

Pease's bouncing back

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The arsonist/robber who struck the Pease's candy store on Laurel last Thursday night didn't hobble the Easter bunny. It will virtually be business as usual starting Thursday, when the company opens a temporary location in the old Black's Hardware building on South MacArthur Boulevard.

Although some Easter candy was consumed by the fire, co-owner **BOB FLESHER** says most holiday supplies were still warehoused at the local factory. So there should be enough to meet demand.

"It's unbelievable the number of sympathetic phone calls we've received since the fire," Flesher said Tuesday. "It was like there was a death in the family. So many people are so concerned."

Pease's also expects to fully supply its two other Springfield stores and all wholesale outlets in central Illinois for Easter, the company's second-heaviest sales period of the year (Christmas is bigger). Flesher says the Laurel Street store will reopen sometime after Easter.