

Fireworks Enforcement After Action Review

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

Presented By:



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Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District



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



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

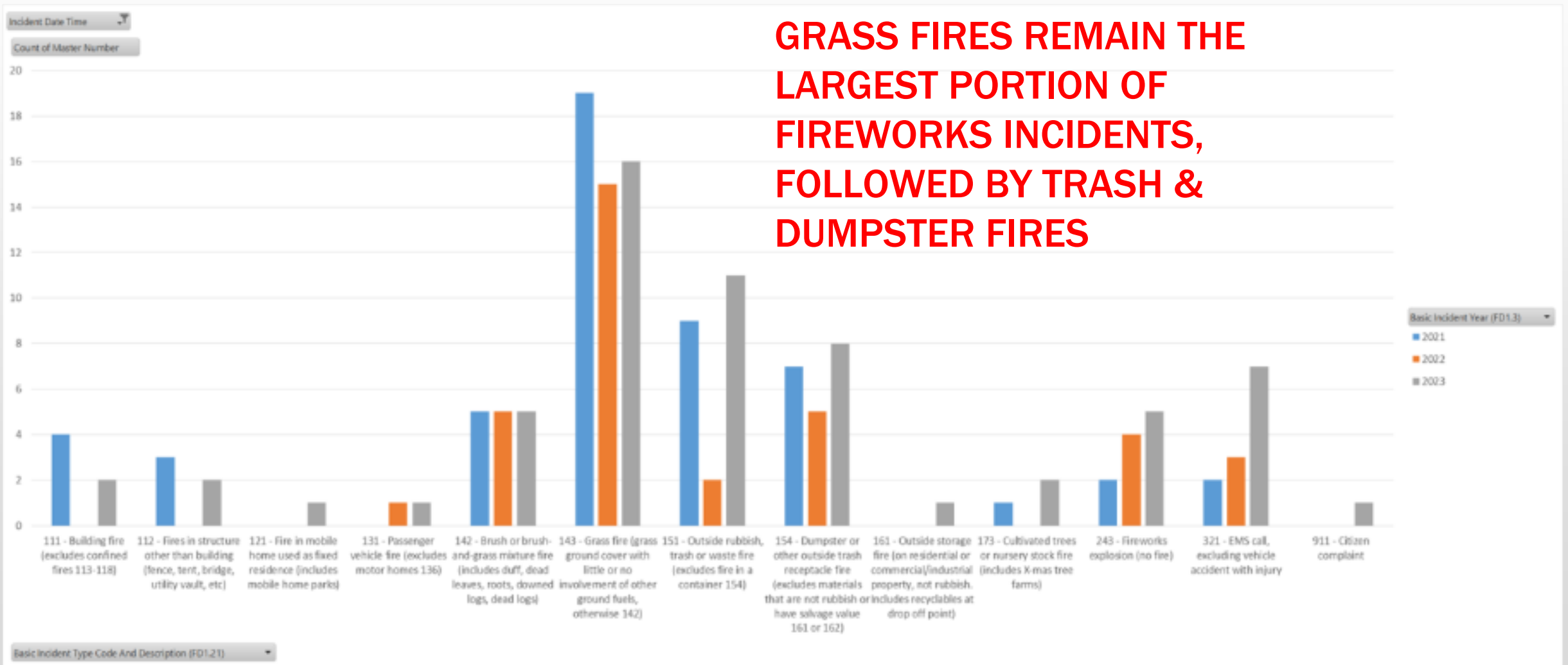
Fires in Metro Fire's Jurisdiction

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

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

Metro Fire Fireworks Incident Types July 01-05

GRASS FIRES REMAIN THE LARGEST PORTION OF FIREWORKS INCIDENTS, FOLLOWED BY TRASH & DUMPSTER FIRES



Metro Fire Fireworks Related Fires July 01-05

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



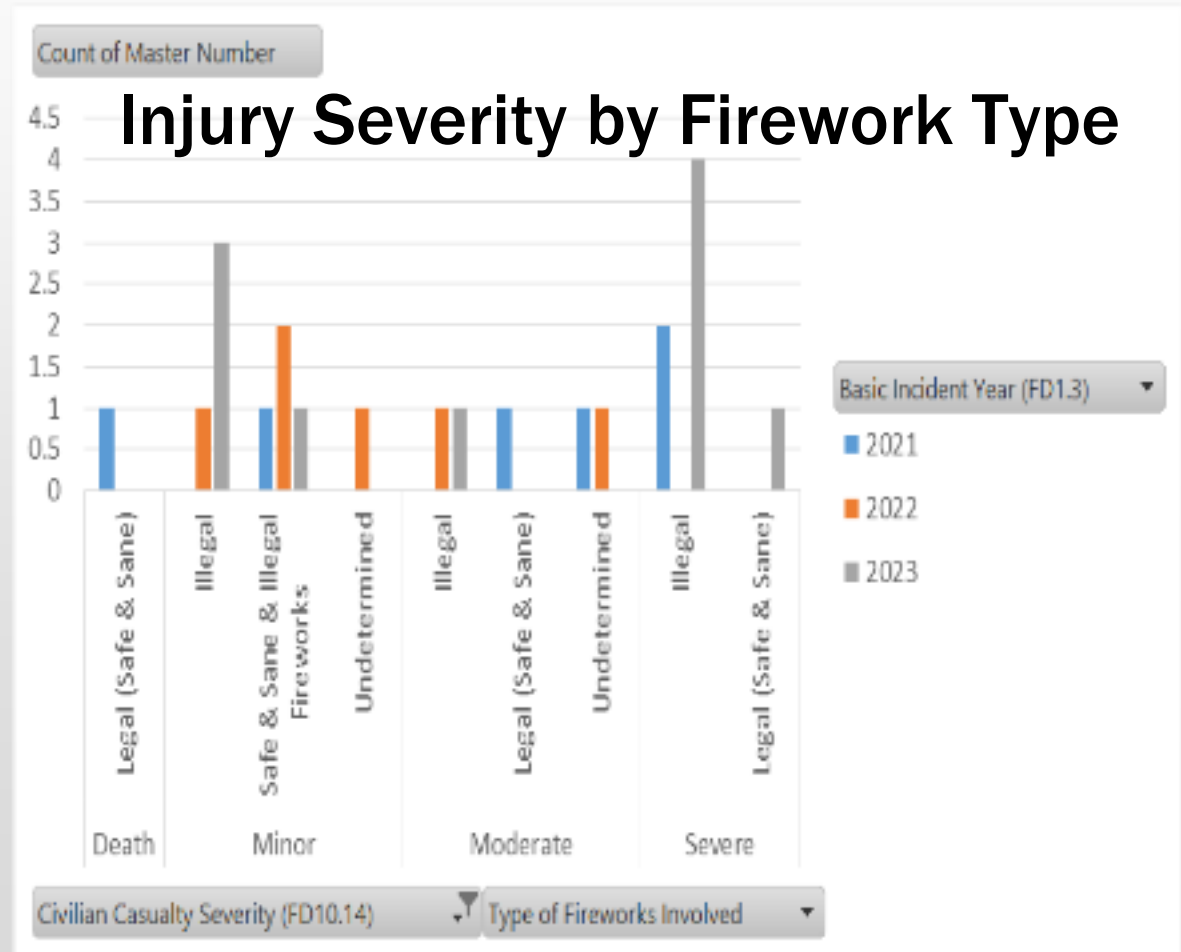
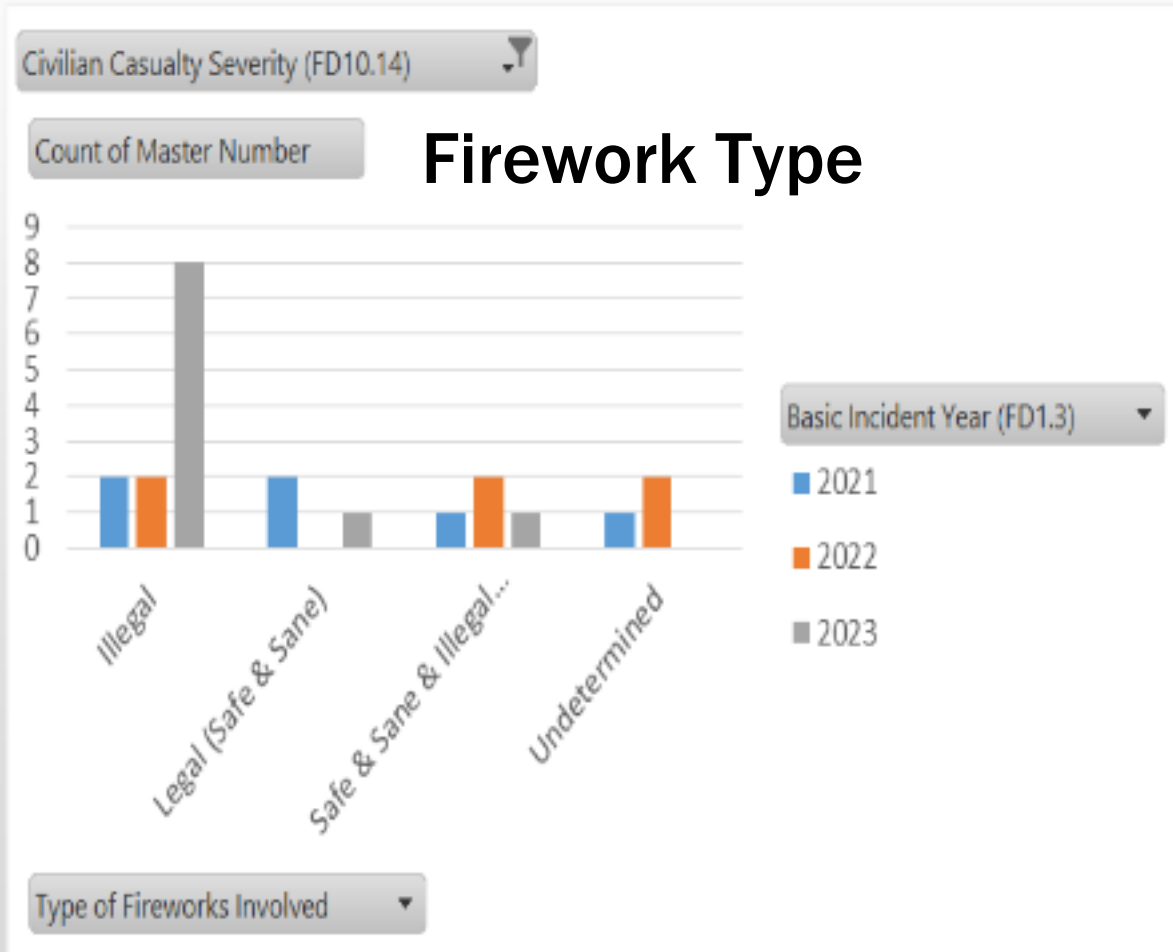
Type of Firework Involved in Fire Incident

	Legal	Illegal	Undetermined*	Total	% of Fires	% of 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%

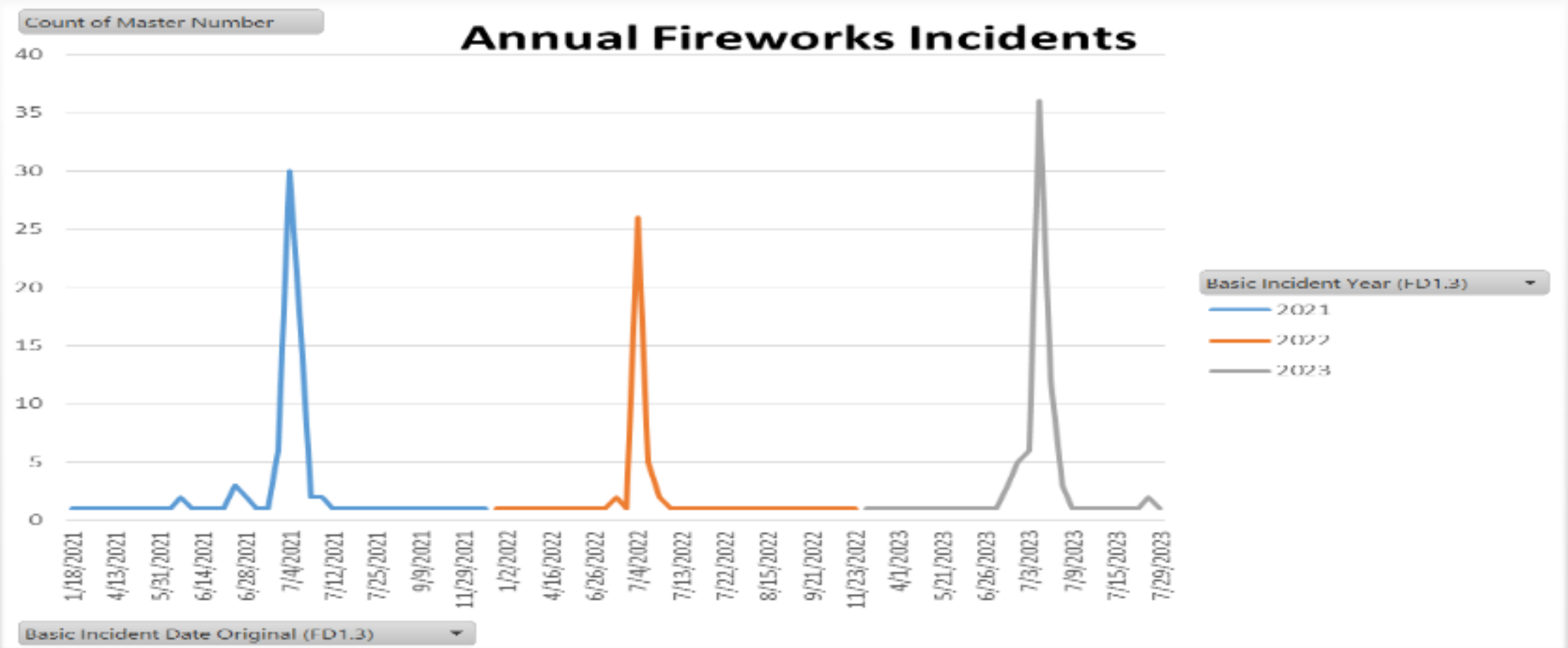
* Undetermined means evidence of fireworks located in area of origin, but there was too much damage to determine if the firework was legal or illegal.

Metro Fire Fireworks Injuries YTD

FIREWORKS INJURIES INCREASED 66% Over 2021 & 2022



Metro Fire Fireworks Incident Date Trends



Metro Fire Inspector & Investigator Staffing

- Up-staffed Community Risk Reduction Division 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 Inspector/Investigator Mission July 01-05

Primary Objectives

- Emergency response
 - Support fire origin & cause determination investigations
- Code enforcement
 - Public fireworks displays
 - After the fire follow up
- Assist law enforcement
- Identify hotspots with real time complaint monitoring
- Community Outreach

Outcomes

- 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**

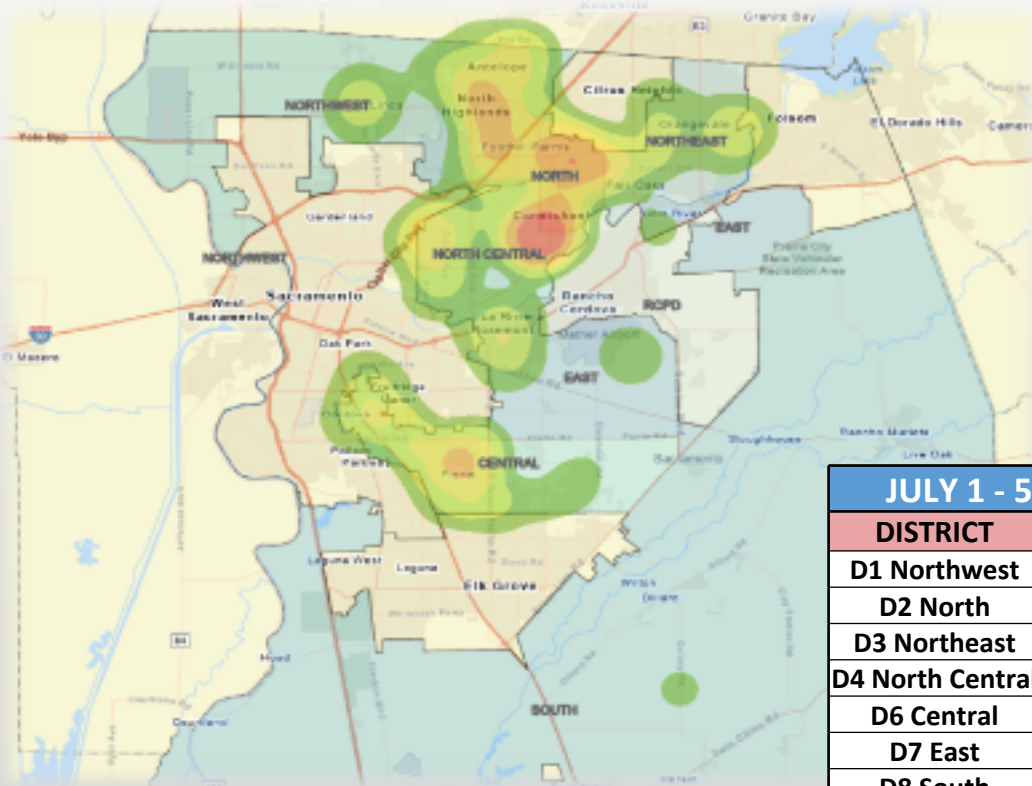




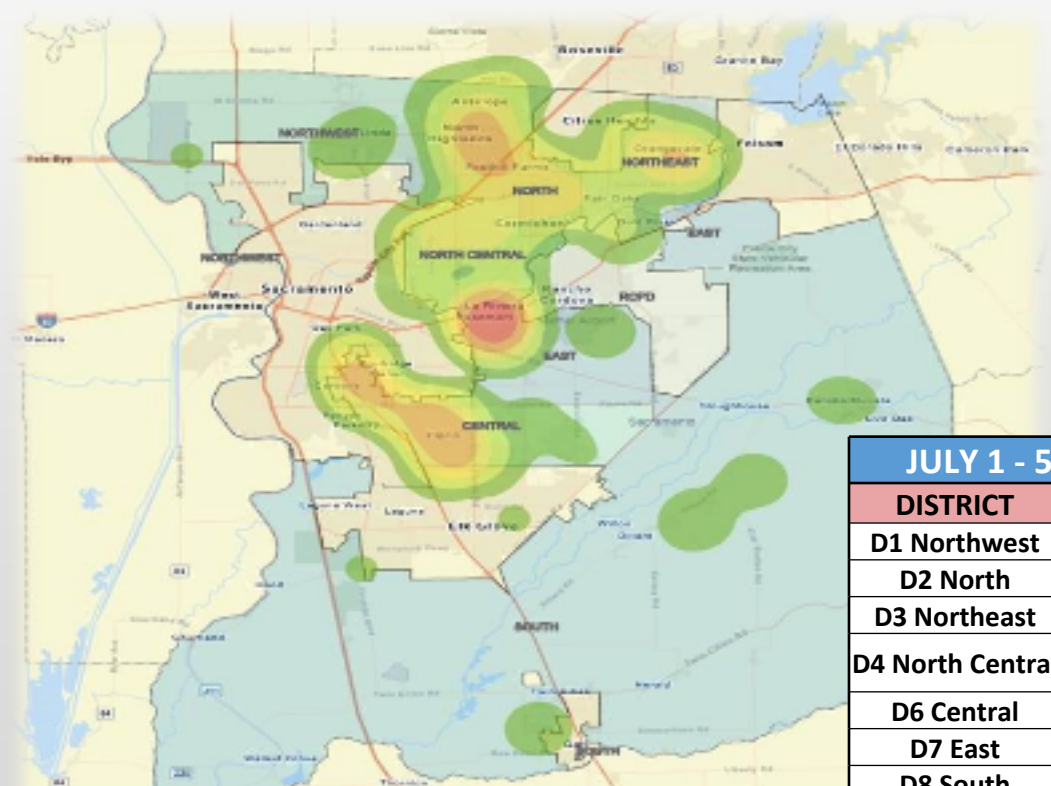
SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

415FC Calls for Service | Excluding Rancho Cordova

- From July 1 – 5, 2023, there were a total of **161** disturbance firecrackers calls for service within the jurisdiction of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, excluding Rancho Cordova. Of those, **41%** (66) occurred on July 4th.
- Below is a hotspot map that shows the areas with the most concentrated numbers of calls. Areas of concentration include:
 - Residential neighborhoods surrounding Cardinal Oaks Park (D2/D4)
 - Residential neighborhoods in the area of Madison Ave and Dewey Dr (D2)



JULY 1 - 5, 2023	
DISTRICT	TOTAL
D1 Northwest	36
D2 North	29
D3 Northeast	15
D4 North Central	33
D6 Central	31
D7 East	11
D8 South	1
Outside Agency	1
TOTAL	161



JULY 1 - 5, 2022	
DISTRICT	TOTAL
D1 Northwest	47
D2 North	29
D3 Northeast	32
D4 North Central	35
D6 Central	66
D7 East	50
D8 South	11
Outside Agency	2
TOTAL	272



Sacramento County Code Enforcement

- Issued **11** Host Liability citations, and **8** were confirmed
- **636** Advisory letters sent prior to **06/30/2023** at **3:00 p.m.**
 - Included viable complaints since New Year's 2023
- **754** complaints received from **06/30/2023 – 07/04/2023**
- **65** complaints received **07/05/2023**
- **54** complaints from **07/06/2023 – 07/09/2023**
- **34** complaints from **07/10/2023-07/31/2023**
- **3** complaints in August
- Between **06/27/2023 – 08/29/2023** **778** complaints submitted to Fireworks@sacsheriff.com
 - No viable information received, and Sheriff's Office will be removing email
- Total of **1540** complaints received, not including those sent to Sheriff's email



Sacramento County Regional Parks (SCRCP)

- Prominent display of new signage throughout SCRCP system listing:
 - County Ordinances related to fireworks in Parks
 - Fine associated for Host Liability violations within the American River Parkway
- No fires related to fireworks within SCRCP's system during the 4th of July holiday
- No citations issued for fireworks



Opportunities For 2024

- 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
- Expand 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
- Host Liability - enhanced fines for discharge of fireworks on school and community park property
- Stronger emphasis on appropriate use and disposal of safe and sane fireworks
- Narrow the window for fireworks sales in Sacramento County
 - June 29 – July 04

Questions ???

