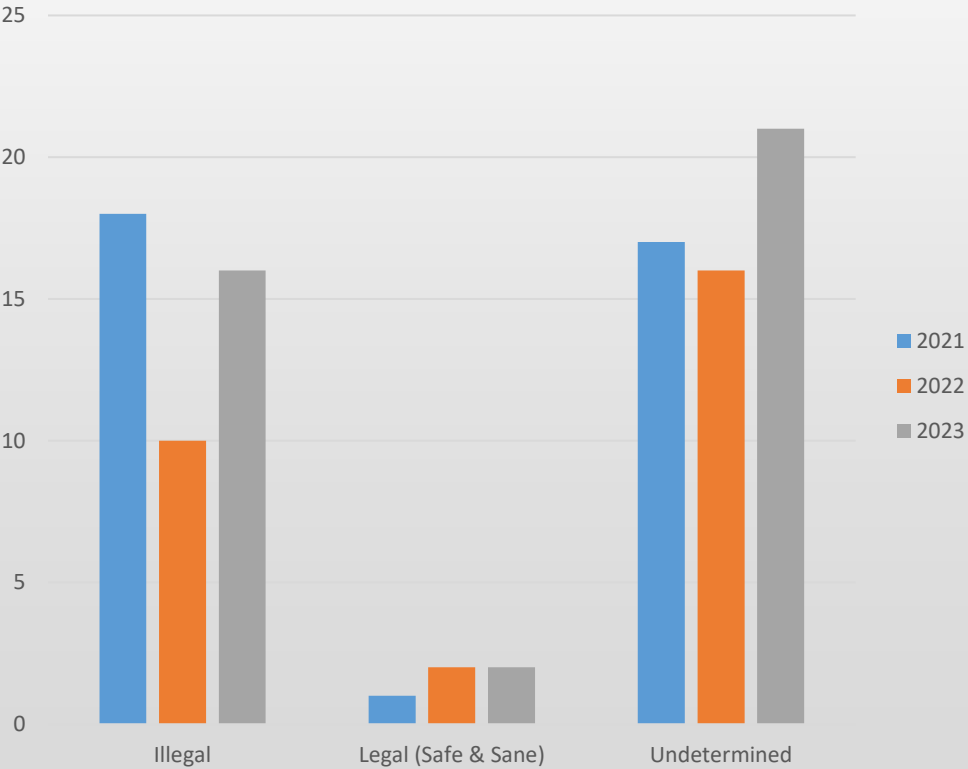
3 Year Property Loss Total \$616,405.00



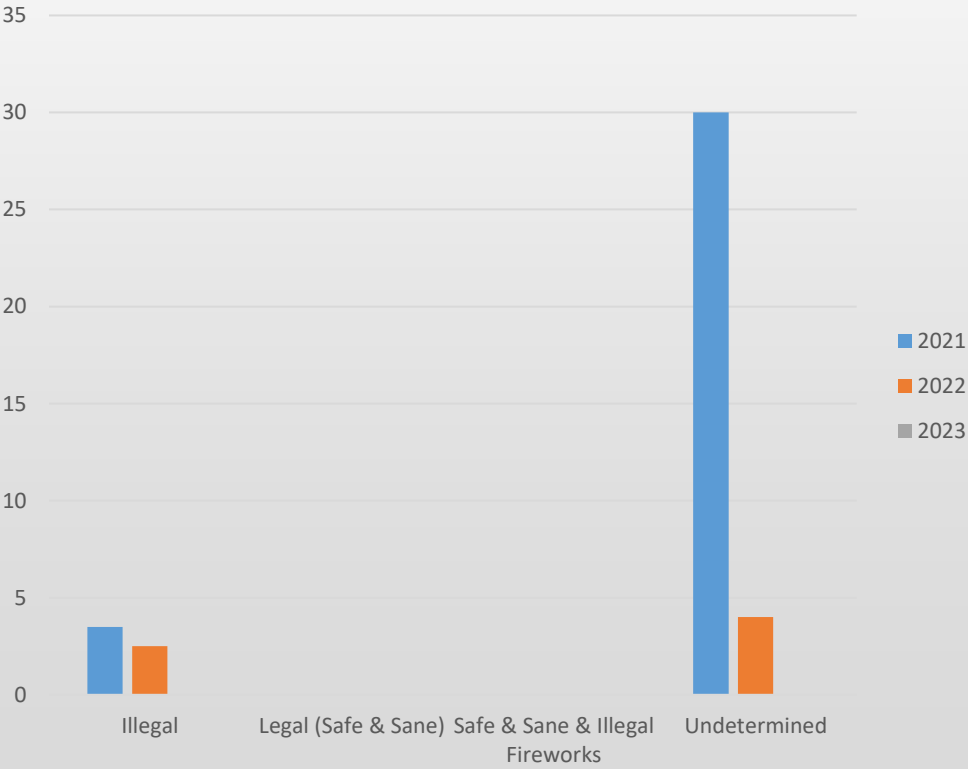
In 2021 1 legal fireworks incident loss was nearly as high as all illegal incidents combined

Annual Vegetation Fires Related to Fireworks

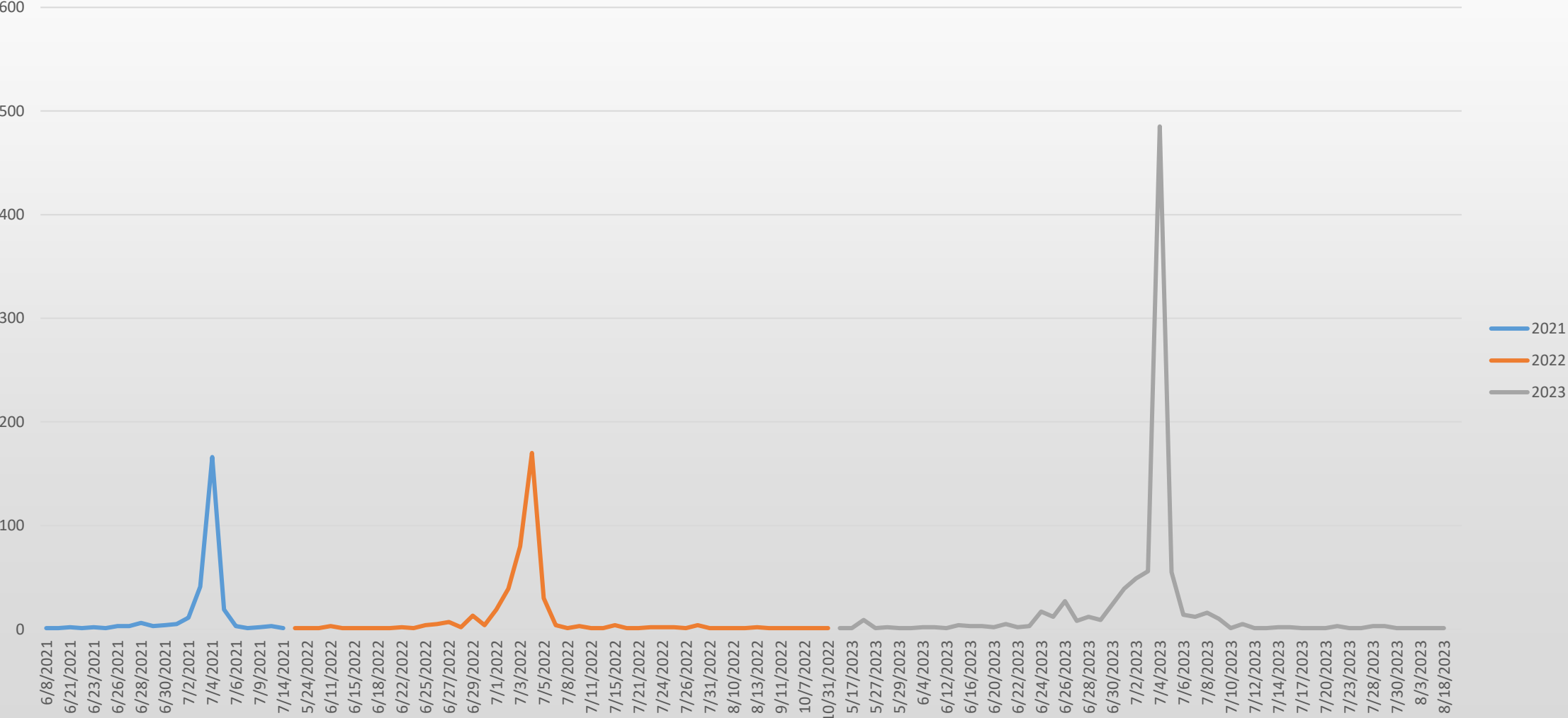
Vegetation Fires < 1 Acre



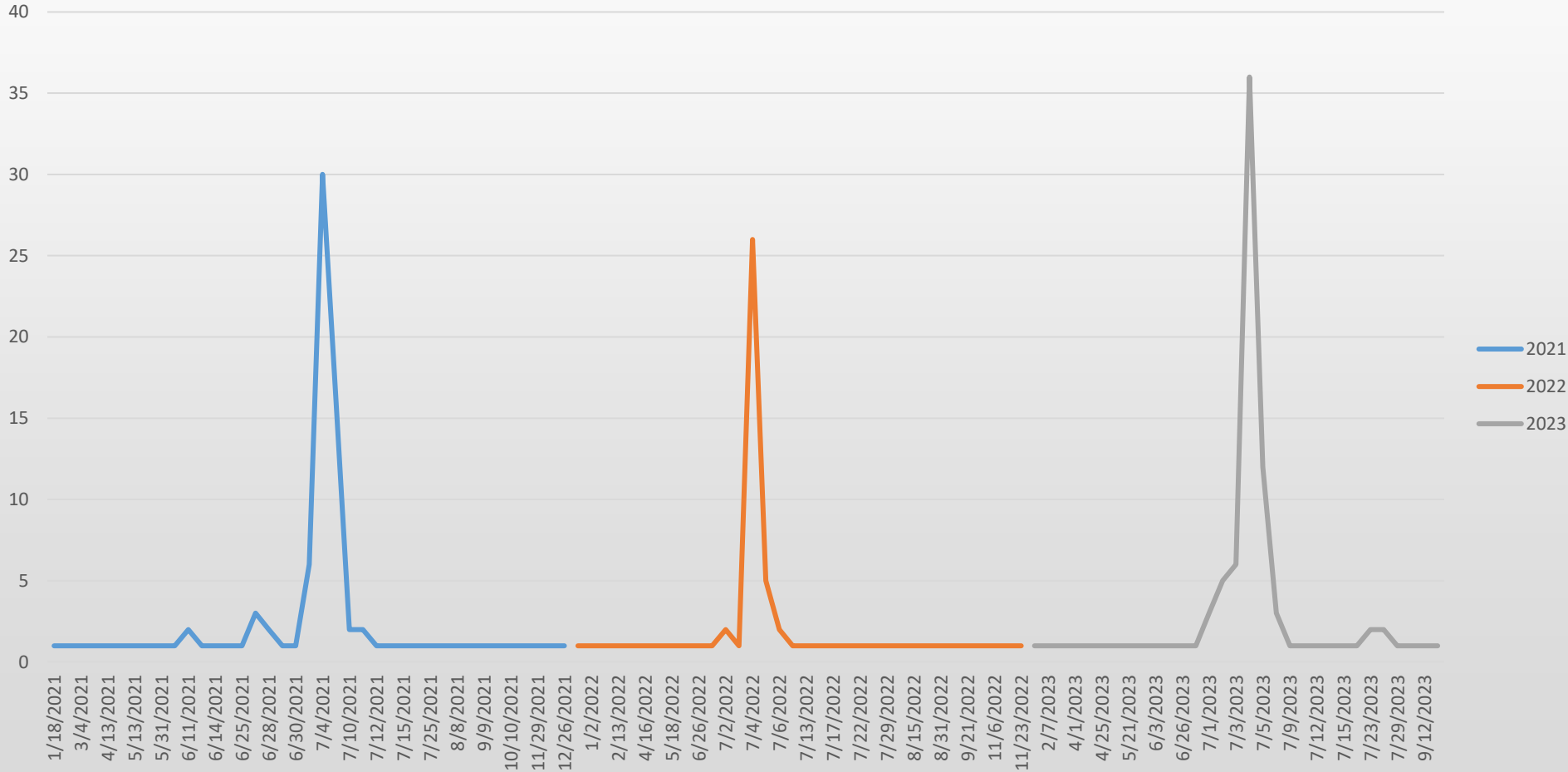
3 Year Vegetation Fires > 1 Acre Total Loss 40 Acres



Annual Fireworks Complaint Date Trends



Annual Fireworks Related Incident Date Trends



Community Risk Reduction Division (CRRD)

Staffing

- Enhanced staffing July 01-04
 - July 01 17:00 – 01:00 (2 public displays)
 - Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, 1 Fire Investigator, 4 Fire Inspectors (**7 personnel**)
 - July 02 17:00 – 01:00 (no public displays)
 - Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, 3 Fire Investigators (**5 personnel**)
 - July 03 17:00 – 01:00 (3 public displays)
 - Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, 2 Supervising Fire Inspectors, 4 Fire Investigators, 6 Fire Inspectors (**14 personnel**)
 - July 04 15:00 – 01:00 (2 public displays)
 - Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, 2 Supervising Fire Inspectors, 3 Fire Investigators, 5 Fire Inspectors, 4 Fire Inspector Trainees (**16 personnel**)

All Fire Inspectors have fire origin and cause investigation training

Metro Fire CRRD Outcomes July 01-05

- Referred 5 incidents to Code Enforcement
- Assisted ATF with sting operation
- 23 fire incident responses
- July 3 confiscated 30-40 pounds of illegal fireworks
- July 4 confiscated estimated 2,000 -2,500 pounds illegal fireworks
 - Required Metro Fire logistics box truck to transport product to EOD
 - ***Largest single haul in the region!***



Metro Fire Challenges

- **Difficult to pinpoint source of fireworks**
 - Large crowds assembled in courts and middle of the road
 - Boom and crackle of fireworks happens in seconds
 - Sound carries quite some distance
 - Catching someone in the act ***is not*** an easy task
 - Night conditions not conducive to video/photography
- **Widespread instances of people gathering at schools and community parks to launch fireworks**
- **Primary and secondary response routes overwhelmed**
 - Improper use of safe and sane fireworks on make-shift aerial platforms in roadway
 - People launching illegal fireworks in roadway
 - People unwilling to let personnel through
- **Personnel safety**
 - Fire Inspectors are not peace officers, and they are unarmed
 - Large gatherings of unruly, intoxicated individuals
 - Hurling fireworks at response vehicles and responders
- **Indifference to Authority**



Opportunities For 2024 Enforcement Plan



- Sacramento County Code Enforcement Advisory letters in advance of New Years Eve, and earlier in 2024
- Explore opportunities to pair law enforcement officer with fire inspector, or respond in tandem to incidents to ensure personnel safety
- SSD expanding use of drones to support host liability ordinance
- Advocate for legislation at the State and/or Federal level to address the availability of fireworks that are illegal in California
- Sacramento County Hosts Liability – exploring enhanced fines for discharge of fireworks on school and community park property
- Stronger emphasis on appropriate use and disposal of safe and sane fireworks
- Sacramento County exploring narrowing the window for fireworks sales
 - June 29 – July 04

Questions ???

