

2025

# Fireworks After Action Review



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Sacramento Metropolitan  
Fire District



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## Executive Summary

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire or District) is an independent special district pursuant to Government Code Section 56839 and established under California Health and Safety Code 13800 (Fire Protection District Law of 1987), which empowers fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, ambulance transport, and other services related to the protection of lives and property.

Metro Fire is the largest fire/EMS agency in Sacramento County, serving a population of over 720,000 throughout 359 square miles. Metro Fire's jurisdiction covers large areas of unincorporated Sacramento County and a small portion of Placer County. It also includes two incorporated cities, the City of Citrus Heights and the City of Rancho Cordova.

Metro Fire is the fire code official authorized to enforce the California Fire Code (CFC) in portions of unincorporated Sacramento County, the City of Citrus Heights and the City of Rancho Cordova. Fireworks regulations are contained in CFC Chapter 56 Explosives & Fireworks, which regulates the manufacturing, retail sale, display and wholesale distribution of fireworks, establishing the requirements for obtaining approval to manufacture, store, sell discharge or conduct a public display.

In 2025, Metro Fire led the Regional Fireworks Taskforce, which brought together representatives from local law enforcement, code enforcement, public information officers, the district attorney's office, and local fire agencies. The taskforce promoted collaboration and the sharing of enforcement strategies, many of which were integrated into agency-specific action plans. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for enforcement was expanded across multiple agencies, enhancing safety for personnel by enabling monitoring without direct interaction with individuals during peak enforcement periods.

Sacramento County, along with the cities of Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova, permit the sale of consumer fireworks, commonly referred to as "Safe and Sane" fireworks in California. Within Metro Fire's jurisdiction, 152 fireworks stands were authorized, and six public fireworks displays offered safe and organized celebration options for community members.

In 2025, Metro Fire had a 10.82% decrease in incident dispatches compared to 2024. However, there was a 17.78% increase in fireworks related fires over 2024. In 2025, Metro Fire responded to one injury that was directly caused by fireworks. However, it is likely that many more injuries occurred in Sacramento County.



## Background & Methodology

Metro Fire compiles data year-round to assess the overall impact of fireworks across our service areas. This report uses information drawn from:

- National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reports
- Fire investigation documentation

Unless stated otherwise, data in this firework After-Action Review (AAR) covers the enhanced enforcement period of July 1–5 each year. Data specific to Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova appears in Appendices B and C.

## Fireworks Policy in Sacramento County

“Safe and sane” fireworks, as defined by California Health and Safety Code, can be used during certain dates. In unincorporated Sacramento County and Rancho Cordova, they’re permitted from noon on June 28 through July 4. In Citrus Heights, they can be used through July 5. The sale of “safe and sane” fireworks are limited to the timeframes listed above. Metro Fire requires each fireworks booth to submit appropriate documentation for review prior to issuance of a permit. Each booth is required to have an inspection by a Metro Fire Inspector.

Public fireworks displays are required to have a permit from the fire chief, or their designee, in the fire district or department where the display will take place. Pertinent information is submitted to Metro Fire for review prior to issuance of a permit. The display must also be supervised and conducted by a licensed operator approved by the State of California. In addition, Metro Fire Inspectors are on-site before, during, and post display to ensure all requirements are met.

All three jurisdictions have a host liability provision within their fireworks regulations. Any person who allows, permits, assists, or takes part in the discharge of fireworks—including public displays—without first obtaining a permit is in violation of the host liability ordinances. Each jurisdiction issues administrative citations for violations of their ordinance. Metro Fire does not have an administrative citation process and refers all host liability violations to the code enforcement agency for the authority having jurisdiction.



## Fireworks Taskforce

Metro Fire chairs the Regional Fireworks Taskforce. The task force brings together representatives from local fire agencies, law enforcement agencies, public information offices, the District Attorney's Office, and code enforcement agencies from Sacramento, Placer, and Yolo counties.

The Regional Fireworks Taskforce focuses on:

- Exchanging best practices and strategies to address dangerous fireworks use
- Coordinating public education and awareness campaigns
- Developing staffing and operational plans for peak enforcement periods
- Sharing updates on local ordinance change

Taskforce meetings for the 2025 heightened response & enforcement period began in March and were held monthly through June 24<sup>th</sup>. The Taskforce has a scheduled After-Action Review (AAR) meeting in August. Metro Fire provides a summary report in the method requested by the jurisdictions we serve, and information is made available to the public on our website.

## Community Outreach & Education

Metro Fire's Community Relations Division leads the fireworks outreach and education program, working closely with local public information officers who support the Regional Fireworks Taskforce. The team uses safety messaging from trusted national and state organizations, including the U.S. Fire Administration, the National Fire Protection Association, and the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The following activities highlight the efforts brought to the community in 2025:

- Distributed community newsletters with safe use and disposal information.
- Placed decals on 20 fire apparatus with the regional slogan "Fireworks: Keep it Safe, Keep it Legal", highlighting the maximum \$10,000 fine.
- Social media campaign including content on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
- Participated in the Northern California Fireworks press conference with OSFM.

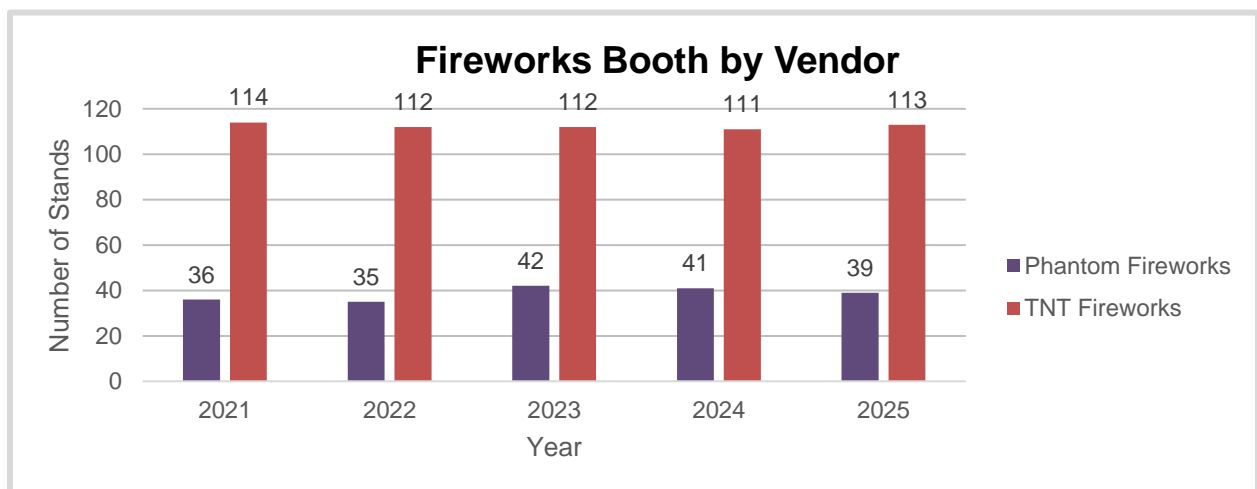


## Fireworks Booths and Fireworks Displays

### Booths

A total of 152 fireworks booths were permitted in Metro Fire’s jurisdiction in 2025, the same number of booths from 2024. Each booth is inspected by a fire inspector.

Community	Quantity
Antelope	9
Carmichael	12
Citrus Heights	20
Fair Oaks	14
Gold River	1
North Highlands	8
Orangevale	6
Rancho Cordova	16
Rancho Murieta	1
Rio Linda	4
Sacramento	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>





**Displays**

There were 6 permitted fireworks displays in Metro Fire’s jurisdiction which is one less than conducted in 2024. Due to work being conducted on the grounds surrounding La Sierra Community Center, they were not able to conduct their annual display. They anticipate being back in 2026. Each display requires a fire inspector to be on-sight for the duration of the event which includes a “dud walk” after the shoot. A fire engine was on standby at events for suppression capability in the event of spot fires or unplanned issues, and there was a medic unit dedicated to the largest event held in the City of



Rancho Cordova. The following table details the events and recommendations from Independence Day firework display shows:

Location	Date	Injuries	Health & Safety Violations	Fires	Malfunctions/Comments
Fountain Square, Citrus Heights	June 28	0	0	0	Additional vegetation management recommended
Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova	July 3	0	0	0	Last firework during finale exploded in rack. Rack repaired and same shell type used the next day.
Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova	July 4	0	0	1	Fire in the fallout zone, island north of the site. Limit max shell size to 6” next year.
Rancho Murieta Association, Rancho Murieta	July 4	0	0	0	No issues identified.
Del Paso Country Club, Sacramento	July 3	0	0	0	Several shells not expended during display, transported back to company for disposal.
Northridge Country Club, Sacramento	July 3	0	0	0	No issues identified.



# Staffing Plans

## **Community Risk Reduction Division (CRRD)**

In addition to the operational resources, Metro Fire’s CRRD upstaffed fire investigators to handle the increased call volume and fires anticipated for the holiday. Metro Fire’s inspection team focuses on the permitting and inspection of public displays and fireworks booths. Metro Fire does not have an administrative citation process. If personnel encounter suspected host liability violations, the incident is referred to Sacramento County Code Enforcement with supporting documentation.

Fire investigations teams were planned to be distributed in geographic areas to cover all 359 square miles of the district. Due to the reduction in requests for fire investigations in 2025, the teams were able to assist as a unit to provide efficiency and rapid incident close-out.

Metro Fire began piloting an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in 2024. This year, Metro Fire deployed 1 UAV team on July 4<sup>th</sup>. This resulted in 14 locations being submitted to Sacramento County Code Enforcement for social host violations.



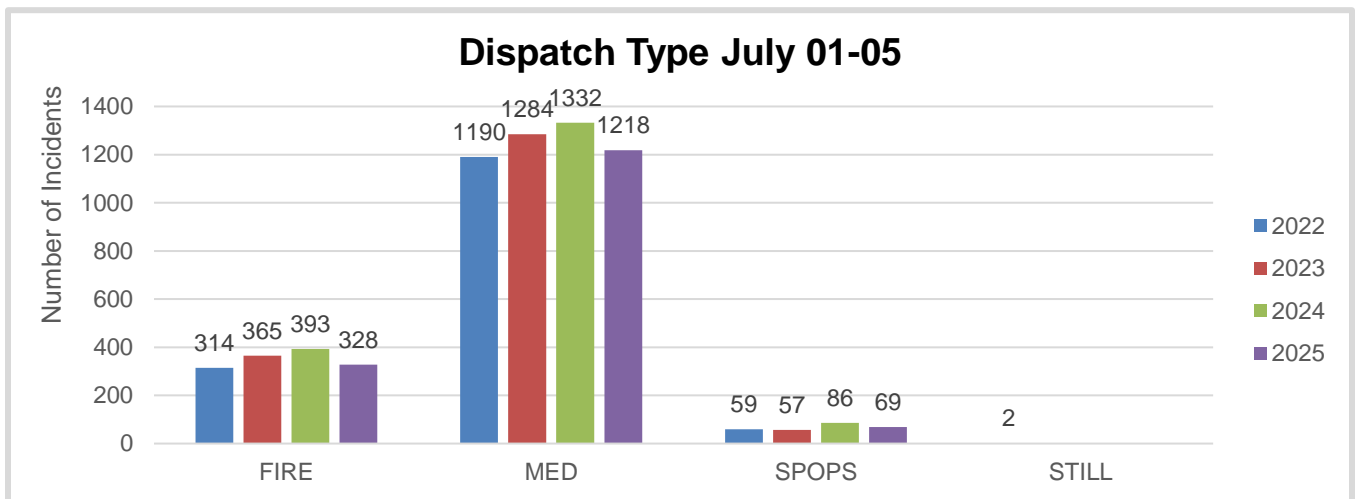
Position	1-Jul	2-Jul	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul
Fire Marshal	—	—	1	1	—
Deputy Fire Marshal	—	—	1	1	—
Fire Investigator 24/7	1	1	2	3	2
Fire Inspectors	—	—	7	3	—
UAV Operator	—	—	—	1	—



## Emergency Response

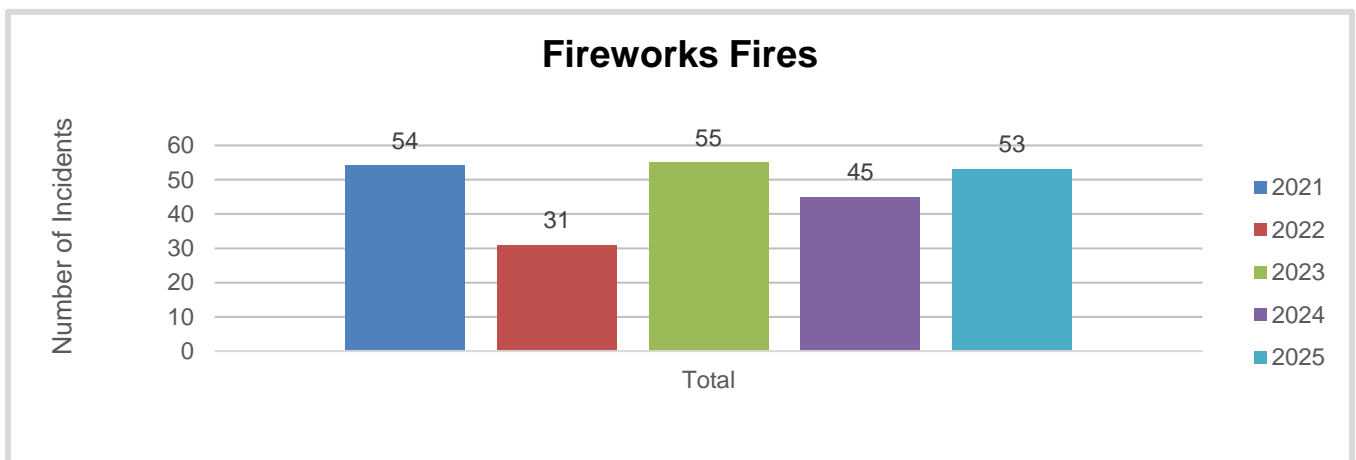
The Operations Branch is responsible for the delivery of emergency services throughout Metro Fire’s service area, including coordination with the fire dispatch center and oversight of fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), and special operations.

For the heightened enforcement period there was 10.82% decrease in call volume in Metro Fire’s jurisdiction over 2024. Requests for medical assistance represent the highest percentage of dispatches each year.



### **Fireworks Fires**

There was a 17.78% increase in fires related to fireworks compared to 2024. Similar to previous years, Metro Fire experienced fires caused by both safe and sane devices and dangerous fireworks.

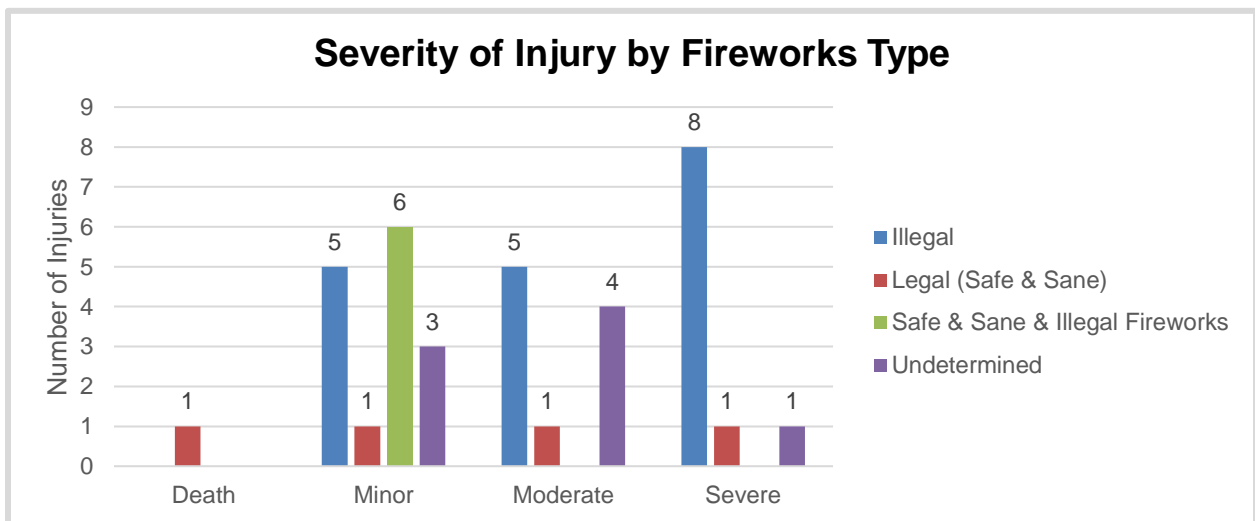
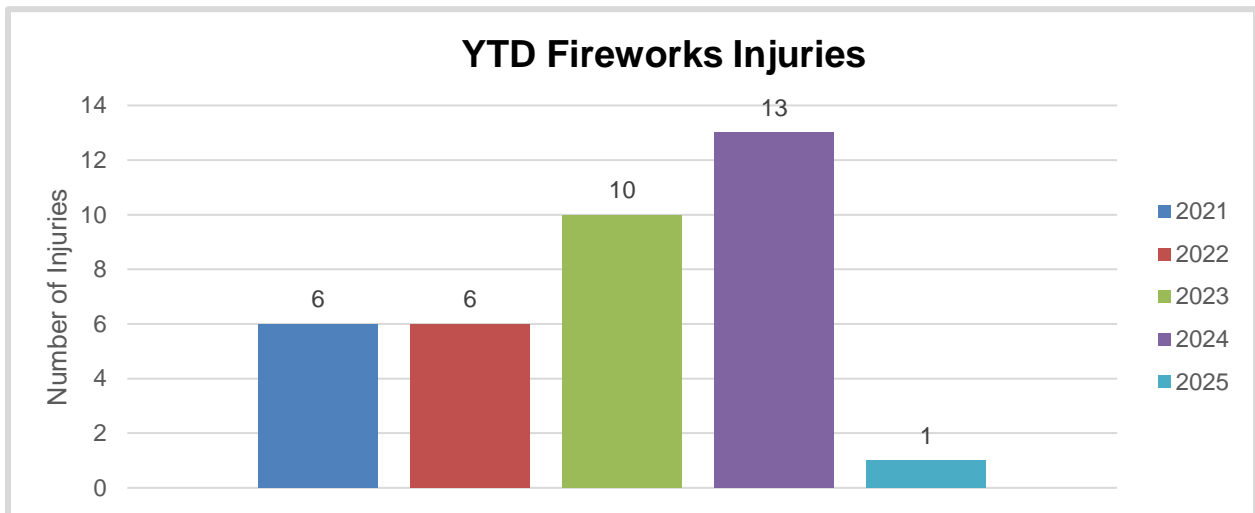




## Fireworks Injuries

The fireworks injuries contained in this report are only those that resulted in response by Metro Fire; it is likely that many more injuries occurred in Sacramento County. Year-to-date in 2025, Metro Fire personnel responded to 1 injury that was directly caused by fireworks in our jurisdiction. This is a significant decrease from 2024

Dangerous/illegal fireworks accounted for the most severe injuries between 2021-2025. However, we have seen injuries caused by both safe and sane and dangerous fireworks over the last 5 years. The only fireworks fatality in Sacramento County occurred in 2021, and the cause of this fire was improper disposal of safe and sane fireworks in the garage of a residential home.

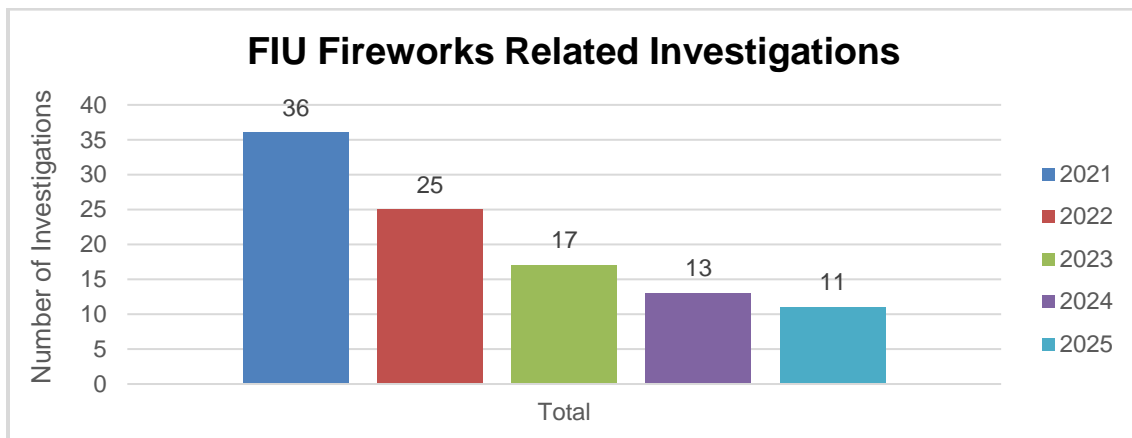




## Fire Investigations

The Fire Investigations Unit (FIU) is primarily responsible for investigating fires of unknown origin, incidents involving serious injury or death, suspected arson, and other fire-related crimes within Metro Fire’s jurisdiction. A critical component of this work is loss analysis, which examines why fires occur, what measures can prevent them, how their impacts can be reduced, and how people are likely to respond during such events. These insights play an essential role in Metro Fire’s ongoing community risk assessment process.

The FIU responded to 19 incidents to conduct fire origin and cause investigations during the heightened enforcement period, 57.9% of which involved fireworks. There were no arson arrests during the heightened enforcement period in 2025. The chart below shows a 15.4% decrease in investigations involving fireworks from 2024.



## Challenges

### **Safety**

The safety of all personnel remains a paramount concern. Responders have encountered threats of violence, particularly in the Antelope area and along Main Avenue in Orangevale, where ongoing challenges persist. Due to the heightened risks, crews are unable to safely intervene with large groups engaging in the use of dangerous fireworks, as these devices have been weaponized against responders. Despite the presence of fire personnel, these groups remain undeterred and continue their unlawful activities.



## Fireworks Booths

We learned of 4 fireworks booths in Metro Fire’s jurisdiction that had their product stolen.

2025 FIREWORKS BOOTH THEFTS			
Date of Discovery	Address	Vendor	Method of Entry
June 29	1734 Watt Ave. Sacramento, Ca 95825	TNT	Cut lock
June 30	5800 Madison Ave. Sacramento, Ca 95841	Phantom	Cut lock
July 01	4241 Elverta Rd. Antelope, Ca 95843	TNT	Snatch and Grab
July 04	4545 Manzanita Ave. Carmichael, Ca 95608	TNT	Cut lock

Sacramento County Code requires the distribution of a County-approved information sheet on safe use and disposal with each sale, attached in Appendix A. Phantom Fireworks distributed a physical flyer with each sale, while TNT Fireworks opted to use a QR code on small posters posted on the booth itself.

The County Code requires an adult representative for each booth to attend fireworks stand operator training scheduled by the fireworks industry and approved by the fire department. This year, Metro Fire conducted several training sessions for booth operators providing valuable information and ways to prepare for their inspection.

## Recommendations

Metro Fire has several recommendations to address some of the challenges experienced in 2025:

- Advocate for legislative solutions at the State and Federal level to deter sales of fireworks in other states to residents of California.
- Amend local ordinances to make each individual dangerous firework a separate offence.



- Engage the Department of Health Services to gather, analyze and track fireworks injury trends.
- Partner with the Youth Firesetters Program on educational presentations in schools.
- Distribute host liability information with street use permits.
- Cost sharing with Metro Fire and County Code Enforcement. For each social host violation submitted, cost recovery would be shared 50/50. This will allow Metro Fire to bolster our UAV program to assist with enforcement.



## Conclusion

Metro Fire is dedicated to reducing the use of dangerous fireworks and ensuring the safety of our community, fireworks booths, and public displays throughout our jurisdiction. These efforts rely on close collaboration with the various agencies involved in fireworks enforcement, as well as proactive engagement with the public.

Fireworks, while often associated with celebration, pose significant safety risks to individuals and communities. Improper handling or use of illegal or unsafe fireworks can cause severe burns, eye injuries, and even fatalities. In addition to personal injuries, fireworks can ignite fires, damage property, and threaten wildlife and the environment. Even seemingly minor devices can become hazardous when combined with crowds or combustible materials, making public awareness and careful supervision essential to prevent accidents.

Metro Fire remains dedicated to mitigating the risks associated with fireworks. Fireworks policy continues to generate strong community engagement, and the progress achieved in 2025 reflects improvements we are committed to sustaining and building upon in the years to come.



# Appendix A – County Approved Safe Use & Disposal Information Sheet

## CELEBRATE SAFELY

### SAFETY TIPS

- ★ It is unlawful to sell fireworks to any person under the age of eighteen (18)
- ★ Always have a responsible adult present when using fireworks. Parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks
- ★ Fireworks that explode, go up in the air, or move on the ground in an uncontrollable manner are dangerous and illegal
- ★ Read and follow all instructions and warnings on fireworks before use
- ★ Stay alert! Don't use alcohol or other drugs when lighting fireworks
- ★ Fireworks should be used on flat level ground. DO NOT place fireworks on ladders or make-shift elevated platforms
- ★ Keep a bucket of water and a hose close by when using fireworks
- ★ Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse
- ★ Keep a safe distance from the firework once its been ignited. Do not attempt to re-light or "fix" fireworks
- ★ Completely submerge expended fireworks in a non-combustible container (such as a metal bucket) for 24-hours before discarding them
- ★ Keep the non-combustible container a safe distance away from structures, fences, overhangs, and canopies while fireworks soak

### LAWS

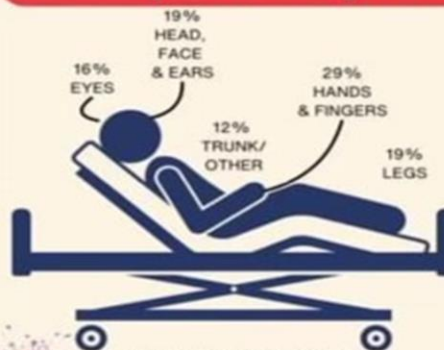
- In California it is **illegal** to sell, transport or use fireworks that do not carry the "Safe and Sane" seal
- In Sacramento County, all retail sales of "Safe and Sane" fireworks are permitted only from temporary fireworks stand. Sales from any other building or structure, or online are prohibited
- Be aware that there are counterfeit seals, and inspect your fireworks closely for the proper "Safe and Sane" seal
- To report dangerous fireworks: [reportfireworks@saccounty.gov](mailto:reportfireworks@saccounty.gov)

[metrofire.ca.gov](http://metrofire.ca.gov)



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

### Most Injured Body Parts



CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
- 2022 FIREWORKS ANNUAL REPORT

### Fireworks Are Not Toys

Take steps to celebrate safely. The unsafe use of fireworks can cause severe burns, amputations, blindness, and in some cases, death.

### Pet Considerations

Fireworks can be very frightening to your pet's sensitive ears. Keep pets indoors to reduce their risk of injury and getting loose.



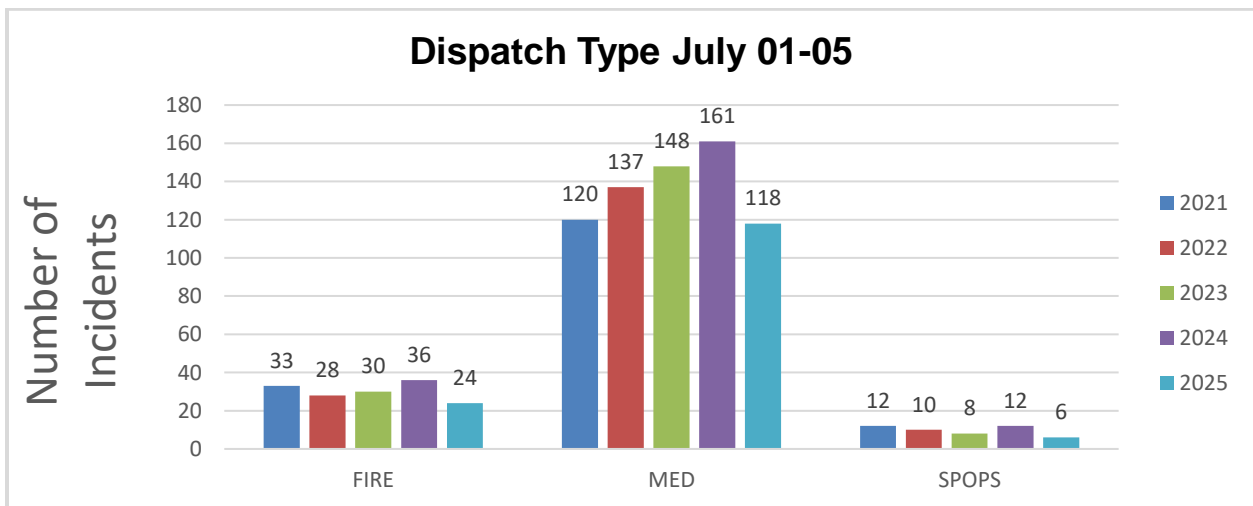
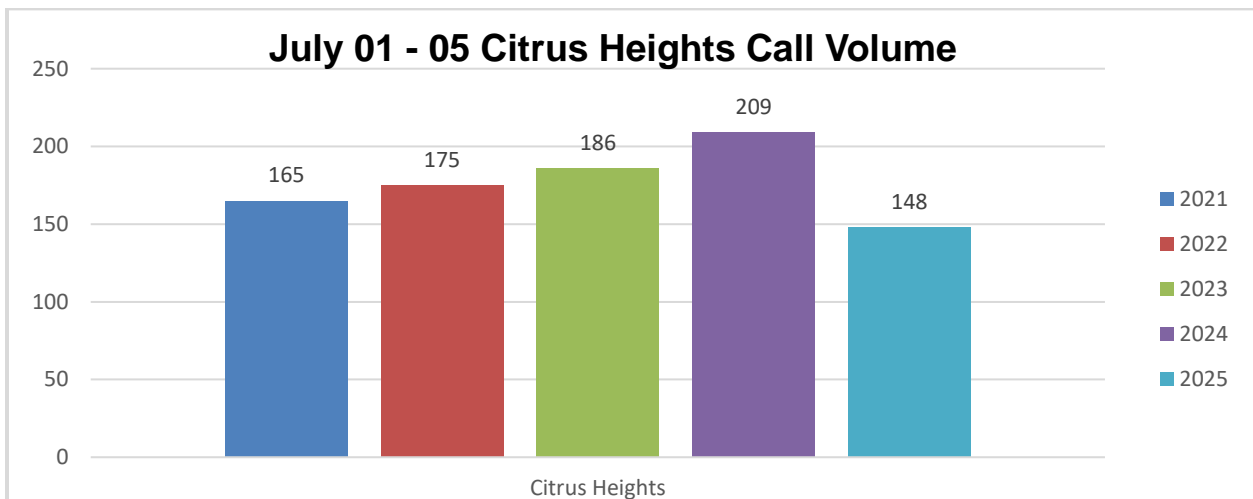
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## Appendix B – City of Citrus Heights Data

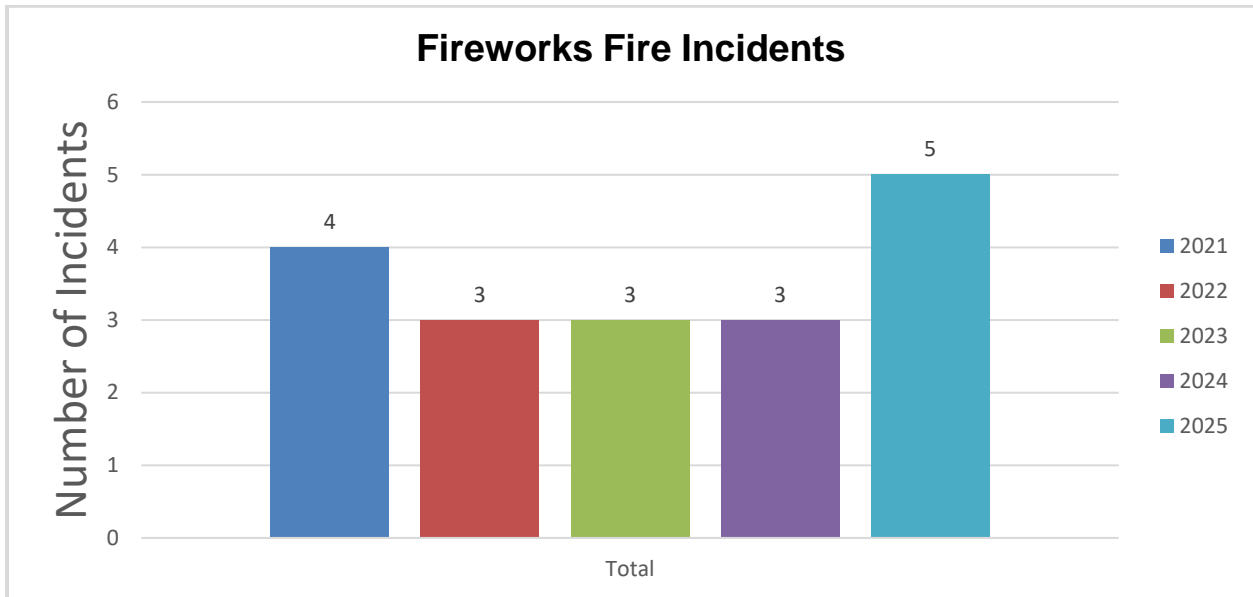
The City of Citrus Heights offers two methods for residents to submit dangerous fireworks complaints, the See Click Fix App & the non-emergency line for the Citrus Heights Police Department. Metro Fire doesn't receive these complaints. For this reason, no analysis of complaint data is provided.

The total call volume during the heightened enforcement period saw a significant reduction in 2025 resulting in a 29.2% reduction over 2024.

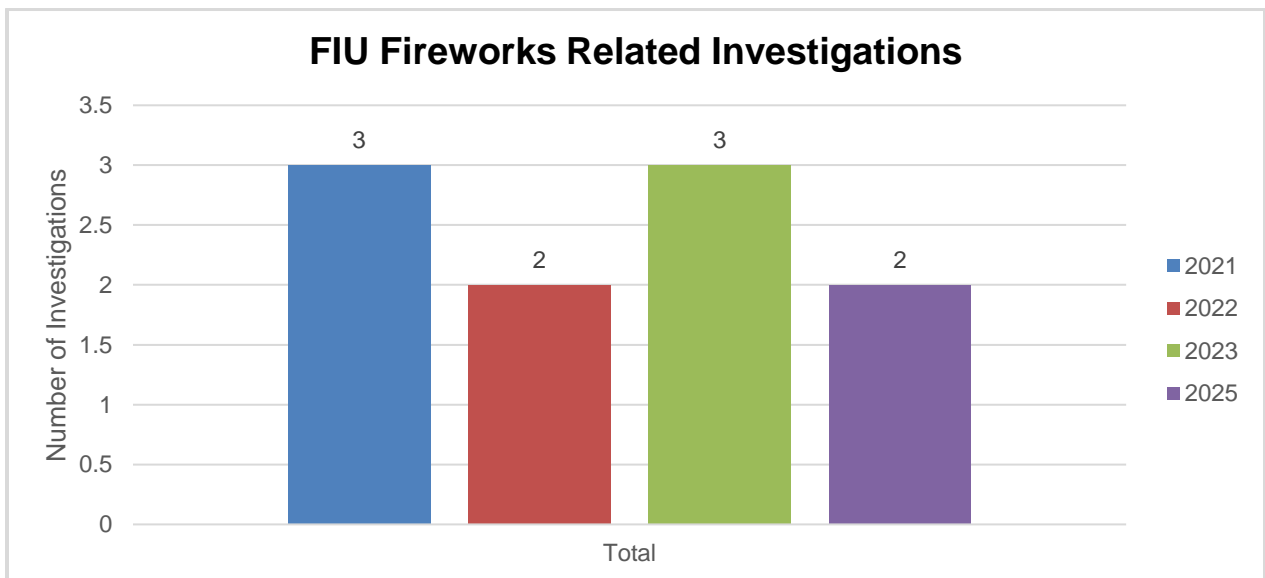




The majority of dispatches for Citrus Heights during the heightened enforcement period were for medical aid, down 26.7% over 2024. Citrus Heights had a 33.3% decrease in the overall number of fires over 2024, but there was a 66.7% increase in fires related to fireworks.



The number of incidents requiring the expertise of the FIU in Citrus Heights decreased by 33.3% in 2025.

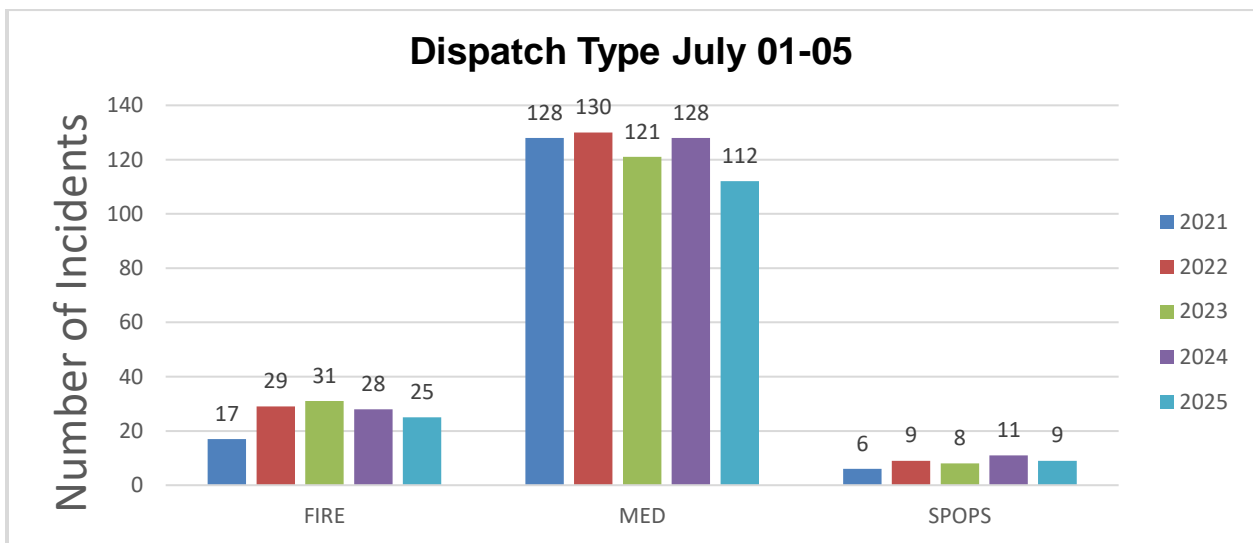
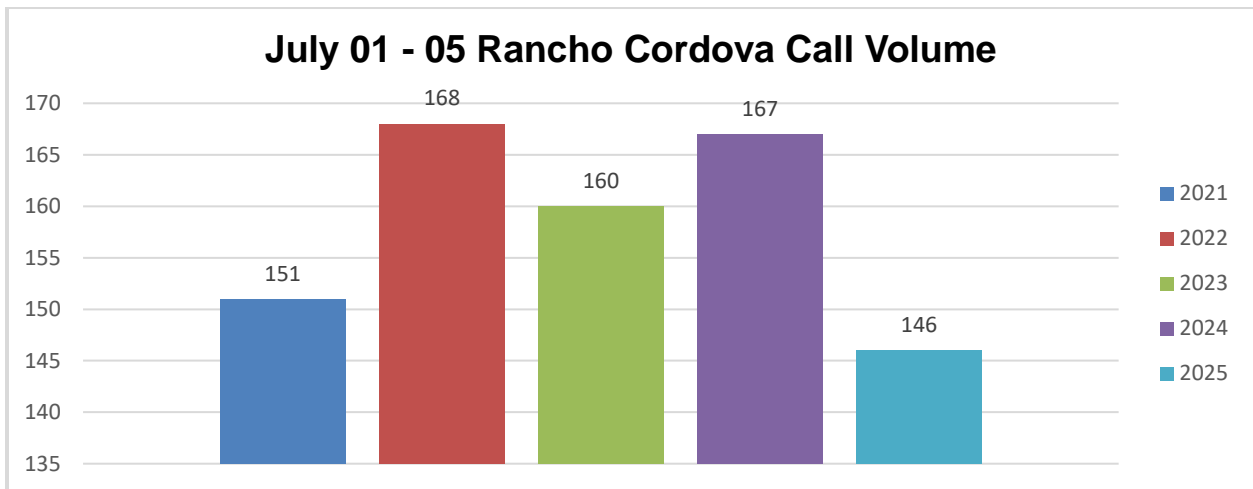




## Appendix C – City of Rancho Cordova Data

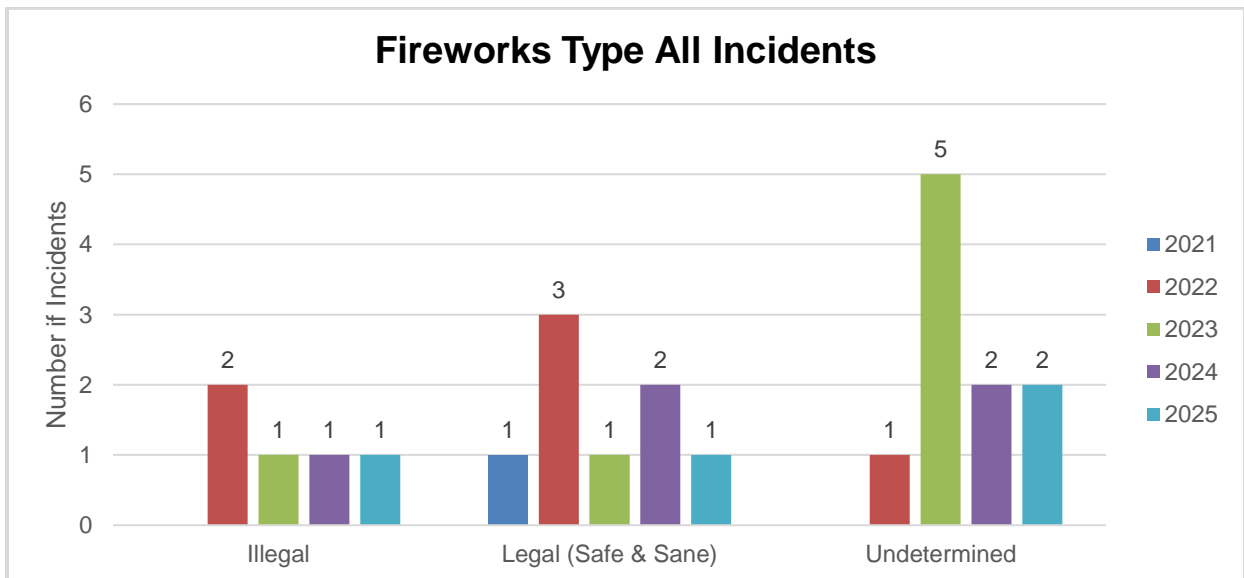
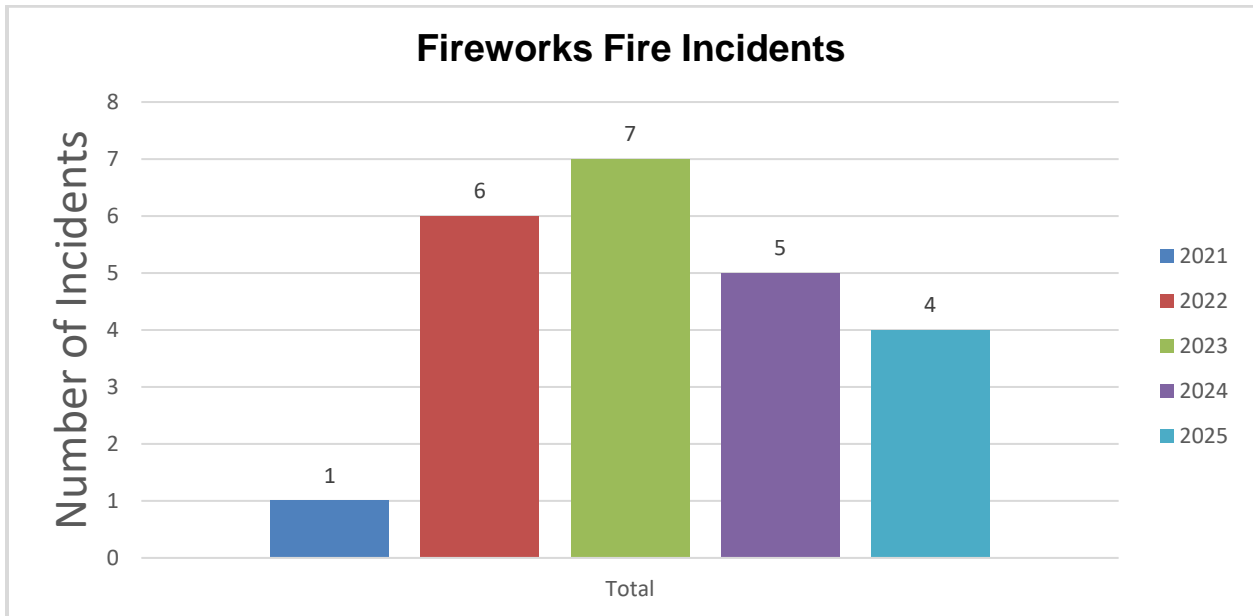
The City of Rancho Cordova offers two methods for residents to submit dangerous fireworks complaints, the Rancho Cordova Connect App & the non-emergency line for the Rancho Cordova Police Department. Metro Fire doesn't receive these complaints. For this reason, no analysis of complaint data is provided.

The total call volume during the heightened enforcement period saw a significant reduction in 2025 resulting in a 12.57% reduction over 2024.





The majority of dispatches for Rancho Cordova during the heightened enforcement period were for medical aid, down 12.5% over 2024. Rancho Cordova had a 10.7% decrease in the overall number of fires over 2024 and there was a 20% decrease in fires related to fireworks.





There were 2 fires during the heightened enforcement period in 2025 that required FIU response.

