



**STATE OF MAINE
132nd LEGISLATURE
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**REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE ON THE SALE and USE OF CONSUMER
FIREWORKS IN MAINE FOR 2025**

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

February 24, 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is presented to the Maine Legislature pursuant to Title 8, Chapter 9-A, §223-A, §§13 requiring the Office of the Maine State Fire Marshal to submit a written report regarding the sale and use of consumer fireworks in this State. The report must, at a minimum, include information on the issuance and oversight of licenses to sell consumer fireworks, reported consumer fireworks-related injuries, reported consumer fireworks-related fires or other property damage and municipal restrictions or prohibitions on the sale or use of consumer fireworks. The report must be submitted not later than March 1st each year.

The use, possession or sale of consumer fireworks became legal with the passage of Chapter 416, LD 83 “An Act to Legalize the Sale, Possession and Use of Fireworks” during the first session of the 125th Maine Legislature. The law took effect on January 1, 2012. Plantations could adopt consumer fireworks ordinances with the passage of LD 3 “An Act to Grant Plantations the Power to Control Consumer Fireworks” during the first session of the 128th Maine Legislature in 2017. That law took effect on March 24, 2017.

In 2014 the Office of State Fire Marshal (FMO) attempted to gather better data on fireworks-related injuries and burns by working with the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to get data from their reporting system. Data reports from the EMS system started being sent to the Maine Fire Marshal on January 22, 2014. Any EMS reports that are entered with a code involving fireworks are now automatically sent to the Fire Marshal. However, the drawback to this data source is that the EMS data only records those injured people that are transported by an ambulance.

The last known fatality due to fireworks happened in 2015.¹ A man died in 2025 when he was hit by a projectile from a mini cannon during a private fireworks show.²

LICENSING

In 2025, there were sixteen licensed and operating consumer fireworks retail stores. Each license renewal costs \$1,500 and the sixteen stores were licensed for a total of \$24,000. In 2025 the sixteen licensed stores earned \$6.2 million in taxable sales and paid \$342,221 in sales tax.³ This is an increase of 0.9% in tax revenue from 2024 and a decrease of 21% from 2020. The number of licensed businesses selling consumer fireworks has declined 33% since 2017, when there was a high of 24 licensed businesses selling consumer fireworks.

TOWN ORDINANCES

As required in statute, Maine municipalities choosing to restrict or prohibit the sale and or use of consumer fireworks, or those permitting the sale of consumer fireworks must provide the FMO with a copy of the ordinance. At the end of 2025, the FMO documented a total of 119 municipal or plantation ordinances. The ordinance documents are available from the FMO website on this webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/laws-rules-policy/municipal-fireworks-ordinances> .

¹ “Maine Man Killed After Trying to Launch Firework from Top of His Head” *The Guardian*, July 5, 2015
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/05/maine-firework-kills-man-head>

² “Maine man killed by mini cannon projectile at Roxbury fireworks display” *Newport Dispatch*, July 31, 2025
<https://www.newportdispatch.com/2025/07/31/maine-man-killed-by-mini-cannon-projectile-at-roxbury-fireworks-display/>

³ Maine Revenue Services

CONSUMER FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURIES AND FIRES

A single voluntary injury report was created in 2014 (Appendix A) to capture fireworks injury data from hospitals and clinics. Two injury reports were sent to the FMO in 2026. The FMO collected information from the Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reporting system. These reports (Appendix B) indicate that thirteen individuals were transported to medical facilities for treatment of injuries, and the victims ranged from 24 to 90 years of age. The EMS reports only collect data on those people transported by an ambulance, and don't capture data on injured people who self-transport to a hospital or who don't go to a health care provider at all. Because of potential injury reporting uncertainty, the reported number of injuries is not considered by the FMO to be accurate injury data.

As of 12/31/2025, there were 7 fires or explosions reported by Maine's fire departments through the Maine Fire Incident Reporting System (MEFIRS) that were determined to be caused by fireworks (Appendix C). This was a decrease of three fires from 2024.

Disclaimer: the fireworks data may be incomplete due to the loss of fire report data when the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) database became inactive in early February 2026.

The Maine Forest Service reported eleven fires in 2025 that were caused by fireworks (Appendix C).

RECOMMENDATION

The FMO recommends that the injury report (Appendix A) be mandated for healthcare facilities. This would ensure the Office receives accurate reports of injuries or deaths caused by fireworks. As stated in the previous section, the data collected from the EMS system accounts for only those people transported by an ambulance. There could be more incidents occurring that don't require ambulance transportation, but need to be reported to the FMO in order to accurately report injury statistics.

Appendix A

MAINE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE CONSUMER FIREWORKS INJURY REPORT



The Office of the Fire Marshal would greatly appreciate the assistance of Maine's medical community in tracking consumer fireworks related injuries. The purpose of reporting these injuries is to assist the Fire Marshal in developing any necessary statutory, rule, or policy changes essential to minimizing the frequency of fireworks injuries in Maine. For more information call (207) 629-7212. Thank you.

Demographic Information:

Hospital/Clinic Name: _____

Date of Injury (month/day/year): _____

Municipality in which the injury occurred: _____

Age

0 – 4
 5 – 14
 15 – 20
 21 - 25
 26 – 44
 45 and older

Type of Device:

- Hand-held (sparkler, firecracker, roman candle, smoke bomb, ground spinner)
- Display (stationary mortar, wheel, missile rocket, fountain)
- Other _____

Reason for Injury:

- Bystander (not involved with igniting device)
- User error (mishandled, relit fuse, device not set up correctly, throwing, etc.)
- Device malfunctioned (errant flight pattern, uncontained explosion)
- Other _____

Severity of Injury (circle one only)

1. No injury
2. Minor (1st degree burn, minor cut (no stitches), bruising)
3. Moderate (2nd degree burn, laceration (stitches), broken bone)
4. Significant injury (3rd degree burn, partial or total loss of digit, hearing or sight)
5. Fatality

Body Part Injured (check one):

- Head/face
- Extremity
- Torso

Comments

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Appendix B

Maine EMS data on fireworks injuries for 2025

Incident Month and Year	Gender	Age	Code
Feb-25	Male	24	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Feb-25	Male	35	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Apr-25	Male	38	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Jul-25	Male	51	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Jul-25	Female	50	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Jul-25	Male	34	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Jul-25	Female	53	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Jul-25	Male	48	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Jul-25	Male	41	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Aug-25	Female	25	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Oct-25	Female	32	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Dec-25	Male	78	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)
Dec-25	Male	90	Fire/Explosion - Firework(W39)

Appendix C

Fires and Explosions Caused by Fireworks and Reported to NFIRS

Report Period: From 01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025

Incident Type: Fire Heat Source: Fireworks	2 incidents	\$ 55,550 property loss
		\$ 5,300 contents loss
Incident Type: Fireworks Explosion (no fire)	5 incidents	No data on property loss
		No data on contents loss
	7 total incidents	\$ 60,850 total loss

Maine Forest Service Fireworks Fire Reports for 2025 Where Cause is Fireworks

	Southern Region	Central Region	Northern Region	Statewide
Fires	7	3	1	11
Acres	2.1	0.7	.01	2.9
Cost of Damage to Wildlands		\$1,450.00		
Total Cost of Extinguishing Fires		\$7,325.16		