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Mike Herda's nanny, Else Munter, and his father, Nick, reapply bandages to his burn scars. Over

them, Mike always wears a second layer of bandage, stretching from the waist to his neck.

Boy lives with scars from fireworks blast

□ Area officials and the family of a 7-year-old who was burned warn of the dangers of fireworks.

By Charlotte Huff
Review-Journal

Mike Herda wrinkled his nose, laughing as he catapulted off the diving board, pulling one leg up into a cannonball.

A year ago today, the 7-year-old boy lay in University Medical Center's trauma unit, badly burned by a fireworks explosion.

When Nick Herda first saw his son, the boy was heavily sedated and unresponsive. Only Mike's eyes were visible through the

bandages.

"If there were five kids, I wouldn't have known which one was mine," said Herda, owner of Herda's Discount Appliance Warehouse.

The explosion, ignited in a trailer, landed the tow-headed boy in the hospital for about six weeks, including several in the trauma unit.

Burned so severely in the beginning that he couldn't walk, Mike — or Mikey to his friends — has now returned to bicycle racing, basketball, swimming and his numerous other athletic pursuits. He continues to wear a thin bandage stretching from his waist to the

Please see FIREWORKS/2A



Mike Herda, 7, still has severe scars on his left shoulder and back from a fireworks explosion a year ago. Burns on his face and lower arms are no longer visible.

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SEARCH

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Research and Reports/ State Fireworks Regulation

Back...

- Fireworks Are Too Risky
- State Fireworks Regulations
- Safety First in Boston

RESOURCES

- [NFPA Periodicals](#)

State Fireworks Regulations (as of May 1, 1999)

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia allow some or all types of consumer fireworks (formerly known as Class C Fireworks) approved by enforcing authority or as specified in law. Note: These states enforce the federal regulations and applicable state restrictions.

Alabama	Nebraska
Alaska	New Hampshire
Arkansas	New Mexico
California	North Carolina
Colorado	North Dakota
District of Columbia	Oklahoma
Florida	Oregon
Hawaii	South Carolina
Idaho	South Dakota
Indiana	Tennessee
Kansas	Texas
Kentucky	Utah
Louisiana	Virginia
Michigan	Washington
Mississippi	West Virginia
Missouri	Wisconsin
Montana	Wyoming

There is one state that has no fireworks laws, except at the county level:

Nevada

There are six states that allow only sparklers and/or other novelties:

Illinois	Maryland
Iowa	Ohio
Maine	Pennsylvania

There are ten states that ban all consumer fireworks:

Arizona	Minnesota
Connecticut	New Jersey
Delaware	New York
Georgia	Rhode Island
Massachusetts	Vermont

1997

House fire on Alfred Drive - \$1000 (bottle rockets on roof)

1998

541 Emergency Responses during 4th July (includes NLV & CC)

2 serious bldg fires related to fireworks - \$50,000

House fire on Lilac Breeze Court fireworks - \$30,000

Chapman Drive house fire fireworks - \$20,000

Had several arson fires attributed to fireworks, including several autos.

1999

615 Emergency Responses during 4th July

7 serious bldg fires related to fireworks - \$212,500

1 house destroyed - 2 heavily damaged in 3-alarm fire on Evergreen started by fireworks - \$95,000

House fire on Evertt St fireworks - \$40,000 (kids playing with fireworks while parents at work)

Two duplexes damaged by fireworks on Bingham Ave because of fireworks - \$75,000

House damaged on Pecos because of fireworks - \$2,500

1 eight year old boy burned by fireworks.

2000

12 year old boy burned playing with safe-n-sane fireworks

House completely destroyed in 2-alarm fire on Jory Trail - \$225,000

2-alarm business fire started by fireworks on W. Utah St - \$250,000

2001

Ambulance and car collide with trailer full of safe-n-sane fireworks at US95/I-15 interchange, large fire, all three vehicles are completely destroyed.

2002

Fireworks cause 2-alarm fire at Oasis Springs Apts on N. Nellis. Damage is estimated at \$35,000. Children seen throwing fireworks onto second story decks of apts.

MAR 21 2003



Your Community of Choice

**Submittal of Information Requested by Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning
March 21, 2003**

**From Kimberly McDonald - Lead Lobbyist
City of North Las Vegas (cell 702-682-1012)**

As requested, the following information was provided by the North Las Vegas Fire Department. Below is information obtained regarding fires started or attempts to start fires with fireworks over the past five years (1998 to 2003) in the City of North Las Vegas. The time frame assessed was the last week of June when fireworks are available for sale as well as the week of the Fourth of July.

NUMBER OF INCIDENCES (FIRES) 1998 to 2003: 4

DATES/ TYPES/ DAMAGES, AND INJURIES OF INCIDENCES:

July 7, 1998: Brush fire, bushes and dead grass. Reporting individual stated four juveniles found fireworks in the street and went to the desert to light them. The wind blew the ignited fireworks into some brush and ignited the brush. A fire crew responded and extinguished it. The fire was limited to the dead vegetation. No property damage occurred. No injuries.

July 2, 1999: Vehicle fire. Bystander reported two juvenile males were playing with fireworks in the truck prior to the start of the fire. The fire damage was confined to the cab area of the truck; no other areas of the vehicle were damaged. Estimated damage \$500.00. No injuries.

June 29, 2002: Fireworks were taped to a bottle and throw into a vehicle. The fireworks self-extinguished before any property damage occurred. No injuries.

July 04, 2002: Palm tree branches were ignited by fireworks. No property damage. Damage was limited to palm tree branches. No injuries.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING ILLEGAL FIREWORKS:

June 2001: Confiscated and destroyed over 250 pounds of illegal fireworks and notified Las Vegas Fire Department of another 200 pounds of illegal fireworks being transferred into their jurisdiction. They were confiscated and destroyed by their department.

June 2002: notified by a local trucking company that they had received approximately 3700 pounds of fireworks that were to be delivered in the Las Vegas Valley. The shipment was returned back to the original shipper in California where authorities were notified of the illegal shipment of fireworks.

5/20/03

ASSEMBLY BILL 328**Clark County Statistics related to Fireworks Fires as of August 9, 2002****Historical Overview:**

In 2000, the number of fireworks related fires were tracked using the following three designations: Situation: 142 - Brush, or Brush & Grass mixture fires, Situation: 143 - Grass Fires, and Situation: 243 - Fireworks Explosions that involve fireworks as the ignition source.

For Instance, in 2000 a total of 46 Situations were recorded during the July 1st to July 5th period of time. During a normal week an average of 6 Situations is expected.

WEEK (4 Day Period)	Situation 142	Situation 143	Situation 243
May 27 to May 31, 2000	4	2	0
June 3 to June 7, 2000	5	3	0
July 1 to July 5, 2000	31	13	2
Aug 5 to Aug 9, 2000	2	1	0

When the Situations in 2000 are analyzed for cause, the increased number for the July 1 to July 7, 2000 period of time are directly related to fireworks 37 Percent of the time. The cause of the fire was Undetermined 43 Percent of the time. Open fires account for the balance of 20 Percent.

In 2001 and 2002 the Clark County Fire Department started to use an improved method of tracking fireworks related incidents.

WEEK (4 Day Period)	Fireworks Related Incidents:
May 27 th to May 31, 2001	0
June 3 rd to June 7 th , 2001	0
July 1 st to July 5 th , 2001	10
August 5 th to August 9 th , 2001	0
May 27 th to May 31, 2002	0
June 3 rd to June 7 th , 2002	0
July 1 st to July 5 th , 2002	21
August 5 th to August 9 th , 2002	0

The historical data shows that during the last three years, the Fire Department responded to a significantly higher number of fireworks related fires during the July 4th week when compared to similar periods of time during the months of May, June, or August.

3/18/03

ASSEMBLY BILL 328

**City of Henderson
Firework Related Damage and Injuries**

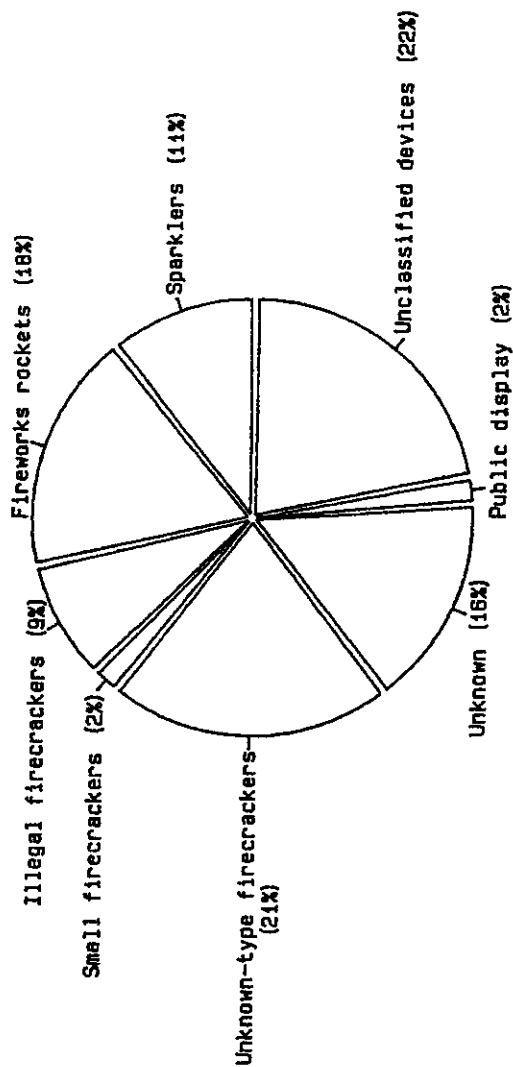
Over the last three years, fireworks have caused three structure fires that have caused approximately \$7,600 worth of damage. The following is a break down by year, number of fireworks related fires, and damage caused by fireworks.

<u>Year</u>	<u># of fires</u>	<u>Estimated Damage</u>
2000	1 structure fire	\$5000.00
2001	1 structure fire	\$100.00
2002	1 structure fire	\$2500.00

The City has not had a large 4th of July fire for many, many years.

As for firework related injuries, we currently do not have the ability to differentiate firework related injuries, which are classified as burns, from other similar injuries that are unrelated to fireworks.

Figure 4
1999 Fireworks Injuries*
by Type of Fireworks

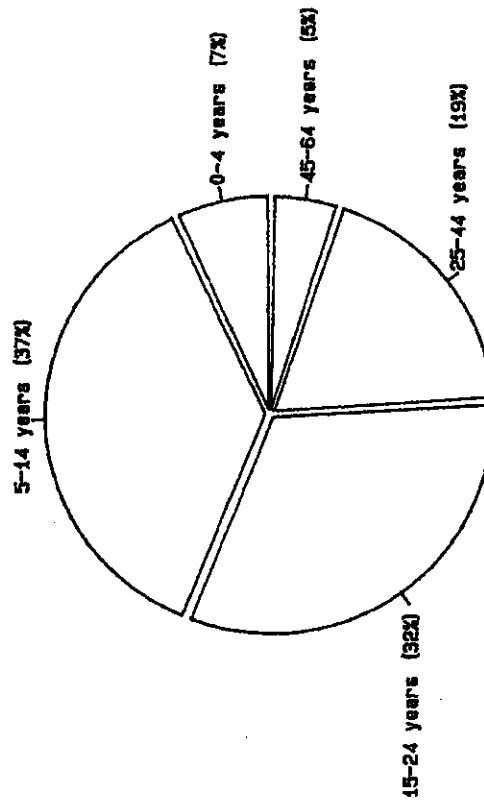


*June 23 to July 23 only

Fireworks-Related Injuries, Deaths
and Fires in the U.S.

Source: CPSC National Electronic
Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) MA
12 NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA

Figure 2
1999 Fireworks Injuries*
by Age of Victim

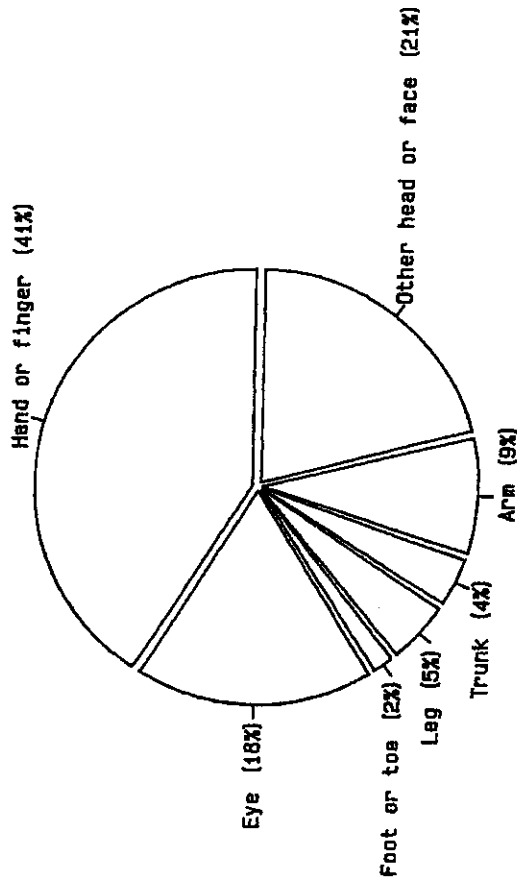


*June 23 to July 23 only

Fireworks-Related Injuries, Deaths
and Fires in the U.S.

Source: CPSC National Electronic
Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)
NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA

Figure 5
1999 Fireworks Injuries*
by Part of Body Injured



*June 23 to July 23 only

Source: CPSC National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)
14 NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA
Fireworks-Related Injuries, Deaths and Fires in the U.S.