

FLORIDA FIRES

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CFO and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis	02
State Fire Marshal Division Director Julius Halas	04
Division of Investigative and Forensic Services Director Simon Blank	05
Office of the Director	06
Bureau of Fire Standards and Training	09
Bureau of Fire Prevention	21
Bureau of Forensic Services	30
Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations	36

2020 FLORIDA FIRES APPENDIX

Civilian Deaths from Fires/Civilian Deaths from Fires by Property Use	67
Civilian Deaths by County	68
Civilian Fire Deaths by Age & Gender/Civilian Injuries from Fires by Property Use	69
Florida Counties Fire & Non-Fire Totals	70
Florida Wildfires by County & Acres Burned	74
2020 Summary Statistics	78
Total Breakdown of Fires by Property Use/Total State Dollar Loss	79
Percentage of Fires & Dollar Loss Compared to Five Year Average by Property Use	80
2020 Heat Source & Cause of Ignition Percentages	82
Total Dollar Loss, Area of Origin & Fire Cause Percentages for Residential Structures	84
Smoke Alarm Use Data	85
Fire Sprinkler Use Data	86
Average Response Frequencies	87
Frequency & Number of Civilian & Fire Service Injuries in High Rise Structure Fires	90
2020 Fallen Firefighters	92
Firefighter Injuries vs. Number of Fire Incidents	94
Fire Incidents & Fire Related Injuries by Peak Hour & Day of the Week	96
Fire Incidents & Injuries by Month & Quarter of the Year	98
2020 Assistance to Firefighters' Grant Awards	100
2020 FFIRS Reporting Fire Departments	102
2020 Fire Service Awards Reception	106
Fire Incident Reporting System	108
Florida Fire Incident Reporting System Survey	109



FLORIDA FIRES | 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES



WWW.MYFLORIDACFO.COM/SFM



JIMMY PATRONIS

**State Fire Marshal,
Chief Financial Officer**

Dear Fellow Floridians:

The men and women of Florida's fire service comprise one of our state's most vital, selfless, and heroic communities, and it is a tremendous honor to serve as Florida's State Fire Marshal and Chief Financial Officer. Every day, fire service personnel must face unpredictable and dangerous situations head-on to protect their neighbors, businesses, and communities. I believe the best fire service community in our country serves right here in Florida, and we all owe these heroes a debt of gratitude for their hard work and many sacrifices.

LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

During 2020, Florida experienced a decrease in fire-related injuries, while there was an increase in deaths and property losses when compared to 2019. In total, there were **57,481** fires, **2,011,067** emergency medical and rescue incidents, **577,581** other incidents, **172,419** false alarms, totaling **2,818,548** incidents reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System, totaling more than **\$586,139,725** in property losses. Of those fires, **53,693** were accidental and **3,788** were intentional. Unfortunately, there were **171** civilian fatalities and **479** injuries throughout the year.

Tragically, Florida lost four firefighters in the line of duty in 2020, **Anthony C. “Tony” Christensen**, a firefighter with City of Naples Fire Rescue; **Donald DiPetrillo**, Fire Chief with the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue; **James Gunter**, Driver Engineer at Cape Coral Fire Department; and **Brian S. Smith**, a firefighter with St. George Island Fire Department.

An additional **5,280** firefighters were injured on duty. We continue to offer unfaltering support to these heroes by increasing training, adding resources, and raising awareness on the importance of fire safety to ensure these numbers continue to decline.

Members of our fire service community are ready to act at a moment’s notice in preparation for a potentially catastrophic storm, both locally and across the state. Events in 2020 created a new precedent for our fire and emergency services community as the entire state was threatened with the COVID-19 pandemic. Members were called upon to respond to an astounding number of citizens requiring assistance and transport to already strained hospitals and emergency rooms. Our fire and emergency service personnel rose to these challenges by providing emergency medical care and transport to a record number of citizens, serving in the State Emergency Operations Center, and assisting with testing and vaccination sites, all while still responding to the annual hurricane and wildfire seasons. I am grateful for the dedication of our firefighters who use their skill, training, and expertise to assist the citizens of Florida during these unique situations.

One of my most treasured experiences serving as State Fire Marshal is the opportunity I have had to visit firehouses across Florida, spending time with these heroes. During these visits, I have learned directly from our firefighters and their families about the successes and personal challenges of the fire service personnel and how I can better meet their needs. It is important that fire service professionals have the proper resources, environment, and support to enable these brave men and women who serve our communities.

Throughout the state, fire service personnel continue to serve all Floridians without regard for personal risk. From providing lifesaving service during a fire to expertly investigating the cause of said fires, these brave men and women offer their expertise and skill each day. We recognize their outstanding efforts and thank them for continuing to serve their communities.

Sincerely,



State Fire Marshal
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida





STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION DIRECTOR



JULIUS HALAS
Division Director
State Fire Marshal

While the 2020 hurricane season was less demanding than previous years, the Division of State Fire Marshal remained busy as we were called upon to assist the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) with response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This placed a heavy burden on fire-based emergency medical services just as it did to hospitals throughout the state. As always, Florida's fire service was up to the task and many local personnel were used statewide to manage these tremendous challenges.

In 2020, fire service leadership continued to inform and update the Legislature on the effectiveness of the funding they appropriated to support Florida's first responders. The grants and other support given by the Legislature are an impactful contribution to the recipients, many of whom are in great need of these funds as they are still dealing with the impacts of hurricanes and flooding.

The Florida State Fire College hosted the fourth Florida Fire Services Mental Health Symposium along with the fifth annual Firefighter Cancer Symposium at our campus in Ocala. The mental and physical health of the men and women of the fire service is a paramount concern for their employers and loved ones. It is our unwavering duty to help increase awareness of the hazards our firefighters face regularly. We maintain our partnership with the University of Miami and several other firefighter health and safety organizations to accomplish these central goals. Our thanks to the 2020 Florida Legislature for their continued commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of the members of the fire service industry who place service above self every day.

The men and women of the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal remain dedicated to providing valuable and essential services to the citizens of Florida, as our primary goal remains serving this great state with integrity and professionalism. It is my honor to work daily with this group of dedicated and talented professionals who comprise the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Under the direction of CFO and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis and his leadership team, we proudly continue our mission of giving the best service possible for Florida's residents, visitors, businesses, and its fire service industry.

Sincerely,

Julius Halas
Division Director
State Fire Marshal



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services (DIFS) continued to thrive in 2020 even in the face of ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19. Keeping true to our vision statement, *"United in a purpose to ensure a safer more prosperous Florida through leadership, accountability, and enforcement."*, members of the Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations, Bureau of Insurance Fraud, Bureau of Workers' Compensation Fraud, Bureau of Forensic Services, and the Office of Fiscal Integrity worked tirelessly to ensure the Division's goals were accomplished and the needs of our customers were met.

Sworn personnel from the Bureau made arrests in 204 investigative cases in 2020, resulting in the arrest of 234 defendants. This information is based on an arrest date occurring in 2020 and often includes ongoing investigations from previous years, not just cases initiated in 2020. Of the 204 cases with arrests, 163 of these investigations were classified as Incendiary fires and resulted in the arrest of 179 defendants. This represents an arrest clearance rate for incendiary fires of 18.3%. Charges against the perpetrator(s) included arson, burning to defraud the insurer, false/fraud insurance claim, murder/arson, grand theft, criminal mischief, and possession/placement/discharge of a destructive device, along with other related crimes.

During that same time period, BFAEI conducted numerous investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of approximately \$215 million, with \$15 million attributed to the crime of arson.

Our Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) maintains dual accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) against the newest international standard for laboratory accreditation, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and the individual accreditation body's supplemental requirements.

Our BFS Lab processed almost 9,000 Service requests with the majority being for Fire Debris Analysis and its required quality assurance test (over 5,500 analyses) with an average turnaround time of 6.9 days. Comparatively, we are surpassing the national median by 33.1 days or 82.75%. The success of our lab is attributed to the hard work and dedication of our staff that includes three certified American Board of Criminalistics Fire Debris Analysis Analysts. Our BFS was able to add two new gas chromatographs with mass spectral detectors to continue supporting the ever growing need to process debris for fire investigations.

DIFS has continued to collaborate and support the mission and goals of the CFO and State Fire Marshal, including the management and coordination of Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 4&9 and the support and assistance of ESF 16 at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The activation of the State EOC in 2020 for COVID-19 and the "usual" hurricane and disaster response required many DIFS members to assist at the EOC and areas throughout Florida providing law enforcement protection services, search and rescue, and special operations group missions.

On behalf of our members, thank you for your continued support and assistance in our efforts to protect all Floridians against acts of arson, fraud and abuse of state funds.

Sincerely,

Simon Blank
Division Director
Investigative and Forensic Services



SIMON BLANK
DIFS Division Director



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



MELVIN STONE
Assistant Director
State Fire Marshal

The Division of State Fire Marshal (DSFM) works diligently to maintain professional relationships with fire service, law enforcement, and related professional associations. Additionally, the DSFM has proudly preserved accreditation status for each of its bureaus, thus assuring nationally recognized quality controls as standards of excellence throughout the industry. This is accomplished through the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Division Office, the Bureau of Fire Prevention, and the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. They unceasingly endeavor to maintain these professional goals, and each person is to be commended for continuing to meet and exceed these professional standards of quality. As Assistant Director for the Division of State Fire Marshal, I have been proud to work alongside these dedicated state employees whose extensive knowledge and professionalism guarantees our mission continues to be successful.

The division's long-established relationships with the fire service, law enforcement and related professional associations are paramount to keeping open lines of communication and reaching our shared goals. This has been especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, as our firefighters worked with various agencies to assist with vaccinations and testing throughout the state.

During times of natural disasters, the missions of local, state, and federal agencies often overlap in scope, making information sharing a critical aspect of successful outcomes. Serving on state and national technical advisory committees enables Florida to remain at the forefront of improvement and innovation in the fire service industry. Maintaining the relationship between the DSFM and the Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association (FFMIA), Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (FFCA) and the Florida Professional Firefighters (FPF) continues as the catalyst for many ground-breaking ideas to better serve the diverse needs of Florida's fire and emergency services.

The level of dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment from each member of the division's team of employees who come to work each day and strive for excellence in serving the fire service and citizens of Florida is unparalleled. As you read the 2020 Annual Report, please take a moment to learn about each bureau and its mission of service. We are very proud of their work and the accomplishments they have achieved. Also, note the detail and analysis of the statistical data provided by our local partners through the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS). This information provides highly useful educational and important decision-making data to our fire and emergency services and the citizens of Florida.

Sincerely,

Melvin M. Stone
Assistant Director
State Fire Marshal

DOMESTIC SECURITY

The Domestic Security Coordinator routinely works in concert with:

- Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 - Firefighting and ESF 9 - Search and Rescue serving as one of the Emergency Coordinating Officers (ECO)
- Florida State Fire College
- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Florida Forest Service
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Department of Health
- Florida Fire Chiefs' Regional Coordinators
- Florida Fire Chiefs' Association's subcommittees of Domestic Security Resource and Emergency Response
- Florida Association of Search & Rescue
- Florida Hazardous Materials Response
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The coordinator serves as an appointed member of the State Emergency Response Commission on Hazardous Materials (SERC). The program works to ensure integration of the various committees, commissions, funding sources, and response agencies that support the statewide capabilities of ESF 4&9 in response to major emergencies and disasters.

The Domestic Security Coordinator works in conjunction with many federal, state, and local agencies and constituent groups, to support and enhance the state's fire-based specialized teams providing Urban Search and Rescue (US&R), Advanced Hazardous Materials Response (AHME), and mobile Mutual Aid Radio Cache (MARC) communications responses across the state. The State Fire Marshal's office partners with local departments through the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association State

Emergency Response Plan (SERP) to provide these capabilities. The coordination team supports local specialized response teams through developing grant funded projects, response planning, exercises, deployment during activations, reimbursement claims eligibility, documentation, and submittal for reimbursement. Over the past 16 years the Domestic Security Program helped secure and oversee the fire rescue allocations of the Federal Homeland Security Grant Funds to eight Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) teams; 29 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) capable Hazardous Materials teams (18 SHS grant funded); eight Mutual Aid Radio Cache (MARC) units; and local Light Technical Rescue Teams (LTRT).

ESF 4&9

2020 was a challenging year. Beginning with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which had an unprecedented impact on the fire service, let alone the entire world, with challenges never seen in modern history. The initial shortfall of common personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, gowns and gloves sent the response community into an unprecedented response model. The state took the lead role in acquiring necessary PPE for everyday medical care, the lack of readily available commodities often resulted shortages, and unconventional means of acquisition. Public safety entities quickly became aware that response to major emergencies and disasters would have the added challenge of how to respond during a pandemic. Social distancing, COVID-19 testing, PPE shortfalls, masking, frequent hand washing, and other factors that had never been a major consideration now were at the forefront of all response considerations. An entire strike team or task force could no longer sleep 20 personnel in a single large tent. Teams learned how to respond without being too close to each other, how to properly respond and care for disaster victims in close contact, and additional decontamination steps.

The planning for COVID-19 during (other) responses became reality with the onset of three major wildfire outbreaks in Walton,



JOHN P. KOHNKE
Domestic Security
Grant Programs & State
Emergency Response
Team ESF 4&9

Santa Rosa and Collier counties in May. From May 6 through May 19, a total of 94 local, regional and out-of-region fire departments responded with the Florida Department of Forestry over the 14-day period. The three fires combined destroyed 59 homes and 10,843 acres of land.

2020 was a record year for tropical weather activity with a total of 30 named storms. Thirteen became hurricanes and six were major storms. During the hurricane season, ESF 4&9 activated for four hurricanes. At the end of July into early August, Hurricane Isaias skirted up the entire east coast of Florida, remaining just offshore. On August 27, Hurricane Laura made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 5 hurricane with 150 mph winds. Florida was called upon for US&R assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). On August 25, Florida Task Force 4, Central Florida with 40 members, a State Fire Marshal (SFM) liaison, and logistical support element deployed. The team spent six days searching the Lake Charles coastal

communities of Cameron and Creole where the storm made landfall. On September 16, Hurricane Sally made landfall on the Florida/Alabama state line as a category 2 hurricane with 110 mph winds. The Pensacola area received moderate damage from winds and heavy rain knocking out communications and damaging numerous homes. The Florida SERT leadership called up three US&R teams from Florida and one from Tennessee through EMAC that were pre-staged in Louisiana before the storm turned north-east. On November 9, Hurricane Eta made landfall in the Florida Keys as a minimal Category 1, then moved into the Gulf of Mexico and made a sharp right turn for a second landfall at Cedar Key as a tropical storm. Damages were minimal in both landfalls. While we always hope for the best, it is a well-known and accepted imperative for ESF 4&9 that we must utilize the SERP system to not only respond to disasters but to train and prepare for the worst case scenario in every situation anticipated by past experience as we prepare for the future.





BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING

"By knowing their needs and exceeding their expectations, we enable the success of Florida's Fire and Emergency Services Community!"

As with all organizational mission statements, this should be the unifying focus of how an organization does business. As the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) and the Florida State Fire College (FSFC), we continue to stay focused on our ability to enable your successes. This team continues to be committed to supporting and delivering programs that allow you as an individual and the organizations you serve to succeed.

2020 certainly challenged us as a team to ensure you and your organizations were able to continue to accomplish your personal and organizational goals. In a short period of time, we found ourselves catapulted more than 10 years into the future as we began to field an extraordinary number of requests to deliver previously scheduled in-person courses in an online environment. These requests included working with the 44 state-approved training centers (aka, academies) to understand the possibility of delivering Firefighter II classes due to the pandemic driven social distancing requirements. Many of these classes were nearing completion, and there was a high degree of uncertainty on the part of all parties regarding finalizing these classes. Additional concerns of the academies included allowable methods and techniques to deliver classes to

upcoming Firefighter I/II classes. Early on, many fire service employers indicated their need to keep the stream of newly certified individuals informed to support the pandemic response and the unknown cascading effects. Kudos should be given to each of the academies as they worked diligently to ensure students could continue to receive their necessary training for certifications, and that fire service providers could meet their needs to hire new employees.

In support of the needs of Florida's firefighters and fire service providers, BFST was required to temporarily change the process for individuals desiring to take a certification examination. For many years, the certification process for all of Florida's fire service certification have been given through the Pearson VUE company. Due to pandemic concerns, these testing locations were closed and the ability of individuals to take required certifications exams became non-existent. To meet this critical need, BFST staff worked tirelessly to deliver certification examinations to hundreds of individuals using old-school pen and paper testing. As a result, these individuals were able to become certified and do their part in supporting their respective communities during these very trying times.



MICHAEL TUCKER
Bureau Chief



EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SECTION

PATRICK GIACOBBE

Fire Officer III / Fire Officer IV / Fire Code Administrator Curricula

The primary responsibility of the Executive Development Program Section is to design and deliver high quality, professional courses that lead to Fire Officer III, Fire Officer IV, and Fire Code Administrator certifications. This mission is achieved by using part-time and contract instructors in the classroom at the Florida State Fire College and supporting the authorized training providers throughout the state.

Each of the courses within the Executive Development Programs use real and current data from the student's own fire department wherever possible. Consistent with the dynamic needs of the Florida Fire Service, practical applications for these courses include projects, case studies, activities, and experiences including field trips that are appropriate to the given course. All curricula incorporate the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF) 16 Life Safety Initiatives as well as the NFIR's incident reporting program which requires students to integrate data from their respective communities into classroom projects.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Executive Development Program classes at the Florida State Fire College were cancelled from February through the middle of August. Once classes resumed at the end of August, class sizes were limited to assure adherence to social distancing guidelines while facilitating student discussion, presentations and networking.

Evaluating Performance Based Design Course

During 2020, the Evaluating Performance Based Design course was converted to a facilitated distance-learning program. Students were able to attend this synchronous online class via the GoToTraining online platform for four days, each comprised of a 4-hour session. Pre-course reading assignments, daily homework assignments, and a 100-question final exam ensured this course was comparable to the original National Fire Academy's (NFA) Evaluating Performance Based Design Class.

As part of this course roll-out, a pilot class was offered for quality assurance purposes. Of those attendees, eight individuals provided great feedback relative to the delivery of the program. The initial class offering was an overwhelming success and a total of 42 students from throughout the state completed the training.

National Fire Academy State-Sponsored Curricula

The Executive Development Program section functions as the state liaison with the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In this role, the section coordinates the offering of NFA State-sponsored classes in Florida by approving NFA class offerings in FCDICE, qualifying instructors to teach NFA classes, ensuring qualified instructors have the most up-to-date NFA course materials, and assisting training providers with the administrative requirements of offering NFA classes.

The NIMS ICS-300 and ICS-400 classes are requirements for earning the Florida's Fire Officer II and Fire Officer III Certifications respectively.

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT COURSES DELIVERED	FSFC 2020/2019	STATE 2020/2019
Analytical Approaches to Public Fire Protection	9 / 14	158 / 174
Chief Officer	9 / 11	155 / 135
Ethical & Legal Issues in the Fire Service	4 / 15	147 / 173
Community Risk Reduction	0 / 15	49 / 64
Quantitative Analysis	6 / 8	30 / 15
Personnel Management for the Fire Service	5 / 21	27 / 44
Strategic Planning	7 / 15	30 / 60
Fire Prevention Organization & Management	3 / 11	25 / 47
TOTAL	43 / 110	621 / 712

Figure 1: # of Students attended Executive Development Courses at FSFC and at other providers throughout the State

In addition, the Executive Development Program section also coordinates the NFA State Weekend Program (SWP) at the National Fire Academy. The SWP gives students, who are unable to attend a six- or ten-day class in Emmitsburg, the opportunity to visit the National Fire Academy and attend a two-day class. A major draw for the SWP is that Florida partners with the State Training Offices from Indiana and Maine, which additionally provides attendees with an exceptional networking opportunity.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the National Fire Academy had regretfully cancelled the 2020 State Weekend Program.

COURSE	TOTAL
ICS-300	144
ICS-400	55
NFA Classes (Other)	70
TOTAL	269

Figure 2: # of Students attended NFA State-sponsored classes throughout the State

SAFETY SECTION

SUSAN SCHELL

The Safety section works closely with more than 500 fire departments across the state relative to safety and compliance issues. The section is responsible for conducting investigations into line of duty deaths, injuries requiring hospitalization more than 24 hours, and safety related complaints. The section also conducts Safety Compliance Inspections. There are many reasons why departments must have a Safety Compliance Inspection including:

- An investigation into a complaint, injury or line of duty death shows that a safety concern exists;
- A new department must be compliant prior to being issued an FDID number;
- Private departments can be issued an FDID number for employee retention purposes if they are safety compliant;
- The department wants to voluntarily be assessed to assure they are meeting Statute and Administrative Code;
- Governmental bodies that the department answers to want to assure compliance;

- To participate in the Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant departments must be compliant within the last three years;
- Eligibility for Cancer Decontamination Grant funding includes being compliant with safety standards; and
- Federal and military agencies who employ Florida certified firefighters need to be compliant for employees to use that employment for retention of firefighter II certification.

The following figure provides an understanding of the number of fire departments listed within FCDICE and their self-declared status as to organizational typing (Volunteer, Combination, etc.)

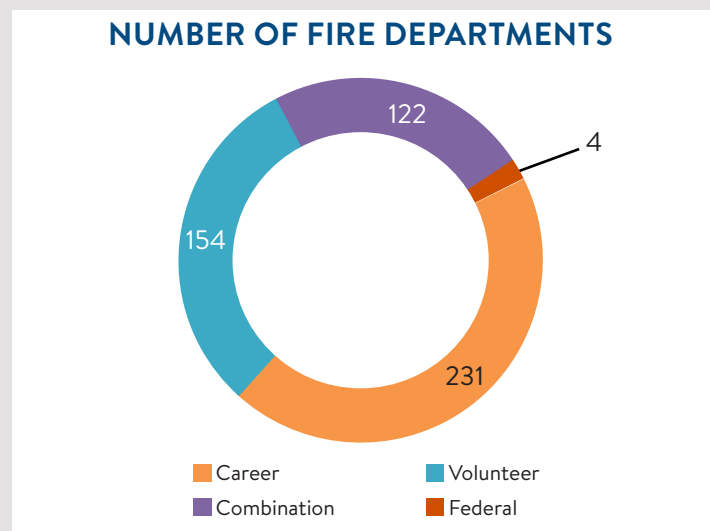


Figure 3: Number of Fire Departments - 2020

In addition to its safety responsibilities, the Safety section is where the BFST team members are tasked with managing fire service provider access to all FCDICE records.

As with other agencies across the state, COVID-19 dramatically impacted the Safety section in 2020. In order to assure social distancing and reduce the spread of the virus, voluntary inspections and other activities were postponed. The section continued to address operations that were required by Statute or Administrative Code (i.e. investigations into line of duty deaths or injuries). Incoming complaints and inquiries were also addressed by Safety section personnel.

The Annual Cancer and Mental Health Seminar was postponed due to the virus, however, the Safety section participated with the FFCA and the Safety and Health Collaborative to deliver the virtual Safety and Health Conference. The Safety section also participated with the Volunteer Firefighter Section at the Northwest Weekend to help volunteers become state certified and in turn, serve their respective communities.

During 2020, the Cancer Decontamination Grant was initially funded, and legislation was drafted to allow fire service providers to obtain equipment such as extractors, second sets of gloves and hoods, and other cancer DECON initiatives. In December, a listening session was held, and the draft language presented. This resulted in the development of the Administrative Code used in implementation of the grant program.

Throughout the year, the Safety section reinforced the importance of proper documentation of firefighter roster status through FCDICE to assure certification retention. Individuals currently certified as Firefighter I or Firefighter II must appear on the FCDICE roster of a fire service provider to avoid the expiration of certification. The Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant also requires volunteer and combination departments applying for PPE funding to have current rosters to be eligible for funding. This grant is intended to assist with enhancing firefighter safety through training, SCBAs, and personal protective equipment. Safety section personnel worked with department heads in obtaining Safety Compliance. Through this process, it was discovered that several fire departments no longer existed or had merged with other entities. This effort has resulted in many fire service providers updating their respective rosters which had a correlating impact on the number of individuals being certified. The following charts provide an understanding of the changes from 2019 to 2020.

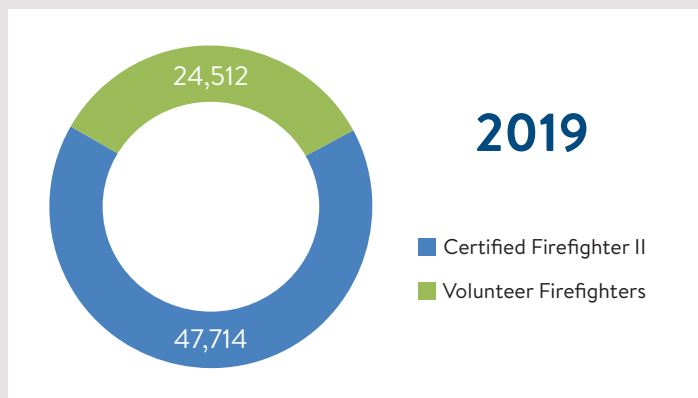


Figure 4: Firefighting Force 2019

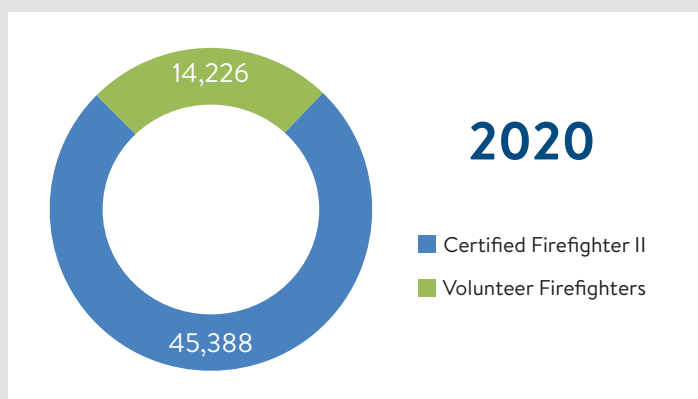


Figure 5: Firefighting Force 2020

The number of certified firefighters dropped from 2019 to 2020. The above charts identify the reduction in certifications for 2020. Many factors affected this number including the retirement of firefighters, cancellation or postponement of training classes due to COVID-19, and the inability to provide training while adjusting to social distancing and screening procedures.

During the year, there were investigations involving injuries from falling down an elevator shaft, a line of duty death drowning, and live fire training incidents. In relation to live fire training investigations, Safety section worked closely with the Training section to begin the process of updating Administrative Code 69A and Florida Statute 633. Regretfully, Florida lost three firefighters to COVID-19 in 2020.

Finally, Safety section's personnel answered many questions daily on topics such as medical exams, OSHA oversight, adopted NFPA standards, and guidance on safety issues in training and operations.

Phone calls have resulted in investigations, simple inquiries, and inspections. Some of the topics of the phone conversations have included:

- Firefighter I's or volunteer firefighters employed as firefighters;
- smoke inhalation injuries;
- struck by objects on fire scenes;
- mild electrical shock after stepping on wire hidden by weeds;
- vehicle accidents;
- firefighters not issued proper PPE and equipment to complete their tasks;
- carbon monoxide injuries;
- burns;
- training incidents;
- shipboard fires;
- tactics on fireground which caused safety concerns of members;
- adopted OSHA standards; and
- fit testing and medical evaluations.

The above is a sampling of the calls received in 2020. Based on the type of concern of if there was a violation of the Safety Administrative Code or Statute, the result was an investigation and completion of a final report. If an investigator finds there is a violation, the department is issued a Notice of Violation which requires the violations be corrected in a timely manner. Some of the phone calls were answered by safety personnel who provided documentation, including sample SOPs.

Even though the Safety section's personnel worked from their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the personnel were available to handle safety concerns of fire departments, firefighters, and the citizens they serve. The below chart represents the section's activity levels for the last five years. The number of formal investigations continues to drop, however, part of the increase in inquiries has to do with the reporting of potentially serious injuries that did not result in hospitalization more than 24 hours. The decrease in inspections has been affected as those applying for grants have had an inspection within the last three years.

Training related issues was the number one reason for investigations in 2020, specifically, training involving live fire. Medical emergencies involved possible stroke or heart attack. Employment issues and use of certified volunteers being employed continues to occur in the state even though Florida Administrative Code clearly identifies that an individual hired to perform firefighter duties must be a

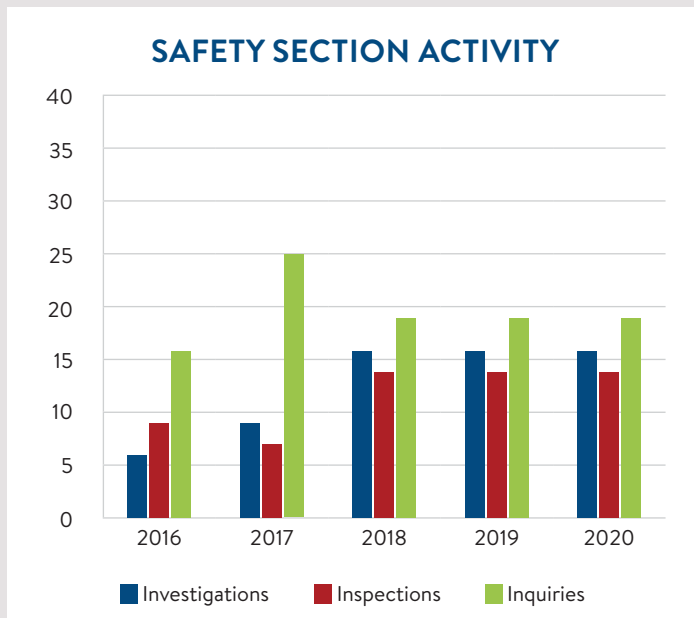


Figure 6: Safety Section Activity - 2020

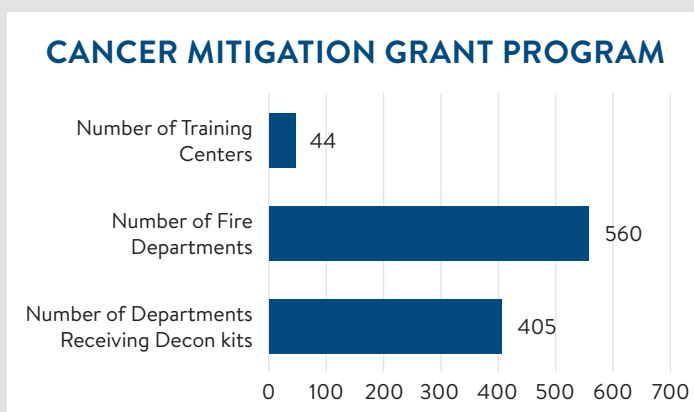


Figure 7: Cancer Mitigation "Green Buckets"

certified Firefighter II. An additional category was added this year which identifies another mandatory reportable injury occurring due to a failure of equipment. A new fire department station overhead door fell striking an employee with only minor injuries occurring. The below chart identifies the last three years trends in formal investigations.

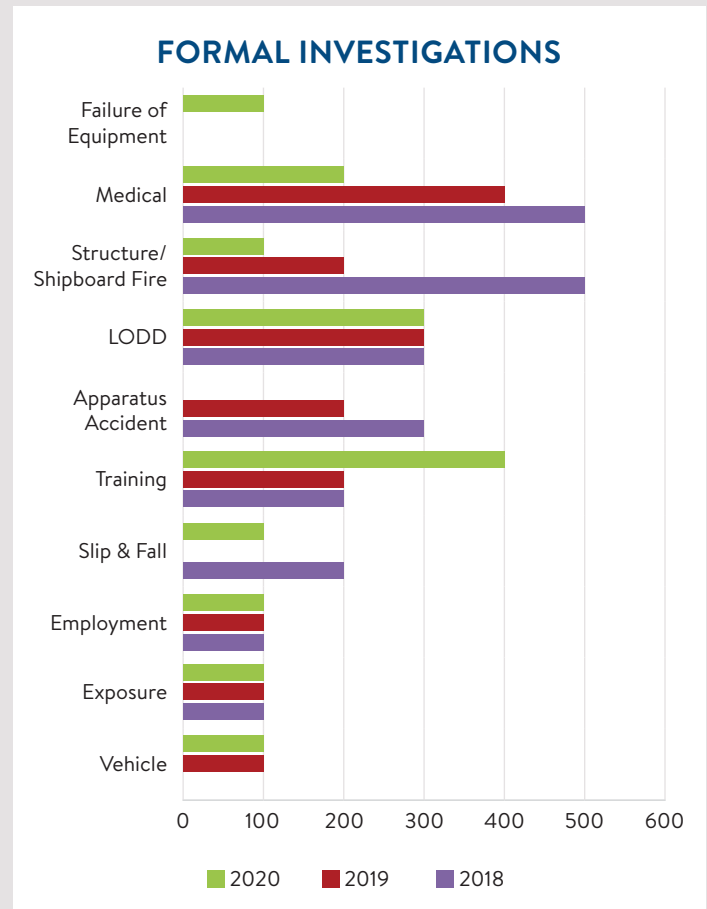


Figure 8: Formal Investigations – 2018 thru 2020

The Safety section continues to assure that departments are aware of current safety issues. After the initial issuance of the DECON buckets, the Safety section identified several departments that had not received DECON buckets. Through meetings and inspections, the SFM has been issuing buckets to departments. Director Halas has been working on resources so that any department needing a DECON bucket will receive one.

The Safety section continues to monitor current safety issues while identifying trends and concerns that may need to be addressed. The section assists with gathering and disseminating information to assure that Florida's firefighters have a safe working environment and that everyone goes home.

While 2020 was a challenging year for fire departments and firefighters across the state, the Safety Section continues to operate to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for all.

STUDENT SERVICES SECTION

REGINA SAUERACKER

Operations Manager

ANGELA CAIN

Registrar

The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) Student Services section at the Florida State Fire College supports all campus functions including equipment and supply purchasing, registration, book sales, facility scheduling, maintenance, and housekeeping. Each Student Services function assists every section on campus as well as serves the fire service community throughout the state.

Campus needs were challenged in early 2020 as COVID-19 pandemic talks ramped up throughout the United States. Personal protective equipment as well as cleaning and disinfecting supplies became extremely limited and difficult to purchase. Campus operations shut down in late March through April to help with “stop the spread” efforts nationwide. Maintenance and housekeeping staff remained on campus to deep clean and sanitize the entire facility. Necessary supplies were finally obtained to ensure a sanitization schedule could be met for the safe return of students. Working in concert with the Training, Safety, and Standards sections, appropriate distancing guidelines were established, and a limited number of classes began to return to campus. To ensure the safest learning environment, dormitories were reduced to single occupancy and in-person class sizes were decreased to maintain safe social distancing.

Although fire department travel was restricted, training continued to occur on a small scale to assist with certificate completion and response readiness. In 2020, 2,313 students attended courses on the campus. Additionally, 1,472 students utilized the dormitories at the Fire College. Figure 8 provides a graphical understanding of the number of students per month on campus and dormitory usage in 2020.

STUDENTS ON CAMPUS AND DORM USAGE

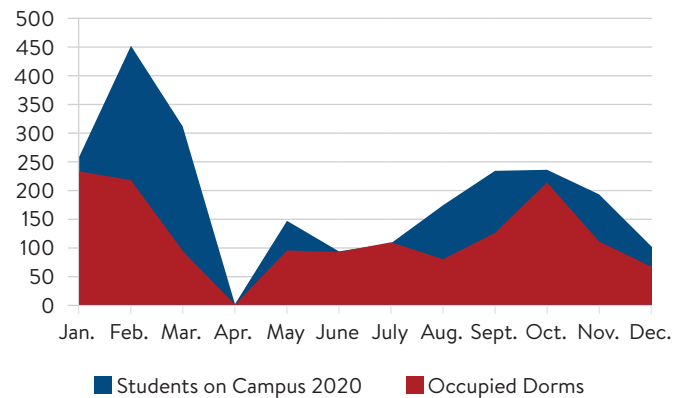


Figure 9: On Campus and Student Dorm Count – 2020

For current performance measures, the student numbers reflected on campus for the year 2020 should not be compared to any previous year or quota. It does not reflect an underperformance of any kind, rather, it saw staff members reach above and beyond a prescribed work environment to perform their normal duties from a remote location, while ensuring all student and instructor needs were met on and off campus. For years, our attendance numbers were used as a gauge to measure our performance from the previous year to adjust our projections for the following year. However, the focus for the years 2020 and 2021 will be used to consistently maintain a sanitization schedule to safely increase the number of class offerings on campus. There was over a 50% drop in overall registration between 2019 and 2020. The graphic below is only a visual comparison and should not be considered a measurable standard for on campus student number expectations.

ON CAMPUS STUDENT COUNT

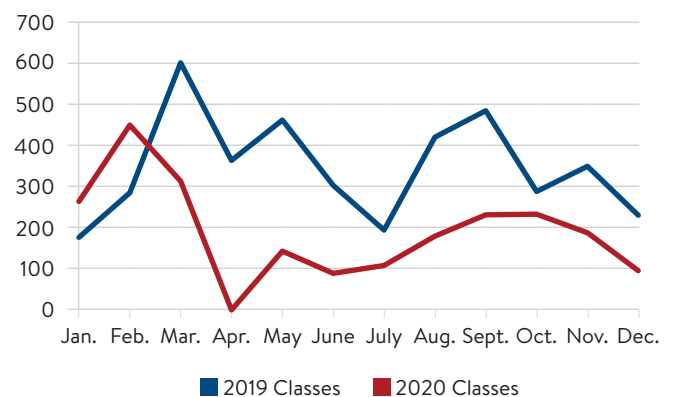


Figure 10: FSFC "On-Campus" Student Count 2019 and 2020

VOLUNTEER FIRE SECTION

CHARLIE FRANK

State Volunteer Fire Coordinator

This section was established within the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) at the Florida State Fire College on July 1, 2016 and has now completed its fourth year. The section is managed by the State Volunteer Fire Coordinator whose responsibilities include:

- assisting volunteer and combination fire departments with training;
- Statutory and Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) requirements;
- recruitment and retention;
- resources and grants;
- managing the BFST “Grow as You Go” Online Firefighter I Program; and
- oversight of the Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant Program.

COVID-19 placed a burden on our volunteer firefighters this year. Many of them were hampered by the increased call volumes and restrictions placed upon them. This year, because of COVID-19 and state legislative restrictions, the Fire Coordinator only attended 15 meetings with fire chiefs and volunteer/combination fire departments in the Northwest Region and discussed the Bureau’s “Grow as You Go” online Firefighter I, Firefighter Assistance Grant Program, general compliance to Administrative Code and Statutes, FCDICE FD roster maintenance, updates on the Bureau, and general questions. Despite the shutdown across our state, the Fire Coordinator was able to conduct several Firefighter I training opportunities at Gulf South County Fire Rescue and assisted with Northwest Florida Volunteer Firefighter Weekend with the required Firefighter I Practical Skills Task Book, Live Fire Evolutions, and Wildland course, even though their other courses were canceled due to the unexpected visit from Hurricane Sally. Unfortunately, many training opportunities, like Volunteer Week at Florida State Fire College and Great Florida Fire School were canceled due to COVID-19.

To assist volunteer fire departments in obtaining additional trained firefighters, the BFST created the “Grow as You Go” Online Firefighter I Program in March 2016. The Bureau provided the recruit the ability to complete the classroom portion of Firefighter I at their own pace and at no cost to them or their fire department. Fire departments could use local instructors to complete the practical component of the program to obtain certification for the recruit. At the end of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, there were 468 students enrolled in the program with 134 of them completing the entire program.

BFST “GROW AS YOU GO” TRAINING

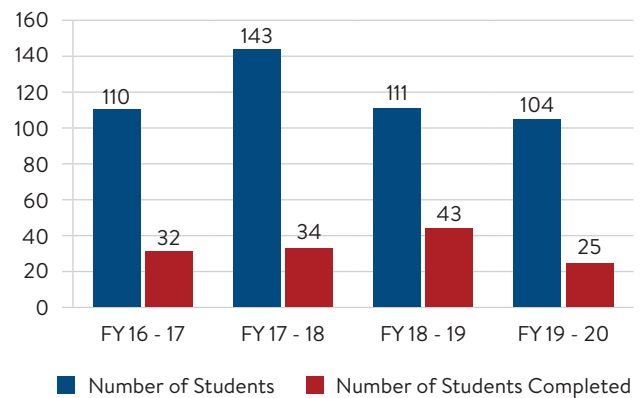


Figure 11: Firefighter “Grow As You Go” Training by Fiscal Year

Of those that completed the program, 107 students received their Volunteer Certificate of Completion from the Bureau which took an average of 13 months. Currently to date, there are 55 students enrolled into the FY 2020-2021 Program.

BFST “GROW AS YOU GO” STATISTICS

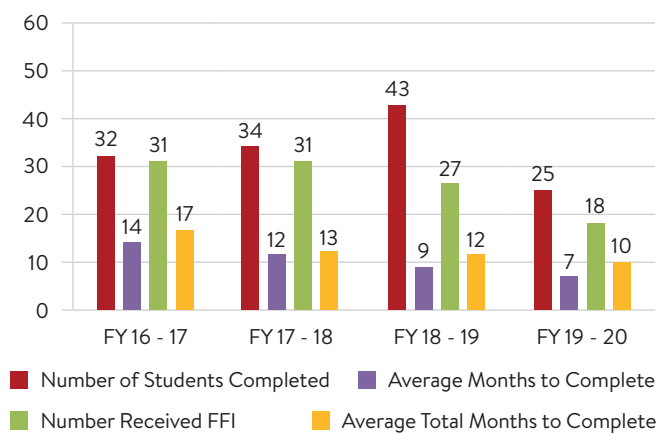


Figure 12: “Grow As You Go” Student Statistics

While the program is modular in design with five different completion points, many students chose to complete the entire program to receive their Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of Completion. To receive their Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of Completion, the recruit must successfully complete the online courses along with associated skill sheets, Florida Firefighter I Practical Skill Task Book, and remaining requirements in F.A.C. 69A-37.055(2)(b).

Those not completing the entire program and taking various modules can function within the department as “Support Personnel” to perform various tasks safely outside the hot zone (IDLH) of an emergency scene. These tasks include pulling hoses, opening and closing fire hydrants, driving

and operating apparatus, carrying tools, carrying or moving equipment, directing traffic, manning a resource pool, or similar activities.

The Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant Program was established by Section 633.135, F.S. on July 1, 2016 and is defined in F.A.C. 69A-37.502. The purpose of the grant program is to improve the emergency response capabilities of volunteer and combination fire departments by providing financial assistance to improve firefighter safety and enable such fire departments to provide firefighting, emergency medical, and rescue services to their communities. Through FY 2020-2021, a little over \$3.75 million has been awarded to volunteer and combination fire departments.

The State Volunteer Fire Coordinator is available to assist volunteer and combination fire departments with meeting their needs so they can provide the best fire service to their community. The position allows a liaison between the volunteer firefighters and the Bureau to provide valuable information while increasing the capabilities and services of the volunteers to the citizens they serve.

STANDARDS SECTION

EUGENIA L. TUCKER
Standards Supervisor

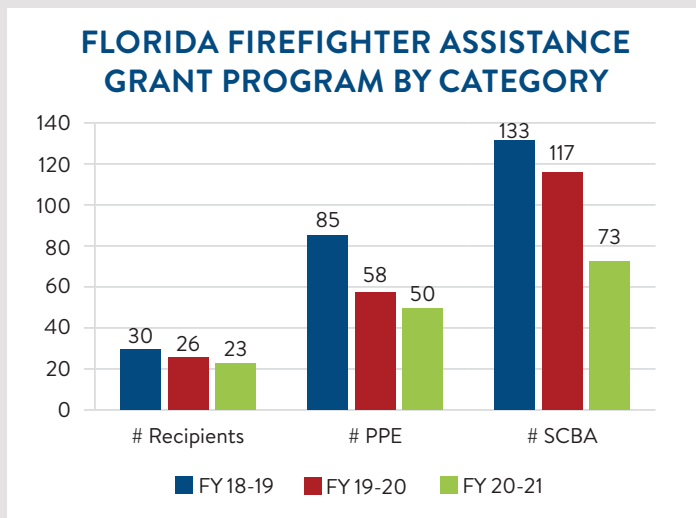


Figure 13: Firefighter Assistance Grant by Award Category

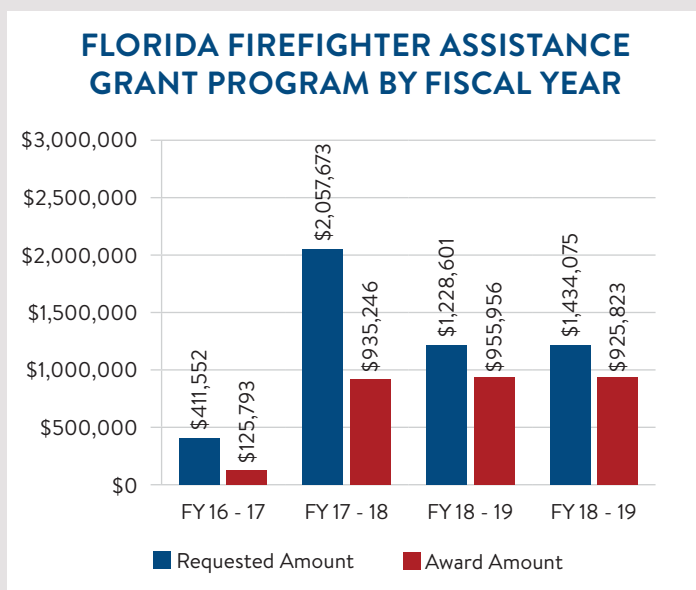


Figure 14: Firefighter Assistance Grant by Fiscal Year

The Standards section is responsible for the administration and maintenance of all Florida Fire Service certification programs. This includes written and practical examinations, Pro Board and IFSAC accreditation/reaccreditation, certification and inspection of 50 training academies both active and inactive, supplemental compensation, and FCDICE operations and maintenance.

The staff is made up of a Government Analyst, Administrative Assistant, Senior Clerk (full-time and OPS), and three Field Examiners who work closely with the supervisor to meet the needs of the personnel in the Florida Fire Service. Twelve OPS personnel assist with field examination testing and annual inspections of training centers and one OPS employee assists in the day to day operations at the Bureau. In total, eight full-time and thirteen part-time personnel work within the section. Each employee works to ensure all fire service personnel receive excellent customer service, and all fire service programs are managed in an efficient and effective manner.

COVID-19 created a significant impact on the Standards section this year. Minimum Standards Academies closed for extended periods of time and the State's contracted written examination provider, Pearson VUE, ceased operation for more than 3 months. As a result, a significant backlog of individuals needing to complete minimum standards written examination testing could not complete certification testing. Additionally, this situation created a similar problem for individuals desiring to complete promotional testing for their respective agencies. To assist in these areas of impact, Standards Supervisor staff delivered in-person testing for Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II certification examinations for the Orange County Fire Rescue and the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department to assist with their staff members becoming certified and eligible to complete agency testing requirements.

Additionally, the Standards Supervisor and full-time field examiners conducted many in-person written examinations for minimum standards recruits from April to August until Pearson VUE was able to begin operating at 50% capacity for testing services. The resulting backlog of required testing had a cascading effect of issuing certifications.

Firefighter I and II Minimum Standards Program:

Minimum Standards Curriculum

The Florida State Firefighter Minimum Standards program is regulated by Florida Statute 633 and Administrative Code 69A-37. On July 1, the new Minimum Standards curriculum compliant with the job performance requirements (JPRs) under the NFPA 1001 (2019) went into effect. As a result, the current hours required to become certified as a Firefighter I are 191 and 301 to become certified as a Firefighter II. In total, individuals desiring to become certified as a career firefighter must complete 492 hours of training.

Upon completion of the program which includes receiving a passing score of 70% on each of two comprehensive examinations (written and practical) and meeting all statutory requirements for certification, the recruit will receive a Certificate of Compliance. The graph on the next page reflects the number of Firefighter II certifications issued monthly in 2020.

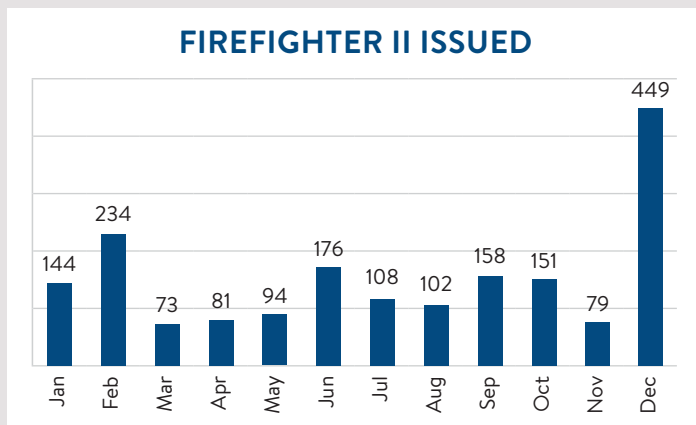


Figure 15: Firefighter II Certifications Issued by Month - 2020

A written examination is administered to test the cognitive ability of an individual to meet the job performance requirements (JPRs) established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Through a contract with Pearson VUE, all written certification examinations are delivered in a computer-based testing environment. As updates or changes become necessary due to NFPA standards, examinations associated with the relevant standards are reviewed and updated accordingly. This process ensures Florida training and certification efforts remain current with changes within the industry.

The following graphs provide a graphical understanding of the number of Firefighter II written state examinations taken via Pearson VUE. The figures represent the number of written exams delivered in 2020 and within the three-year period from 2018 to 2020.

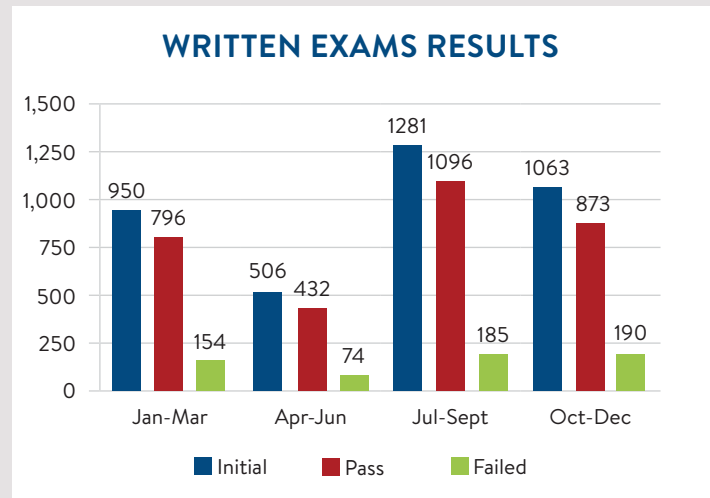


Figure 16: 2020 Firefighter II Written Examinations by Quarter

In 2020, BFST delivered written examinations for Firefighter II to 3,800 individuals. Of these, nearly 85% successfully achieved certification. Individuals failing the initial certification examination may take the examination an additional time before being required to repeat the academy.

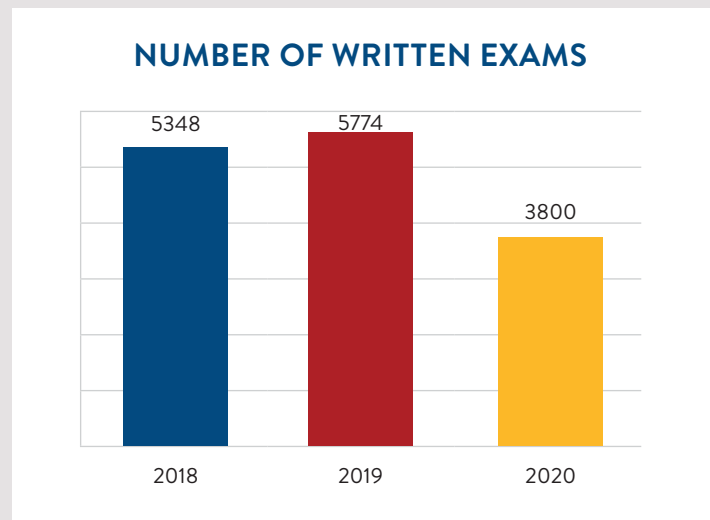


Figure 17: Firefighter II Written Examinations 2018 thru 2020

From 2018 to 2019, the BFST realized an increase of nearly 8% for Firefighter II written examinations. As expected, the impact of COVID-19 on the ability of each academy to deliver training, and the number of students able to take the resulting certification examination BFST saw a decrease of 34% between 2019 to 2020.

Firefighter II Practical Examinations

Initial practical examinations are delivered at each of the respective state-approved training centers upon completion of each class. Any retake, out-of-state, and DoD examinations are conducted on a quarterly basis at the Florida State Fire College. Practical examinations are conducted to ensure the recruit can perform routine firefighting tasks involving residential and commercial buildings. The following figures provide an understanding of state practical minimum standards examinations (initial and retakes), conducted in 2020. The graphs represent the number of practical examinations for 2020 and a three-year period from 2018 to 2020. There was a 2.18% increase from 2018 to 2019 and 12.6 % decrease from 2019 to 2020.

INITIAL PRACTICAL EXAMS

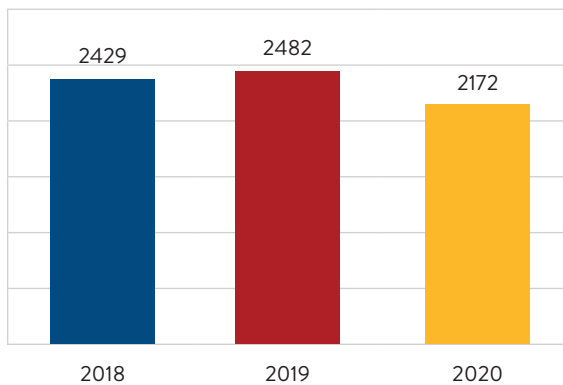


Figure 18: Initial Practical Examinations 2018-2020

NUMBER CLASSES OFFERED

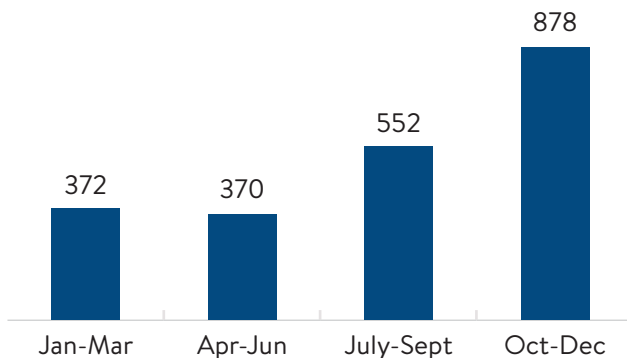


Figure 19: 2020 Firefighter II Practical Examination – Results Based on Quarterly Numbers

The Bureau offers an equivalency program for the Department of Defense personnel who were firefighters and a program for those from other states that wish to obtain the Certificate of Compliance. Operation Dispatch is a program for veterans. In 2020, 19 personnel took advantage of the two programs, and in 2019 that number increased to 30. Out-of-state personnel participated during Regionals in February, May, September, and November. Operation Dispatch testing was held in March and October.

Florida Fire Service Certification Program

The certification program consists of twenty-five certifications defined in Florida Statute and Florida Administrative Code. These certifications include Firefighter I & II, Fire Officer I to IV, Fire Safety Inspector I and II, Fire Instructor I through III, FLUSAR, and others. Not including Firefighter II Certificate of Compliance, 4,846 certificates were issued during 2020 in the Firefighter I, Experiential Learning, Executive Development, and Vocational Training certification programs. There was a 4.2% increase from 2018 to 2019 and 14.98 % decrease from 2019 to 2020. An additional graph has been added to show the effect COVID-19 had on issuance of certifications from 2019 to 2020.

2020 MONTHLY TOTALS FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS

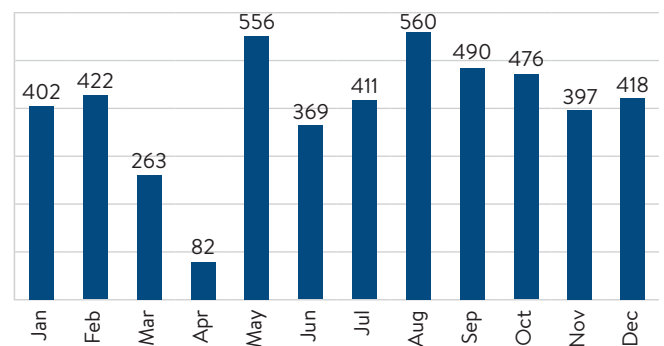


Figure 20: Total Certifications Issued by Month

ISSUED CERTIFICATIONS

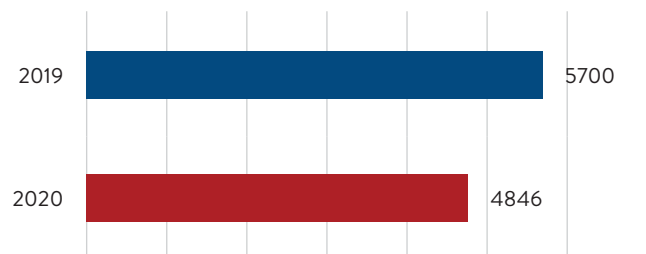


Figure 21: Total Certifications Issued 2019 and 2020

Pro Board / IFSAC Accreditation

Florida fire service and military personnel that have participated and completed technical training through the Bureau are eligible to receive Pro Board and/or IFSAC certification. Military personnel are trained at military bases in the southeast region or at the Florida State Fire College. In 2020, the Standards section issued 1012 Pro Board certifications. The Pro Board activity decreased by 11.38% from 2019.

Reaccreditation for Pro Board has been extended due to COVID-19. Reaccreditation for IFSAC will take place August 2021. This year, due to the cancellation for Fire Rescue East, there was not a Pro Board SME training class.

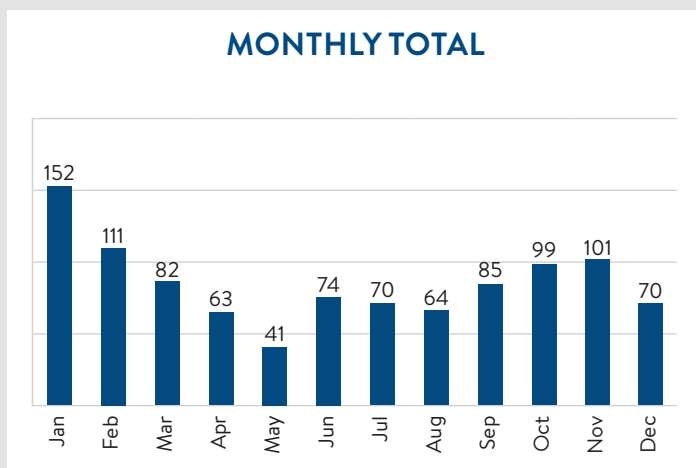


Figure 22: Pro Board Certifications by Month – 2020

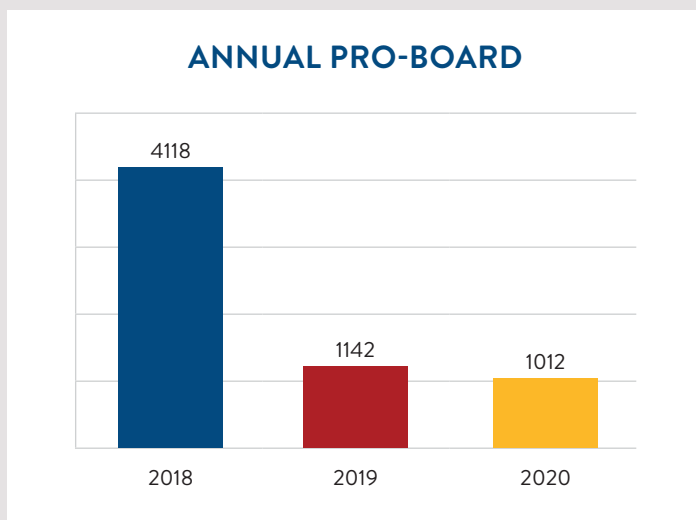


Figure 23: Pro Board Certifications 2018-2020

Performance Objectives:

Performance Objectives (POs) were developed to provide standardization of basic firefighter skills. They are utilized by the 46 training centers within the State of Florida to provide consistency in instruction, for example, whether a recruit attends training in the Panhandle or the Florida Keys. The goals of the objectives are to lead the industry in training and standardization, ensure upon completion of minimum standards the recruits leave their respective academies ready to respond to emergencies, and ensuring that the recruits become some of the best firefighters in the country.

POs are reviewed in March to ensure they met the new curriculum changes and were rolled out in July 2020 at the same time as the curriculum. For the first time, four Minimum Standards Instructor Meetings (two in Tampa, one in Tallahassee, and one at the FSFC) were held between April and May prior to roll-out of the revised POs. The intent of these sessions was to review the material with the instructors that teach minimum standards so that the state and the instructors are teaching and testing on the same material. Due to COVID-19, both the POs from the previous curriculum and new curriculum were utilized in the months after the implementation of the new curriculum in July. This was because classes that were cancelled prior to July were being taught and completed after that date.

Fire College Department of Insurance Continuing Education (FCDICE)

A significant component in meeting the above requirements is for each firefighter and fire service provider to maintain their respective information within FCDICE. The FCDICE database populates information for over 70,000 firefighters. A firefighter's work and training history from initial certification to retirement is stored in FCDICE. The presence of accurate contact information in FCDICE allows the Bureau to effectively communicate regarding specific issues associated with those previously listed. The Government Analyst I is responsible for the updates and maintenance of this program.

There were noteworthy improvements made during this period. Individuals are now able to print duplicate certifications from their FCDICE profiles. Another significant improvement is individuals can now access their FCDICE profiles from different web platforms as well as cell phones and tablets.

Firefighter Supplemental Compensation Program:

The supplemental compensation program awards fire service personnel with an education incentive with qualifying degrees. For the degrees to qualify, the course of study must be associated with the fire service and the duties performed. The degrees accepted are Associate's and Bachelor's.

The following graphs address the number of applications approved and total annual reimbursements.

Applications Approved: From 2018 to 2019 there was a 22.5% increase in applications approved. There was a decrease of 17.39% between 2019-2020.

Annual Disbursement: From 2018 to 2019 an increase in disbursement went up 4.6% or \$10,715,190.32. An increase of 4.9% occurred between 2019-2020 or \$11,239,555.42

APPLICATIONS APPROVED

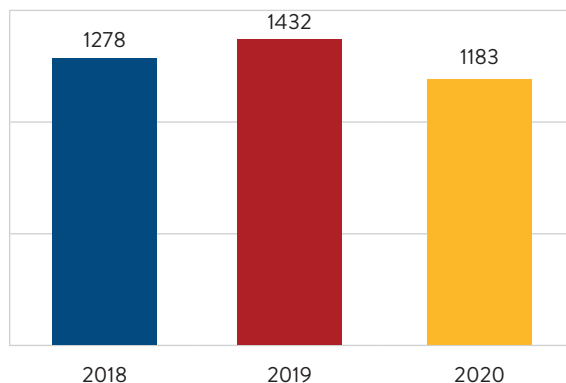


Figure 24: Supplemental Compensation Applications Approved 2018-2020

ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS

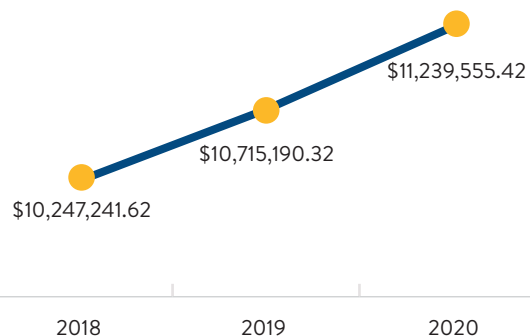


Figure 25: Supplemental Compensation Annual Disbursements 2018-2020





BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION



CASIA SINCO
Bureau Chief

The Bureau manages its programs through four functional areas: Plans Review, Inspections, Regulatory Licensing, and Boiler Safety. Despite the challenges during 2020 related to the pandemic, the Bureau of Fire Prevention continued its focus on the reduction of life loss and property damages due to fire. The Bureau's multiple compliance and enforcement programs including boiler inspections, licensure of fire related industries, explosives, and fire code development are constantly reviewed and updated to improve efficiency, ensure customer service and safety, and remain current with statutorily mandated changes.

Public Safety During a Pandemic

In March 2020, the Bureau offices were closed, and its staff began teleworking. Telework continued through the remainder of 2020 and required significant adjustments to previous business processes. Examples of challenges included efforts to maintain connectivity with external customers and the processing of mail services. COVID-19 mitigation efforts limited the Bureau's opportunities for public safety education

efforts. Though opportunities were reduced, the Bureau adjusted, finding virtual options for some program delivery. The Bureau continued to perform its core services while maintaining a safe working environment for employees and the customers we serve as well as maintaining the implementation timeline for the 7th edition of the Florida Fire Prevention Code which went into effect December 31, 2020.

The Bureau's professional and administrative staff complete hundreds of hours of continuing education and professional development courses annually to maintain concurrency with the changing conditions in the regulated industries. The Bureau also supports the initiatives of the National Fire Academy and federal assistance programs aimed at fire and life safety improvement. Our staff continues to work with key fire service leaders in code development and interpretation in addition to serving on technical and regional code development committees, including the Florida Building Commission. The Bureau's staff performs in administrative and field operational roles in support of ESF 4&9 (Fire Fighting and Search and Rescue) during periods of natural or man-made disasters.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT – 2020

Number of boiler inspections completed by department inspectors	714
Number of formal construction plans reviewed	410
Number of entity requests for licenses, permits and certifications processed within statutorily mandated time frames	4,943
Number of recurring inspections completed	5,872
Number of high hazard inspections completed	6,951
Number of construction inspections completed	1,428
Number of regulatory inspections completed	971

Figure 26: Compliance and Enforcement actions in 2020

BOILER SAFETY PROGRAM

DAVE Warburton
Boiler Inspections Chief

The Boiler Safety Program is responsible for enforcement of the Boiler Safety Act as outlined in Chapter 554 of the Florida Statutes. The Department of Financial Services adopts the State Boiler Code rules for safe construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, and repair of boilers installed throughout this state. The program issues annual certificates of competency to qualified insurance inspectors who work for a licensed boiler insurance company and have passed the State of Florida Boiler Exam. These examinations are given on a quarterly basis to inspectors that already have their National Board commission.

David Warburton, Chief Boiler Inspector, manages the State Boiler Inspection Program. Boiler Safety section staff consist of the Chief, five deputy inspectors, and two administrative support staff. Boiler insurance companies employ about 120 insurance inspectors who conduct inspections and submit inspection reports to the program.

Operations

There are more than 20,000 registered boilers located in Florida's public assembly areas in active service. For the 2020 calendar year, the deputy boiler inspectors, program staff, and insurance company insurance inspectors conducted and/recorded 7,226 boiler inspections, of that 750 were First Inspection. We identified 1,487 violations and closed 730 violations.

For boilers located in a place of public assembly, the owner must meet three criteria to obtain a certificate of compliance as described in the Boiler Safety Act. First, the boiler must have a current certificate inspection performed by the Chief, a deputy, or an Insurance Inspector that has been documented on an inspection report described within the boiler safety rules and submitted to the boiler safety program for processing. Secondly, administrative staff process the information and create an invoice for the statutory certificate fee and create a violation letter if any violations are found. Thirdly, once payment has posted for the fee and documented violations have been cleared by the appropriate inspector, the certificate will be generated and mailed via daily batch mail.

Our efforts are directed to getting the right inspector to the right boiler. This means if the boiler is insured, the insuring company has the obligation to complete the inspection. State deputy inspectors are not to inspect insured boilers which, in effect, subsidize one insurance company over another. There are always extreme exceptions, but this policy shifted much of the work to companies who were being prepaid through insurance premiums to make the required inspections. This shift allows state deputy inspectors to expand the focus from inspection to include other areas, such as performing public outreach training to educate boiler owners, contractors, and other interested parties in the requirements concerning Boiler Safety Act F.S. 554, the Boiler Rules 69A-51, and boiler safety awareness. Additionally, deputy inspectors search for unregistered boilers and noncompliant boilers in their assigned territories and provide direct assistance to these boiler owners on how to obtain their boiler certificates. This assistance could be simply providing a copy of an overdue invoice or providing technical expertise in solving complex code violations in concert with boilers owners and repair companies. The results of these efforts have resulted in statewide overdue inspections dropping each year. It can also be describe as improving the compliance rate of regulated boilers throughout the state.

Public Portal

The public portal is easily accessed through the Bureau of Fire Prevention, Boiler Safety Program web page (<https://MyFloridaCFO.com/division/sfm/bfp/boilersafety>), which provides a direct access link to CitizenServe, our work-flow management system. As the public portal continues to be enhanced, it is becoming a valuable self-help tool for boiler owners, insurance inspectors, and other interested parties. The feedback we receive back from the public for the portal has been extremely positive. All registered boilers are now available for review by the public. Invoices, certificate, inspection reports, and historical data can be downloaded. Registered owners and insurance inspectors may upload documents needed to complete inspections and clear open violations. Additionally, boiler owners now have the option of paying invoices online and having the certificate ready to download in matter of hours, instead of mailing the payment in and waiting for certificate to arrive via regular mail. The Boiler Safety staff routinely spend approximately 25-30 hours a week educating the public on portal access and use.

PLANS REVIEW SECTION

JOHN S. GATLIN

Plans Chief

The Plans Review section reviews state projects for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code, assists citizens, state agencies, design professionals, and fire officials with practical and often complex fire safety questions and issues. Our primary objective is to prevent loss of life, injury, and unnecessary financial losses from fire. As part of this mission, we ensure that state-owned and state-leased buildings are equipped with the required fire safety systems to promote occupant and firefighter safety, providing first responders the tools they need to provide emergency assistance when required. The review process also allows us to identify potential fire code violations and problems during the pre-construction phase of a project, preventing potential risk, and providing valuable feedback to our agency partners and stakeholders that can save state (taxpayer) dollars.

The success of fire prevention efforts can be difficult to measure, because fires prevented due to careful plans review and inspection are often quickly contained or non-incidents. State and national statistics show an overall downward trend in loss of life from fire. There is wide consensus among experienced fire chiefs and fire safety professionals that this downward trend is due in part to aggressive, decades-long efforts in public education, firefighter training, and skilled fire prevention programs that continue to this day.

We work to continue the practice of aggressively preventing fires before they start by assuring buildings have proper egress (exit) paths, emergency lighting, sprinkler and alarm systems (where needed), limited hazards, and many other code-required features that serve to help our state partners and their design teams produce safer state buildings. The heart of this effort is the attitude and professionalism of our experienced and well-trained plans review team. The section's three plans reviewers and supervisor hold numerous state fire certifications including Fire Safety Inspector I and II, Fire Instructor, Life Safety Educator, Fire Code Administrator, and national pro-board certifications such as Plans Examiner and Fire Marshal. With over 30 years of combined fire inspection, plans review, and design experience and related college degrees, our team is dedicated to the principle and practice of fire prevention through comprehensive fire plans review and code administration.

In 2020, the section continued implementing the legislative mandate to review plans electronically with over 50% of our state partners submitting plans digitally. The section also continued its reduction of stored legacy paper plans by having them converted to an electronic format and placed on the Department of Financial Services servers. This process not only reduces storage needs for the Bureau but allows greater access to these documents in regional offices as and in the field.

The Plans Review section completed 410 formal project reviews during 2020. The project review process includes not only the formal review but may also include additional supportive activities such as design revision reviews, sprinkler system reviews, fire alarm system reviews, etc. The section completed 917 supportive activities during 2020. Examples of projects we reviewed in 2020 include the Pegasus Hotel at the University of Central Florida (value \$27 million), and the 180,000 square foot new Florida A&M University (FAMU) Student Housing buildings (\$50 million construction value).

PLANS REVIEW ACTIVITY 2020

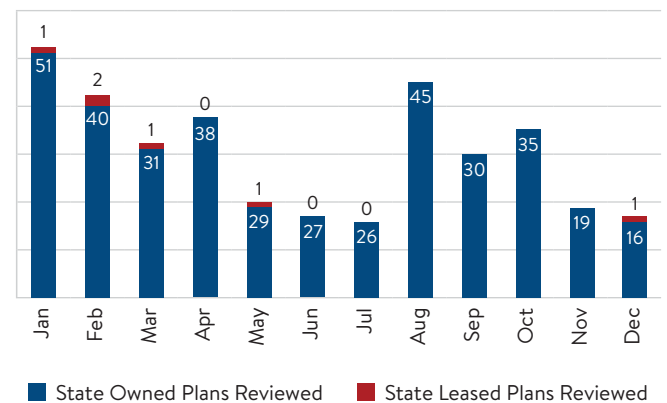


Figure 27: 2020 Plans Review Activity by Month

COMPLETED PLANS REVIEW ACTIONS

410

Formal Plans
Reviews

6

Revisions and
Support Activities

917

State Lease
Reviews

Figure 28: Completed Actions

INSPECTIONS SECTION

JOHN WALKER

Senior Management Analyst, Supervisor

The Inspections Section is the largest of the four code compliance sections within the Bureau of Fire Prevention. We are a customer oriented, multi-faceted unit with statutory authority to conduct fire safety inspections in state-owned properties and applicable regulated industries throughout the state. There are nine field offices located in six multi-county regions. The purpose of our inspections is to identify, advise, and ensure correction of fire code violations and licensing renewal requirements in order to prevent or reduce the probability of fires through code compliance. The section assists with development of the Florida Administrative Code which includes regulations for occupancies classified by law as "uniform" buildings and structures. These occupancies include hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, public lodging establishments and

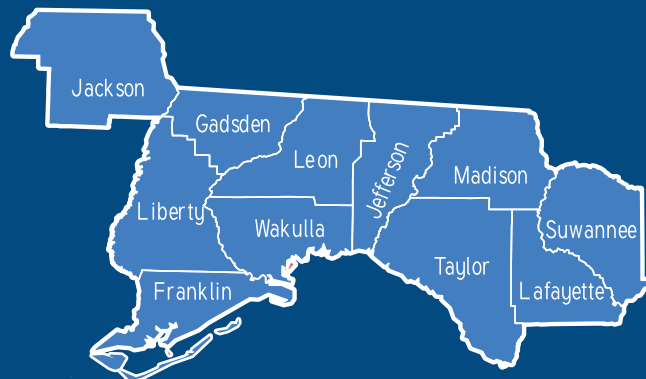
childcare facilities among others. The section's staff also respond to calls for code interpretation and assistance and other members continue their participation with the Florida Building Commission and administration of the Department's Loss Control and Safety Program.

The section's mission is *"strive to improve fire safety for Florida's citizens and visitors through gathering, storing and the retrieval of related critical data that is one of the core responsibilities of the bureau."* Another equally important aspect of our mission is preventing fires through public education regarding fire safety and fire hazards.

Throughout the year, section team members are involved in numerous public education and outreach activities ranging from fire prevention presentations, assistance to local government officials and other state agencies, code development, compliance and regulatory licensing investigations, disaster training, and mitigation duties.

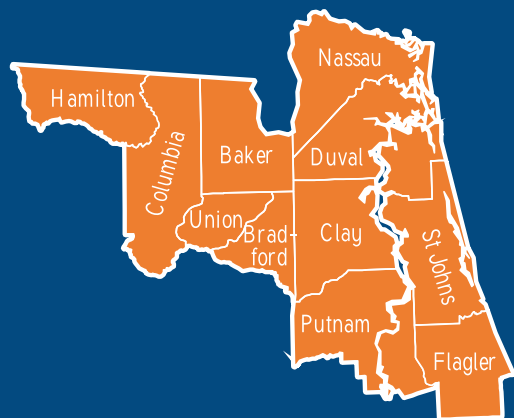
North Region

The North Region is under the command of District Chief **Paul Dyer**. The region encompasses (11) counties including Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Liberty, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla and Franklin. Field operations are conducted by the region's (5) Fire Protection Specialists and has License and Registration Inspector. The North Region conducts inspections on over 2,100 buildings per year, not including construction, regulatory, or lease spaces. We are available to consult with various agencies daily concerning fire safety issues and education. Examples of the high hazard buildings inspected in this region include the 22-story Florida State Capitol, Florida State University, including Doak Campbell Stadium, Florida A&M University, state prisons, and a hospital. Public education was limited during the past year due to the pandemic but we are excited about resuming the program very shortly.



Northeast Region

The Northeast Region is under the command of District Chief **Van Patterson**. The region encompasses 11 counties including; Baker, Flagler, Hamilton, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Putnam, Clay, St. Johns, Duval and Nassau. Field operations are conducted by the region's 5 Fire Protection Specialists. The region has 1 License and Registration Inspector. The Northeast Region conducts inspections on over 2,300 buildings annually, not including construction, regulatory, or leased spaces. Some of the unique sites that are inspected by this Regional office include Florida State Hospital – one of Florida's largest State Health Institutions, located in MacClenny, Baker County. Camp Blanding – 73,000 acres for training for the Florida National Guard as well as military forces from other states located in southern Clay County, many of the historical buildings in the City of Saint Augustine, and several prisons.



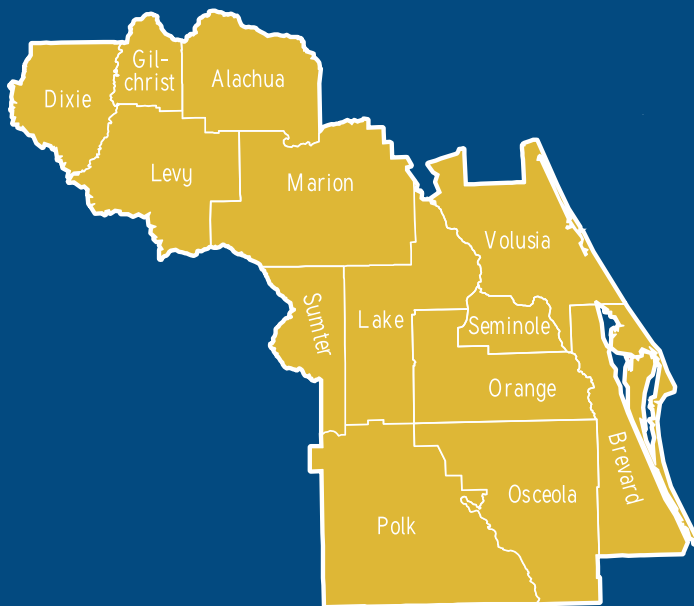
Northwest Region

The Northwest Region is under the command of District Chief **William Tate**. The Region is comprised of (9) counties that include Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Calhoun, Holmes, and Washington. The field operations are conducted by the region's (3) Fire Protection Specialists. The region has one (1) License and Registration Inspector, that serves as a training position for future inspectors. The Northwest Region conducted inspections on over 1000 buildings this year, which does not include construction, regulatory, or lease spaces. A few examples of the high hazard buildings inspected in this area district include the University of West Florida, and several state correctional facilities and numerous state parks. The Northwest region conducted numerous public outreach programs including fire extinguisher classes.



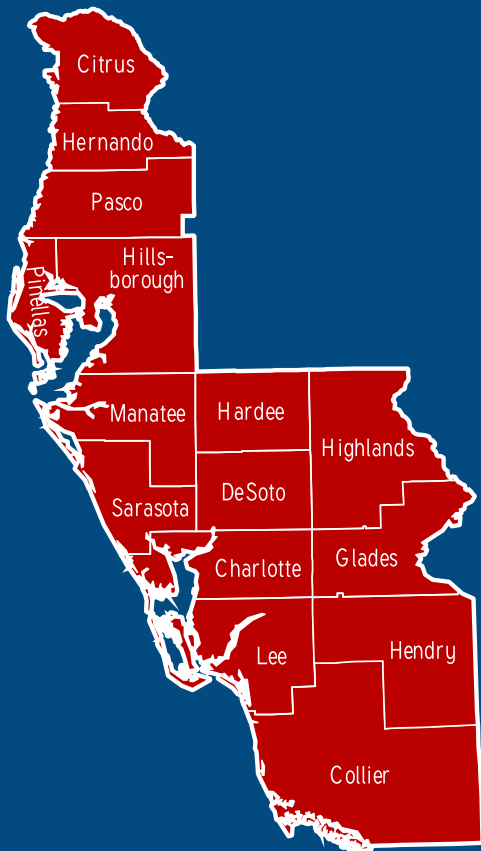
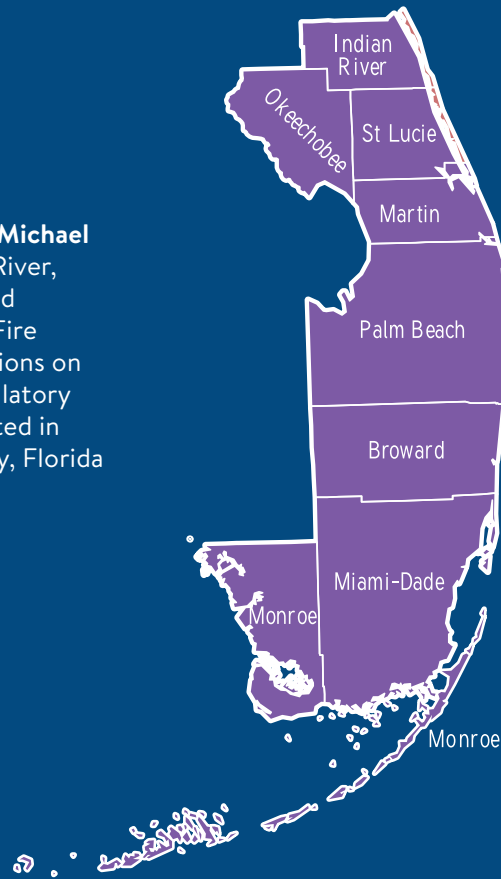
Central Region

The Central Region is under the Command of District Chief **Kimberly Fluharty**. The region encompasses 13 counties including: Volusia, Brevard, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Lake, Polk, Sumter, Marion, Alachua, Gilchrist, Dixie and Levy. Field operations are conducted by the regions 6 Fire Protection Specialist. The region has 1 License and Registration Inspector. The Central Region conducts inspections on over 3300 buildings annually, not including construction, regulatory and leased spaces. Examples of High Hazard Building included in this region include: Shands Patient Care and Shands Teaching Hospital, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Polytechnic University, Florida Architecture and Mechanical University, numerous state parks and several prisons.



Southeast Region

The Southeast Region is under the command of District Chief **Michael W. Long**. The region encompasses 8 counties including Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, and Monroe. The field operations are conducted by the region's 6 Fire Protection Specialists. The Southeast Region conducts inspections on over 2,300 buildings per year, not including construction, regulatory or leased spaces. Examples of the high hazard buildings inspected in this region include the Miami Tunnel, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, several state parks, and prisons.



Southwest Region

The Southwest Region is under the command of District Chief **Agustin "Augie" Valdes**. The region encompasses 15 counties including Hillsborough, Pinellas, Highlands, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hernando, Pasco, Citrus, Glades, Hendry, Desoto, and Hardee. Field operations are conducted by the region's 6 Fire Protection Specialists. The region has 1 License and Registration Inspector. The Southwest Region conducts inspections on over 2,306 buildings per year, not including construction, regulatory, or leased spaces. Examples of the high hazard buildings inspected in this region include the University of South Florida, University of South Florida St. Pete Campus, University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee Campus, New College, Ringling Museum, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Architecture and Mechanical University at Chinsegut Campus, and several prisons and state parks.

Inspections Required by Law

Statutory inspections required of the section are divided into two types: annual and recurring. These inspections are designed to ensure the correction of any identified fire code violations to reduce the propensity for ignition or spread of any uncontrolled fire through prescriptive and performance-based code application.

Properties inspected include all state office buildings, universities, prisons, hospitals, specific public and charter schools, and several other classes. All state-owned properties classified by statute as High-Hazard Occupancies are required to be inspected annually. Working in conjunction with other state agencies, we can ensure that as space requirements change, we are not leaving uninspected facilities, thus providing the best fire safety possible for the workers and citizens of Florida.

Fire Protection Specialists from the section also inspect other life safety systems and processes including: storage locations for explosives; fire protection systems; licensing activities for fire equipment dealers; conduct investigations of construction mining sites; and citizen complaints. The section also conducts follow-up inspections of fire incidents to identify associated fire damage which may have been caused or impacted by fire safety code violations.

Public Outreach

The Bureau of Fire Prevention (BFP) performs various fire safety outreach programs throughout the year. This includes conducting general fire safety and fire extinguishing classes for state agencies and organizations in the private sector. BFP participates in safety fairs, festivals, and other safety related events in the community. During the past year, the BFP was instrumental in starting a Greek fire safety program targeting college students who are members of fraternities and sororities.



REGULATORY LICENSING

KEITH MCCARTHY

Safety Program Manager

The Regulatory Licensing section is charged with providing licensing, certification, and regulatory enforcement for the fire equipment industry (portable extinguishers and pre-engineered systems), the engineered fire protection system industry, the explosives industry (manufacture, distribution, and use), the construction materials mining industry, and the sparkler industry (manufacture, distribution, wholesale, and retail sales) pursuant to Chapters 552, 633, and 791, Florida Statutes. The section is staffed with six personnel supporting the activities that surround the five industries statewide.

Licensing of Regulated Industries

The section faced many difficult challenges in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Public Health Emergency declaration issued on March 1, 2020 in the state of Florida. Staff members were forced to work remotely from home while maintaining over 12,735 licenses and permits, utilizing the CitizenServe web-based software. In addition to maintaining current Certificates of Insurance (COI), in 2020 the section processed over 11,012 invoices received for renewal of licenses and permits to the five industries regulated by the section.

Construction Mining and Explosives Industries

The regulatory licensing section is responsible for issuing permits to firms engaged in mining road base material used for building roads statewide, and to individuals and firms who wish to manufacture, distribute, purchase, use, and store explosives in the state of Florida. Construction mining permits are issued for ten years and are subject to an annual inspection of records and the mine site. Explosives licenses and permits expire on September 30 annually and are subject to annual inspection of records and explosive storage facilities.

LICENSE/PERMIT TYPE	2020
Manufacturer-Distributor of Explosives	41
Dealer of Explosives	13
User of Explosives	184
Blaster Permits	208
Construction Mining Permits	92
Total Licenses and Permits	538



Fire Equipment Dealers and Fire Prevention Contractors Industries

The Regulatory Licensing section is the first point of contact for individuals seeking certification necessary to service and maintain portable fire extinguishers, pre-engineered fire systems, and engineered fire sprinkler systems. The section maintains a database of all current licensed entities, including 1,223 fire protection system contractors and 615 fire equipment dealers. The staff is also responsible for producing photo identification cards for 1,828 fire equipment permittees, 850 pre-engineered system permittees and 1,000 water-based inspectors employed by certified Fire Protection System Contractors I and II.

LICENSE/PERMIT TYPE	2020
Class A Fire Equipment Dealer	107
Class B Fire Equipment Dealer	48
Class C Fire Equipment Dealer	210
Class D Fire Equipment Dealer	250
Portable Extinguisher Permits	1,828
Pre-engineered System Permits	850
Total	3,293

Fire Protection System Contractor I	237
Fire Protection System Contractor II	487
Fire Protection System Contractor III	39
Fire Protection System Contractor IV	3
Fire Protection System Contractor V	449
Inactive Contractors	8
Water-Based Protection System Inspectors	1,000
Total	2,223

The section also receives and processes continuing education courses for the fire equipment and fire protection system industries while tracking approvals of those courses attended by industry members and providing technical staff support to the Florida Fire Safety Board. This board, appointed by the Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal, serves in an advisory capacity to the State Fire Marshal on matters related to the fire equipment and fire protection industries. In addition to the normal responsibilities of this board during 2020, the board reviewed 166 continuing education courses; in addition to approving 20 instructors. Continuing education coursework for both industries is available by mail or via the division's website at <https://www.MyFloridaCFO.com/division/SFM/>.

Sparkler Industry

Regulatory Licensing issues registrations for individuals or companies wishing to sell sparklers at retail outlets to the public. These registrations expire annually on January 31.

The Regulatory Licensing staff, in conjunction with the Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis, receives and processes products from licensed wholesalers and distributors of sparkler products nationwide. The staff documents and maintains a database of the products submitted, reviews chemical analysis reports, weighs and performs functional tests on each item to ensure compliance with Chapter 791, Florida Statutes. Fifty-seven new products were approved during 2020 product testing. The approved list was updated, comprises 2,644 approved products, and is available on the division's website at <https://www.MyFloridaCFO.com/division/SFM/>.

REGISTRATION TYPE	2020
Manufacturer of Sparklers	0
Distributor of Sparklers	7
Wholesaler of Sparklers	116
Seasonal Retailer of Sparklers	1,416
Retail of Sparklers	809
Retail Location of Sparklers	4,332
Total	6,680

PRODUCT SUBMISSION	2020
Sparkler Products Submitted	61

Enforcement Actions

This section is the first point of contact for members of the public wishing to lodge a complaint regarding any of the regulated industries we are charged with managing, including construction materials and mining activities in their area. The staff are responsible for fielding phone calls, noting all relevant information, and passing complaints to the appropriate inspection section personnel for review and inspection. This section continues its ongoing role in developing and monitoring the Florida Administrative Code related to the industries regulated, working jointly with inspection section staff to ensure proper inspection and regulation of the licensed entities.



BUREAU OF FORENSIC SERVICES

Our Mission

The Bureau's mission is: *"To provide the highest quality of relevant and reliable forensic services, while maintaining the most efficient fiscal impact possible."* Public agencies, the courts, and the people demand that forensic laboratories provide quality analyses that can be relied upon to assist with investigations and lay a foundation for their proper resolution. It is the Bureau's duty to provide our stakeholders with such analysis and as a result, we sought and achieved re-accreditation in 2020 through the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) against both their internal accreditation requirements as well as the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 which accredits testing laboratories. Until May 15, 2020, we were additionally accredited by the former American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board International (ASCLD/LAB-international) which was merged (in 2016) into the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB). ANAB also had its own accreditation requirements as well as its view of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. We determined in 2019 that we would not need dual accreditation, and the decision was made to not renew our accreditation through ANAB after May 15, 2020.

We have also begun an aggressive program seeking certification of the professional competence of our staff. Currently Chief Chasteen, Quality Manager Perry Michael Koussiafes, and Analyst Sam Blittman are certified as Fellows of the American Board of Criminalistics in Fire Debris Analysis. The remaining staff are in training and will seek to take the examination for their specialties in 2021 or 2022, as restrictions for in-person gatherings are suspended due to COVID-19.

Following the filing of criminal charges or a decision not to proceed with criminal charges by the investigating agency, our reports are sometimes used by insurance provider investigators in their determination of a fraudulent claim. The Bureau has a commitment to providing credible high-quality services for our customers. We also recognize the citizens and visitors to Florida are also our customers. As such, we are obligated to them to ensure our findings and reports are accurate, and we have exercised due diligence when developing opinions of our analyses. It is not uncommon for us to field a question from an investigator where we must explain that while some of the data suggested an ignitable liquid present on fire debris, the data was not sufficient to allow us to make a conclusive determination against the requirements of the relevant international standard.

The Bureau is located outside of Tallahassee, Florida, on the grounds of the Florida Public Safety Institute, off Highway 90 West between Midway and Quincy, Florida. Florida is one of only two states in the United States (Florida and Ohio) to have their own dedicated forensic laboratory specializing in the analysis of evidence from fires or explosions. This allows us to have a turnaround time sufficiently faster so that results are provided to the submitter while the case is still under active investigation and fresh in their minds.



CARL CHASTEEN
Bureau Chief

Our Services

Chemical Analyses

The Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) is the forensic laboratory within the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services. The Bureau processes forensic evidence and images related to crime scenes. The primary work of the Bureau is the analysis of evidence collected within a fire scene to determine the presence and identity of ignitable liquids remaining in the samples. Ignitable liquid residues may be present either as a deliberately added “accelerant” to cause a fire to progress rapidly or in some cases as a residue from an accidental spill or an artifact of an item’s manufacturing process. The presence of ignitable liquids or specific chemical compounds may be an indicator that they were used to commit a crime. Since their presence may be the result of an accidental or manufacturing issue, the laboratory analysts must exercise due diligence in examining the results of our testing.

Fire debris analysis is conducted by the Bureau’s Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst, Perry “Mike” Koussiafes, MS, and three Crime Laboratory Analysts: Dee Ann Turner, PhD; Samuel Blittman, BS; and Amy Pearson, BS (in training and competency testing). Mr. Koussiafes received his Master’s degree in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Alabama with a thesis on predicting the usefulness of pattern matching software programs with fire debris. He joined the Bureau in 1997. Dr. Turner received her PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University with a dissertation on the effects of microbial degradation of ignitable liquids in 2013 and joined the laboratory in early 2015. Mr. Blittman came to us in December 2015 after extensive experience in fire debris analysis, having spent 17 years at the Walnut Creek Laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and three years with the State of Alaska Crime Laboratory. Ms. Pearson, who holds her BS from the University of Central Florida’s Forensic Science program and was an intern with the Bureau the summer of 2017 and was hired as our Forensic Technologist later the same year. After Mr. Lugviel died, Ms. Pearson was promoted to Analyst status in 2019. She will be completing her competency examinations, competency samples, and supervised casework in late 2020 or early 2021.

Fire debris analysis, identification of unknown chemicals, and explosives analysis are exclusive to the Chemistry Section. The Imaging Section is where forensic video analysis, photographic/image archiving, and reproduction of records for public or investigatory requests are housed. Our staff consists of the Chief of Forensic Services, one Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst, three Crime Laboratory Analysts, one Forensic Technologist, one Maintenance Mechanic, and one part-time receptionist. In late 2018, a Government Analyst position within the Divisional Administration area was assigned to the laboratory to assist with our accreditation



Analyst Dr. Dee Ann Turner performing extractions of fire debris



Quality Manager Perry “Mike” Koussiafes examining the Preventive Maintenance work on a GC-MS. He will be retiring in 2021

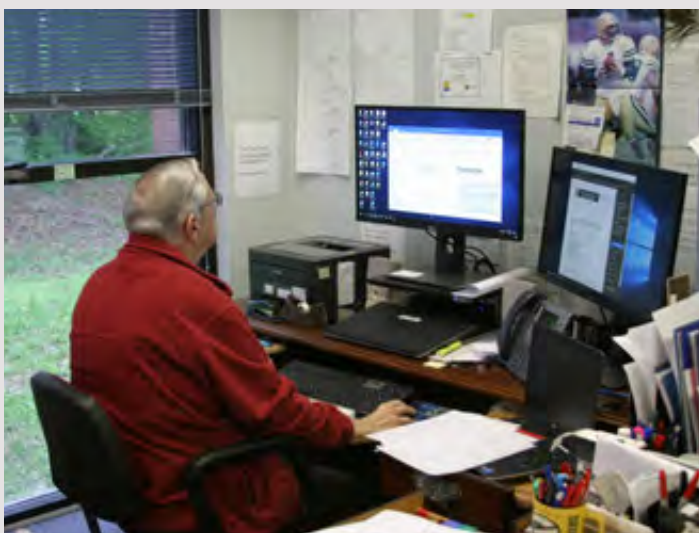
maintenance and compliance. Our Administrative Assistant was transferred to the Office of Strategic Services in 2019 yet maintains an office in the Bureau’s facility.

Evidence from fire and explosions compared to other forensic evidence analysis disciplines is regarded by most as highly difficult to examine and interpret. Our methods are attempting to extract and identify a post-burn or post-explosion mixture of chemical residues from a background substrate after it also has burned or has been affected by an explosion. The background substrate often contains a mixture of many of the same compounds as are found in the ignitable liquids or other chemical residues of interest. The difficulty lies in determining what is extraneous or added by the criminal, and what is inherent to the substrate. Our analysts must have the correct combination of skill, equipment, and knowledge to characterize ignitable liquids

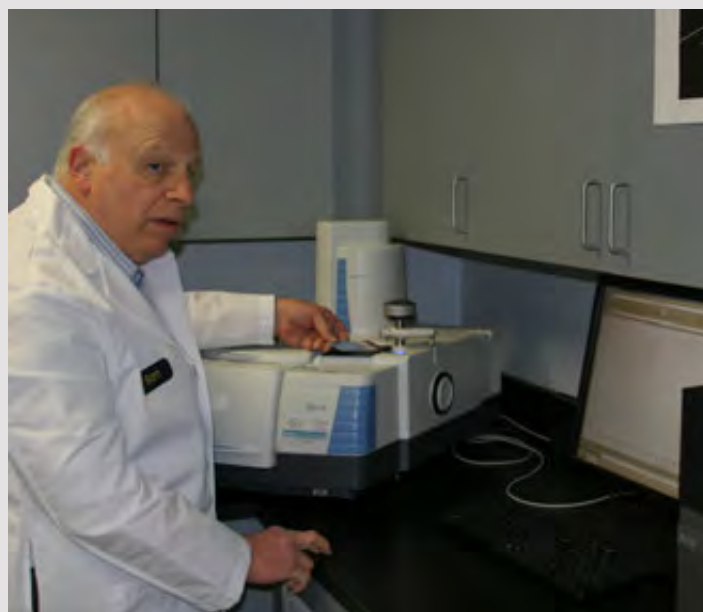
or explosive residues. They exercise extreme caution in making final determinations. If the data is insufficient, the analyst will report the sample as negative. BFS performs a technical review of 100% of all samples. This means that a second equally trained analyst experienced in the same discipline performs the review.

The key tool in performing all our analyses is the expertise of our laboratory staff. All analysts in the Chemistry Section have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in chemistry or other natural sciences with a heavy emphasis on chemistry. Most have completed additional graduate level studies, with one holding a master's degree in Analytical Chemistry and a second with a Doctorate in Analytical Chemistry. All have had additional training from one or more of the following: The National Center for Forensic Science; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the American Academy of Forensic Science; the National Fire Academy; and others.

Various analytical instruments are required for the chemical tests we perform. The key instrument for fire debris analysis is the gas chromatograph with mass spectrometric detector (GC/MS). For explosives and unknown chemical analysis, a single analytical test will not tell the full story. We may use the GC/MS on some items such as fire debris, but will also perform tests using our other instruments such as Ion Chromatographs with Mass Spectrometric Detector (IC/MS), X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (XRF), Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR), Raman spectrometer (Raman), and Ion Mobility Spectrometer (IMS). In addition, various classical wet chemical techniques may be employed to determine the level of acidity or alkalinity of the sample or extracts of the sample.



Senior Analyst Carl Lugviel performing interpretations of GC-MS data before his passing in late 2019



Analyst Sam Blittman discussing the proper use of the FTIR Instrument in Identifying Pure Organic Compounds

In calendar year 2020, the Bureau performed 2,394 fire debris sample analyses. A total of 2,340 separate Quality Control/Quality Assurance (QA/QC) analyses were completed for fire debris and explosives/hazardous chemical samples. These test the efficiency and quality of the laboratory's extraction, analysis, and interpretation procedures.

The Bureau's largest submitter is the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations which accounts for over 85% of all submissions. The remaining items are submitted by fire departments, sheriff's offices, police departments, and other State of Florida agencies performing law enforcement investigations.

When a fire debris sample was submitted to the Bureau, the average turnaround time to complete the analysis in 2020 was an average of 6.9 days. A comparison to Project Foresight at West Virginia University reported an average turnaround for fire debris of 40 days. Our average is 33.1 days fewer than the national average. All laboratory services are provided without charge to law enforcements, fire departments, and public investigative agencies. Analysts provide expert testimony at deposition or trial on request through a subpoena. Often our analytical reports will be stipulated by all parties or sometimes will be used in plea negotiations where the matter is resolved without trial. For 2020, Bureau analysts provided testimony under oath four times. Our Forensic Technologist and Analysts coordinated four hundred twenty-two consultations in 2020 with submitters, potential submitters, or the public regarding submission, storage, and return of evidence.

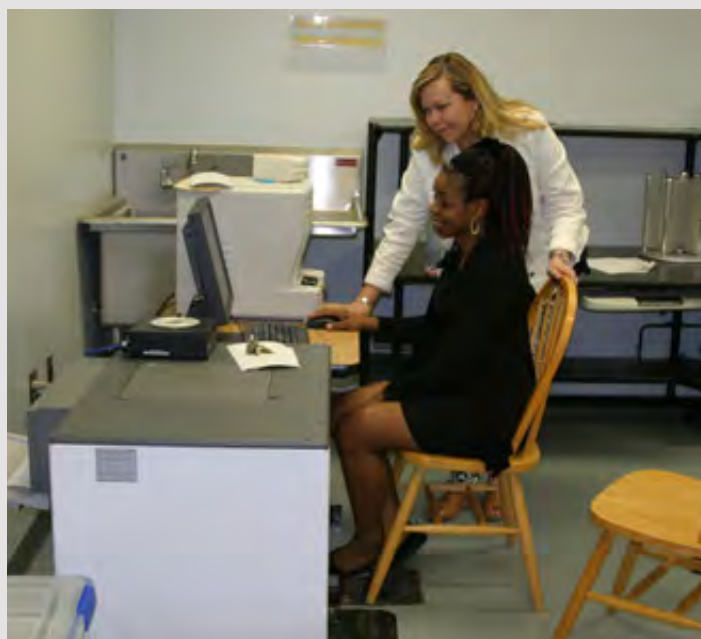
Imaging

The Bureau's Imaging Section has multiple duties, one of them being the central archive of digital images of crime scene investigations conducted by the division's Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI). The Bureau stores images collected since 1992 when it was the film processing laboratory for BFAEI. This archive allows for retrieval of images and photographs from cases even if the detective who conducted the investigation is no longer with BFAEI. When digital cameras were first issued to BFAEI in 1998, the Bureau transitioned to working with and archiving digital images. The Bureau also is often requested to provide copies of images or laboratory case files as part of a public records requests or subpoena. These may be used to assist with additional investigations or in the presentation of evidence at trial. Special reproduction requests are performed by Administrative Assistant Pamela Kenon.

Last, the Bureau operates a section where forensic video processing is performed. Since video surveillance and recordings have become commonplace, the occasions where video has captured some aspect of a crime have also increased. These videos are often of poor quality or presented in a confusing multi-camera or multiplexed format. With the assistance of Detective Brock Dietz from the BFAEI and Crime Laboratory Analyst Melissa Stephens from BFS, the Forensic Video Section can de-multiplex, separate cameras, filter, stabilize, and clean the videos so that investigators can review them to determine if information present has value in concluding their investigation.

In our Imaging Section, digital images of crime scenes are transferred from the BFAEI server and archived on the secure BFS server dedicated to that purpose. The dedicated server is also backed up regularly so data can be recovered if the main server malfunctions. Coordination of the archival of images and receipt, storage, and return of physical evidence is coordinated by Forensic Technologist Kathryn Rawls.

We can also scan conventionally developed photographs into a digital format for archival and processing purposes. The imaging section archived 2,073 cases in the calendar year 2020 which contained over 129,000 separate images. In 2020, 23 videos were processed by Detective Dietz and Crime Laboratory Analyst Stephens.



Crime Laboratory Analyst Melissa Stephens (standing) and Administrative Assistant Pamela Kenon (sitting) searching for photographic prints for public records requests



Crime laboratory Analyst Amy Pearson sorting evidence for transfer and return after its analysis

Submitting Samples

Forensic evidence must be submitted to the Bureau either by hand delivery or by a certified carrier (United States Postal Service - registered mail only, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, etc.) Should you need to submit forensic evidence for review please use our submission form available through our portion of the division's website.

Please be aware that there are federal and courier specific restrictions regarding the shipment of certain materials. Specifically, you should be aware that certain items must be listed as "dangerous goods" and have special labeling requirements. Other items may have an "excepted quantities" variation. The Bureau has a guide on its website providing more details on the submission of samples to the lab. The Bureau's guide found on the Bureau website is the guiding document referenced in Florida Administrative Code 69D-5.001 which specifies how items are to be submitted to the Bureau.

After the samples are tested and a report is sent, forensic evidence submitted to the Bureau will be returned to all non-BFAEI submitters. BFAEI samples will either be stored until they meet their statutory retention requirements. At that time the Bureau will reach out to detectives to ascertain if the samples should be destroyed, returned to the submitter's field office, or further retained by the Bureau. For fire debris evidence, the sample is typically no longer useful after it is extracted. The amount of ignitable liquid extracted depends on the amount still trapped in the debris and capable of getting into the vapor space of the container during the heating phase. The extract is maintained

on an Activated Carbon Strip (ACS). The ACS becomes the evidence requested for alternate testing following extraction as the amount extracted from the debris is in the microliter to milliliter amounts and may not extract the same quantity the second extract provided the container has remained intact. Given that wet ash and debris from fires is submitted in metal cans which will rust through in a short time exposing the samples inside to contamination or evaporation, some submitters are now using lined cans for their samples. On the other hand, it has been determined that the ACS can be fully reconstituted to show the same results even after 25 years of storage. The Bureau has all ACS extracted since 1992 and plans to save all future extracts.

Training and Professional Representation

Bureau staff are available to train personnel from other agencies in various aspects of forensic science, digital imaging, and evidence preservation. We are also a training ground for new forensic scientists. Since 1995, we have offered and provided internships to students from various universities to learn forensic science and be exposed to the work and required instrumentation. These internships also help us by providing additional workers at no cost to the State to assist in many experiments or projects at the Bureau. While many have chosen to work in forensic science laboratories, many have chosen to go on to graduate programs in forensic science and chemistry, medical school, or law school. The following is a list of schools we have hosted students from.

- Florida State University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Wisconsin at Platteville
- West Virginia University
- Eastern Kentucky University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Auburn University
- University of Lausanne (Switzerland)



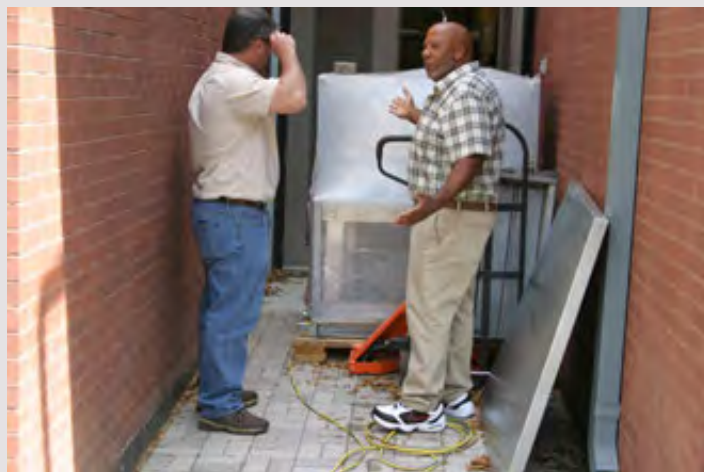
Receptionist, Ms. Sharon Taylor marking boxes of evidence with time and date when they are delivered to the lab by courier

Our employees contribute to the profession of forensic science through involvement in professional organizations. Often, our staff are more than simply members of the organization and rise to leadership positions. These organizations and leadership positions include:

- The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) - Former Chair of the Forensic Science Committee
- The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)
- The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) – Members E30 Criminalistics
- The American Academy of Forensic Science
- The Technical Working Group on Fire and Explosions (TWGFEX) – Former Facilitator, Chair, and current Vice-Chair
- The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) – Fellow (3)
- The Ignitable Liquids Resource Committee of the National Center for Forensic Science

Facility

The facility where the Bureau operates is owned by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and the Bureau Chief is the de facto facility administrator. This means the Bureau must maintain the facility (maintenance, repairs, remodeling) without any funding from the Department of Management Services. The Bureau's Maintenance Superintendent, Lynn Lee, oversees the care, maintenance, repairs, and upkeep of the facility and its grounds. Mr. Lee's proven skills and abilities have made him an invaluable asset to the Bureau.



Maintenance Superintendent, Lynn Lee (right) coordinating air handler replacement and installation with Cook Brothers Inc. liaison Jason Layerd (left) (sub-contractor to the Department of Management Services)



AN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION
accredited TESTING Laboratory, meeting ISO 17025 and A2LA requirements
(SINCE February 9, 2017 in the subdisciplines of Fire Debris Analysis, Low Explosives,
and Analysis of Unknown Chemicals from Clandestine Laboratories)



BUREAU OF FIRE, ARSON AND EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATIONS



**EVANGELINA
BROOKS**
Bureau Chief

The Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) is a law enforcement branch of the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services.

The core missions of the personnel within the Bureau include detection, investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of offenders of arson and explosive related crimes. The Bureau also works to enhance investigations and to deter arson and explosive related crimes through education and training.

During the calendar year 2020, the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations received over 3,000 new requests for investigative assistance from fire departments, law enforcement agencies, federal/state agencies, citizens, and insurance companies. BFAEI conducted investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of over \$215 million. Of this estimated property loss, over \$15 million was attributed to the crime of arson. Detectives made arrests in over 200 investigative cases in 2020, and over two thirds of these investigations were classified as “incendiary” fires.

Our personnel work tirelessly to bring criminals to justice. Holding arsonists accountable for their actions is our primary goal, and this mission is driven by our highly trained detectives. The investigative support provided by our skilled crime intelligence analysts and dedicated support staff is second to none and ensures that we continue to reach our goals.

During 2020, our arrest clearance rate for incendiary fires was 18.3 percent. This is the result of a perfect combination of experience and conscientious attention to our duty, driven by the desire to reduce victimization and arson incidents throughout the state of Florida. We

continue to not only meet our mission, but we annually exceed the national average in case clearances.

BFAEI has continued to work in partnership and support the mission and goals of the Department of Financial Services and the State Fire Marshal. This partnership includes coordination of Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 4 & 9 at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), and the deployment of personnel to aid in the search and rescue of those impacted by a disaster.

The Bureau is staffed statewide by one hundred and seventeen members, including one Chief, two Majors, five regional captains, fourteen lieutenants, eighty detectives, six Crime Intelligence Analysts, and other civilian support personnel. The Bureau is under the direction of Chief Evangelina Brooks.

During the calendar year 2020, the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations received 2,940 new requests for investigative assistance and completed 432 telephone fire consultations from fire departments, law enforcement agencies, federal and state agencies, individuals and insurance companies.

Investigative responses are classified according to type of incident:

INCIDENT TYPE	RESPONSES
Attempted Explosion	1
Attempted Fire	14
Explosion	12
Fire	2,617
Miscellaneous EOD	117
Miscellaneous Other	178
TOTAL	2,940

OVERVIEW OF 2020 BUREAU STATISTICS

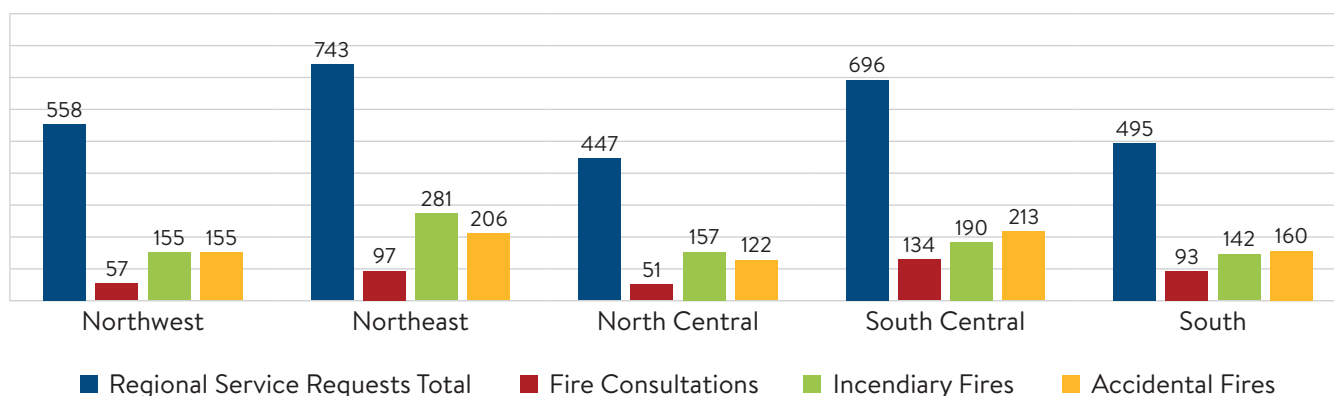


Figure 29: 2020 Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations Statistics Overview

CAUSES REPORTED

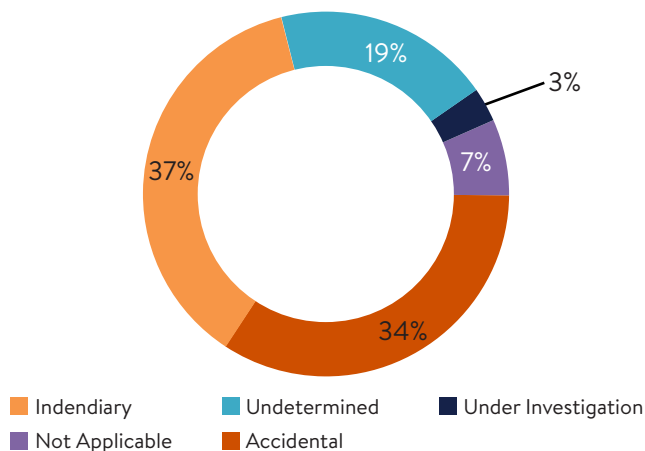


Figure 30: 2020 Investigations – Causes Reported

TYPES OF INCIDENTS

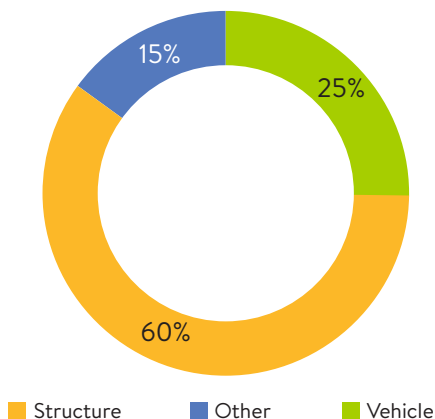


Figure 31: 2020 Investigations – Types of Incidents Investigated

This year, the Bureau conducted investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of around \$215 million (\$214,507,435.00). Of this estimated property loss, approximately \$15 million (\$15,229,394.00) was attributed to the crime of arson.

The Bureau classifies their investigative findings as: Incendiary, Accidental, Undetermined, or Not Applicable. An Incendiary fire is defined as “a willfully and unlawfully set fire.” A Not Applicable finding is used when an investigation involves a non-fire related incident such as outstanding warrants, suspicious packages or other non-fire requests for assistance.

Arrests

Sworn personnel of the Bureau made arrests in 204 investigative cases in 2020, resulting in the arrest of 234 defendants. This information is based on an arrest date occurring in 2020 and often includes on-going investigations from previous years, not just cases initiated in 2020. Of the 204 cases with arrests, 163 of these investigations were classified as Incendiary fires and resulted in the arrest of 179 defendants. This represents an arrest clearance rate for incendiary fires of 18.3%. Charges against the perpetrator(s) included arson, burning to defraud the insurer, false/fraud insurance claim, murder/arson, grand theft, criminal mischief, and possession/placement/discharge of a destructive device, along with other related crimes.

In addition to arrests made in association with Incendiary fire cases, our sworn investigators will often encounter situations that may result in additional arrests that are often not associated with arson-related crimes. (I.e. burglary, fraud, assault, probation violation, drug/drug paraphernalia and wanted persons). Bureau detectives arrested 55 defendants for these types of criminal activities.

Crime Intelligence Analysis Support

The Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations utilizes Crime Intelligence Analysis (CIA) to support the enforcement efforts of the Bureau in tracking organized criminal activities within the State and to assist bureau detectives with arson investigations.

The CIA provides two types of analysis: Intelligence Analysis – the study of criminal organizations and enterprises to support the investigation and prosecution, and Investigative Analysis – crime scene, psychological, and forensic analysis used in arson cases.

Three levels of analysis are also provided daily to law enforcement agencies throughout the state: Tactical, Operational and Strategic.

- Tactical Analysis pertains to the day-to-day crime analysis, looking for series, patterns, sprees, and hot spots immediately affecting the arson problem.
- Operational Analysis aims to achieve a specific law enforcement outcome. This might be arrests, seizure or forfeiture of assets, or the disruption of criminal activities offering a more immediate benefit.
- Strategic Analysis is intended to inform higher-level decision making; the benefits are realized over the longer term. It is usually aimed at managers and policymakers rather than individual investigators.

The Crime Intelligence Analyst processes information received from a variety of sources which is collated, verified, classified, stored, and disseminated on a right-to-know, need-to-know basis on criminal activities. All information is processed in a manner consistent with law requiring it to be criminal predicate driven and used to support ongoing investigations. Once processed, this information becomes actionable intelligence pertaining to individuals, organized crime groups, emerging criminal groups, public disorder and terrorist groups suspected of being involved in the actual or attempted planning, organizing, and/or financing the crime of arson.

CIA support is currently comprised of five certified Crime Intelligence Analysts. These analysts are located statewide with one analyst serving in each of the five regions.

The Crime Intelligence Analyst works towards gaining an understanding of “who is doing what with whom” by focusing on the relationship between persons and organizations involved in illegal and conspiratorial activities. They can efficiently analyze crime data using state-of-the-art information systems.

Hazardous Device / Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD)

The Bomb Squad is comprised of four teams throughout the state of Florida, providing rapid responses to hazardous incidents. During 2020, the teams responded to 129 incidents and conducted another 2,582 activities that included render safe operations of suspicious items, disposal of hazardous materials, training, operational stand-by, and integrated Bomb/SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) responses, public education demonstrations, amongst other. SWAT integration with an EOD component has become an increasingly valuable asset to the unit. SWAT teams continue to rely heavily on specialized robotic and surveillance equipment provided by our bomb squad, along with an EOD specialist to provide real time intelligence and surveillance in support of ongoing SWAT operations to enhance officer safety.

The team also assists with various domestic dignitary operations including foreign heads of state and the President of the United States. Routinely, the teams are required to provide bomb-related protections at massive spectator venues including NASCAR races, air shows, parades, Grand Prix races, NFL, MLB, and NHL games and other heavily attended events. Community outreach and education is also an important mission for the teams statewide. Last year they provided numerous classes to public safety agencies such as Post Blast Investigations, Explosive Awareness, and Improvised Explosive Device recognition. Additionally, the team hosts educational courses to private sector businesses in the area of bomb threat management and protection. The bureau works closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Response Team as well as their “Easy as One” initiative for the disposal of flares, fireworks, and ammunition utilizing the bureau’s mobile thermal destruction units.

During 2020 the Division of Investigative & Forensic Services Bomb Squad conducted numerous hours of EOD activities across the state. Our teams perform these while continuing to work their primary jobs of fire and arson investigation and insurance fraud. Team members receive specialized training from the FBI & ATF annually to keep up with emerging crime trends and ever-changing technologies, and continue working closely with local, state, and federal partners in the safe resolution of hazardous devices for the citizens of the great state of Florida.



K-9 UNIT

Accelerant Detection Canine Unit (K9)

In 1998, the Bureau implemented an Accelerant Detection K-9 program with financial and technical support from State Farm Insurance Company. The assistance provided by State Farm funds scholarships for training fees, canine acquisitions, lodging during training, chemist certification of canines, and transportation expenses related to training the teams in Alford Maine. Arson dogs are trained to detect common accelerants at fire scenes. If, the dogs' highly sensitive noses uncover the scent of these chemicals, they signal to their handlers, who will remove a sample for lab analysis. Arson dogs are instrumental in the arrest and eventual prosecution of thousands of arsonists and have helped curb rates of this deadly crime that costs hundreds of lives and billions of dollars in property damage each year.



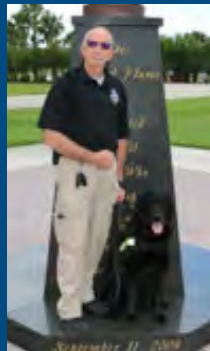
EIGHT ACCELERANT DETECTION TEAMS



Captain
Ross Holt
and ADC Icy



Lieutenant
Amelia Hitchcock
and ADC Penzy



Lieutenant
David Young and
ADC Fresca



Detective
Jeff Batz and
ADC Booker



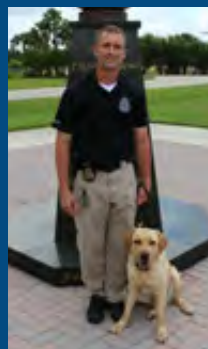
Detective
Matt Huffman
and Shay-ley



Detective
Daniel Koehler
and ADC Ruthie



Detective
Cody McIntyre
and ADC Rico

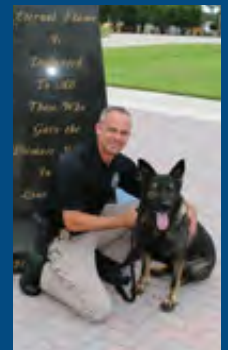


Detective
Paul Snider and
ADC Buffet

TWO EXPLOSIVE DETECTION TEAMS

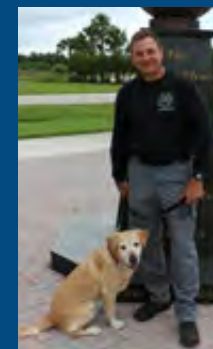


Lieutenant
Jason Roberts
and EDC Porsha

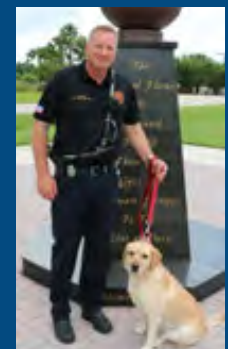


Detective
Monty Taylor
and EDC Oregon

OUTSIDE AGENCY K-9 SUPPORT PARTNERS



District Chief
Jason Revoldt
and ADC Nessie,
City of Orlando



Fire Investigator
Joe Cox and
ADC Camy,
St. Lucie County
Fire District

CASES OF INTEREST

NORTHWEST REGION

PENSACOLA FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3232 Structure Fire with Fatality

Case Agent: Detective Christopher Newman

On 10/26/2020 at 1943 hours, Escambia County Fire Rescue requested the assistance of the Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) to determine the origin and cause of a commercial structure fire with one fatality. This incident occurred at 8201 University Parkway, which is an approximately 15000 square feet building used as a medical billing facility. Significant video surveillance from within the building was obtained, greatly assisting with determining the origin and cause of this fire. The fire was determined to be accidental, originating under the front desk in the lobby of the building. The lone occupant of the building at the time of the fire was the cleaning person. On the video, smoke is seen rapidly filling the lobby area of the building and entering the room where the occupant was vacuuming. Due to the origin of the fire, the occupant was unable to escape this area of the building.



Case # 20-2389 Cabin Fireworks Explosion with Fatality

Case Agent: Detective Kevin Fiedor

On 8/03/2020, Almarante Volunteer Fire Department requested the BFAEI to respond to a cabin structure explosion and fire at 3982 Millside Road in Laurel Hill, Okaloosa County, Florida. Detectives responded to this scene to conduct the origin and cause investigation. Based on witness statements and the scene examination, it was determined that the lone occupant of the structure was manufacturing fireworks at the time of the fire/explosion. This occupant was flown to a nearby burn center to be treated for his injuries and later passed away at the hospital. The windows of the structure were found in the surrounding yard, which was determined to have been caused by the blast pressure from the explosion. Bomb squad members with the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services were called to this scene due to the explosion and the presence of numerous containers of unidentified powders and electronic components.



TALLAHASSEE FIELD OFFICE

Case # 02-2626 Triple Fatality Structure Fire

Case Agent: *Detective Brock Dietz*

On 8/27/2020, the BFAEI was requested to contact Franklin County Sheriff's Office about a structure fire with one fire injury and two fire fatalities that occurred at 773 Gulf Beach Drive West, Eastpoint, Florida.

The fire was called into 911 by a passerby. Upon arrival, FCSO deputies discovered a male victim injured and crawling on the driveway away from the structure fire. According to FCSO personnel, Joshua stated he heard a pop, and that his mother and uncle were still inside the home.

Due to the structural damage, a specific area of origin was not determined after the scene investigation.

The burn victim passed away at University of Florida Shands Hospital later that evening.



TALLAHASSEE FIELD OFFICE

Case # BFAEI20-128 Burned Old Fire Truck Previously used by TFD

Case Agent: Detective Caleb Douglas

On 1/14/2020, the BFAEI responded to a vehicle fire at 2345 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida (Universal Collision and Repair). The vehicle involved was unique due to it being an old fire truck previously used by TFD, now owned by a non-profit started by a TFD firefighter in cooperation with some other parties used to advocate in the fight against cancer. Investigation revealed that gasoline was used as a fire accelerant by applying it to the front seat area of the vehicle.



Case # 20-2458 Apalachicola River Watercraft Fire with Injury

Case Agent: Detective Jeremiah Gile

On 8/9/20 BFAEI was dispatched to Gaskin Park in Wewahatchka, Florida regarding a vessel explosion. The request was made by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). According to the FWC, the victim's watercraft broke down along the Apalachicola River when the engine compartment flooded with water and gas. When tipping the vessel over to clear the water and gas, an explosion occurred from the engine compartment causing second- and third-degree burns to the victim's face and arms.



NORTHEAST REGION

JACKSONVILLE 1 FIELD OFFICE

Case #20-442 Holiday Terrace Motel Room Fire

Case Agent: *Det. Josh Bass*

On 2/13/2020, BFAEI Detective Josh Bass responded to 552428 US-1, Hilliard, Florida, Holiday Terrace Motel at the request of Nassau County Fire Rescue to investigate a fire in Room #5. A subsequent origin and cause investigation revealed the fire to be incendiary in nature. Detective Bass determined that the fire was started by a propane torch used to ignite clothing on the floor of the motel room. Further investigation revealed the door to the room was deadbolted from the inside, and the window slats in the rear window had been removed to use the window as an exit. While on scene, Detective Bass and deputies from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office developed a suspect, Mary Christina Jones.

Based on interviews with associates of Mary Jones, Detective Bass and Nassau County Deputies located Jones at 36364 Shaffer Rd., Callahan, Florida. Detective Bass advised her of her Miranda Warnings via agency form, and Jones advised she understood and agreed to answer questions. She confessed to starting the fire and exiting through the rear window. She advised that just prior to starting the fire, she observed someone whom she believed may be trying harm her, so she started the fire and exited the window to get away from them. There were guests in two of the adjacent rooms. Jones was arrested, transported, and booked into the Nassau County Jail. Upon arrival at the jail, a plastic baggie was discovered by Nassau County deputies in the rear caged seat of the vehicle with Jones. The bag contained a crystalline substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine. Detective Bass charged Mary Jones with arson to an occupied structure, and possession of methamphetamines.



JACKSONVILLE 1 FIELD OFFICE

Case #20-2968 Residential Structure Fire with Arrest

Case Agent: *Det. Jordan Craven*

On 9/30/2020, Detective Craven responded to a residential structure fire at 71 Thompson Street, Jacksonville, Florida. While conducting his investigation, an additional fire was discovered on the inside of the owner's vehicle parked in front of the house. Detective Craven determined that the fire was intentionally set and was able to ascertain suspect

information through witness statements. According to the victim, the suspect Mary M. Long and he were in a verbal argument hours before the fire when the suspect said that she was going to burn the victim's house down. An additional victim came forward and told Detective Craven that the suspect doused him with charcoal lighter fluid the night before and tried to set him on fire.

With the help of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the suspect was located several days later and admitted to the fires on body camera. The suspect was booked into the Duval County Jail with a \$250,000 bond and is currently awaiting trial.



JACKSONVILLE 2 FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-1026 Fire Aboard the USS Iwo Jima with Arrest

Related Case #19-3379

Case Agent: Det. Adam Faircloth

On 4/10/2020, BFAEI was requested by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to assist the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in the investigation of a vessel fire aboard the USS Iwo Jima, docked at Naval Station Mayport. The fire was confined to a storage berth near the engineering area. BFAEI Detective Adam Faircloth responded as the case agent along with ADK9 Detective Matt Huffman with ADK9 Shay-Ley. The investigation revealed that this had been the fourth reported fire in six months aboard the ship. BFAEI Lieutenant Joe Pietrafesa and ADK9 Detective David Young with ADK9 Fresca investigated the most recent to this fire, Case # 19-3379. The results of that investigation revealed the fire also originated in a storage berth. All four fires were believed to be incendiary, with the latest two determined by BFAEI to be incendiary.

A joint investigation between BFAEI, ATF, and NCIS ensued and suspects were identified based on access to the affected areas. Extensive background information was developed on the potential suspects by BFAEI Crime Intelligence Analyst Diana Phillips, which was subsequently used to formulate interview questions and focus the investigation.

After interviewing multiple suspects, investigators obtained a confession from male subject, Trace Alec Hill, for the latest fire. Hill was arrested and turned over to military authorities for procedure through the military court system.



JACKSONVILLE 2 FIELD OFFICE

Case #20-1208 Tractor-Trailer in Econo Lodge Parkin Lot with Arrest

Case Agent: *Det. Paul Robbins*

On 5/5/2020, at approximately 1824 hours, Jacksonville Fire Rescue and Jacksonville Sheriff's Office responded to a fire involving a parked tractor-trailer in the parking lot of the Econo Lodge at 5624 Cagle Rd, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216. BFAEI Detectives Paul Robbins and David Young (with ADK9 Fresca) responded to assist.

Initial reports indicated that the victim, who was the operator of the tractor-trailer, had parked the tractor-trailer at the Econo Lodge at the time of the fire. During this time, an unrelated suspect was captured on surveillance video approaching the tractor-trailer with a gas can just before the fire started. Immediately after the onset of the fire in the exterior rear tire area of the trailer, the suspect could be seen running away from the scene. The suspect was apprehended a few blocks away by JSO officers and was identified as Christopher Dunn McDevitt. During questioning, McDevitt denied any involvement in the fire.

Detective Robbins met with Young and conducted a free air sniff using ADK9 Fresca, resulting in an alert to the suspect's shoes. ADK9 Fresca then alerted to the area of the left rear trailer tires and the wall of the building next to the trailer. Detective Robbins collected the suspect's shoes and debris samples from the scene, which were subsequently analyzed for the presence of ignitable liquids, revealing gasoline on all samples submitted.

McDevitt was arrested on-scene and charged with second-degree arson, transported to Duval County Jail and held on \$50,000 bond.



OCALA FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-2205 Catholic Church Fire

Case Agent: Lt. Tommy Pudlo

On 07/11/2020, BFAEI responded to 6455 SW State Road 200, Queen of Peace Catholic Church, in reference to a male subject driving a vehicle through the front doors of the church and into the foyer, at which time he exited his vehicle and began pouring a substance (later determined to be gasoline) onto the floor of the church. The subject then ignited the gasoline and fled the scene in the vehicle. He was subsequently pursued and apprehended by the Marion County Sheriff's Office a short time later.

Video surveillance was recovered at the scene, having recorded most of the incident. The video clearly shows the subject driving through the doors into the foyer then backing out, after retrieving two large gasoline containers from the vehicle. The subject then began pouring the liquid from the containers on the floor in the foyer as the witness is watching. The subject continues to walk and pour the gasoline in the foyer, then leaving the containers. He returned to the vehicle outside, pulled off one of his shoes, lit it on fire, then threw it on the liquid where it erupted into flames, after which he fled the scene in the vehicle. The witness was at the entrance and inside the foyer upon the ignition of the liquid. Additional eyewitnesses were identified

as the investigation progressed. A search warrant on the subject's residence was served jointly by the Marion County Sheriff's Office, BFAEI, ATF, and the FBI.

The subject was identified as Steven Anthony Shields. Shields was booked into Marion County Jail on an attempted murder charge, first-degree arson, burglary to an occupied structure, and fleeing or eluding law enforcement. There were no reported injuries as a result of this incident.

Damage was estimated at approximately \$100,000.



OCALA FIELD OFFICE

Case #20-3522 Multiple Vehicle Fires with Arrests

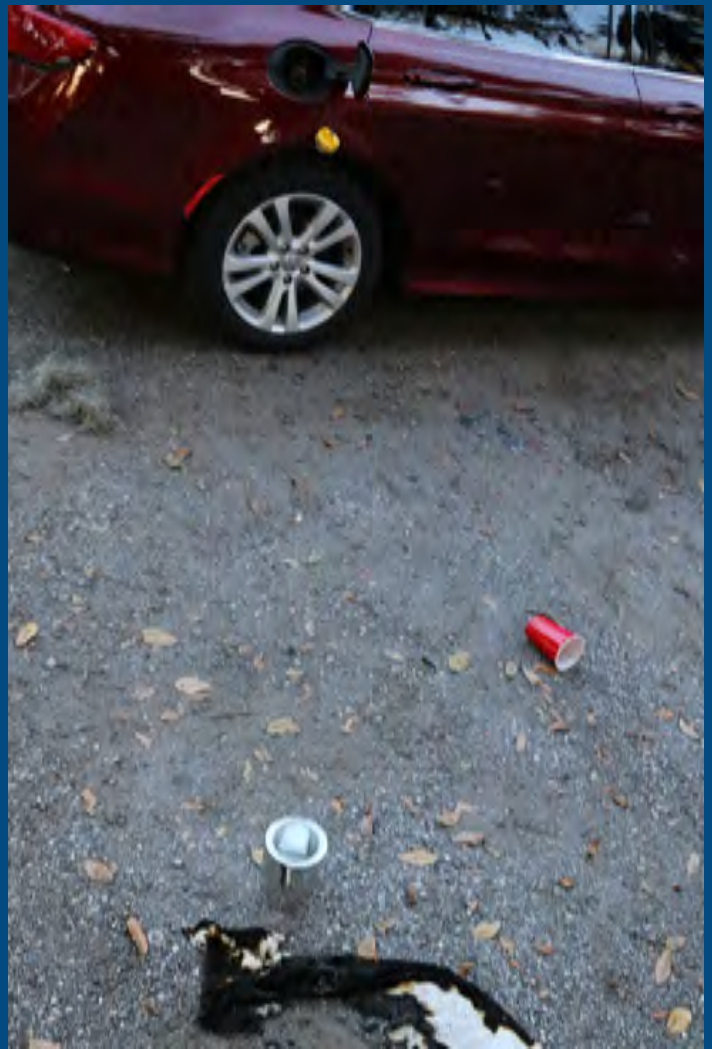
Case Agent: *Det. Leslie Powers*

On 11/24/2020, at approximately 0523 hours, Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR) requested the assistance of the BFAEI. The request was in reference to a vehicle fire that occurred at 6315 SW 13th Street, Apt 8 in Gainesville, Alachua County, at approximately 0321 hours.

Detective Powers spoke with ACFR-Fire Investigator John Adler who advised her of the circumstances. There had been multiple fires set along with a second attempted arson on another vehicle. Vehicle-1 (V-1) was a four-door 2015 Volkswagen and was ignited at the right rear portion which had burned through the interior to the front passenger compartment. Vehicle-2 (V-2) was a four-door 2016 Chrysler and was ignited with a rag at the fuel filler neck on the right rear portion of the vehicle. V-2's fire was extinguished by an on scene ACSO deputy and had no sustainable damage. Separate small fires had been set in a small metal waste basket, and a houseplant was set on fire on a neighbor's front porch.

While at the scene, Detective Powers developed information from a neighbor that Sade J. Woodard was observed leaving his porch where a houseplant was actively burning. The Alachua County Sheriff's office (ACSO) responded and assisted with latent print and video evidence collection. Later in the investigation, two other witnesses came forward.

At 1322 hours, Detective Powers responded back to the fire scene where ACSO deputies contacted Woodard, who had then returned to her mother's residence. Detective Powers developed probable cause to place Woodard into custody for arson and attempted arson. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office assisted Detective Powers, transporting the defendant to the Alachua County Jail. After being placed into custody, Woodard provided a full confession of setting the fires and stated that she was upset because her mother would not give her money for her drug addiction.



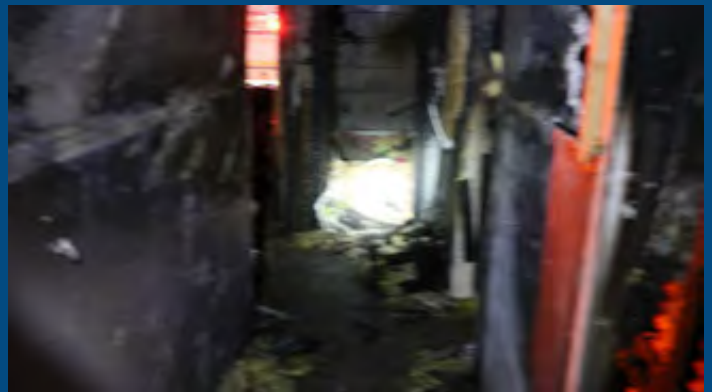
NORTH CENTRAL REGION

DAYTONA BEACH FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-1580 Residential Structure Fire with Injuries, Fatality, and Arrest

Case Agent: Lt. Amelia B. Hitchcock

On 6/13/2020 the Seminole County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the BFAEI at the scene of a structure fire involving a civilian injury. Upon arrival, a fire investigation/examination was conducted and determined that the owner's grandson, Omar Matias, had recently come home from the Marines. It was determined that Matias had poured gasoline on two vehicles in the driveway and on the side of the home, then threw gasoline into his uncle's room and on his uncle, and then set the house on fire with all three individuals still inside the house. Two of the three exited; the third was able to exit yet later died as a result of his injuries. The third individual was Matias's uncle. Graffiti was also found on the fence in the backyard. The house had been occupied by three individuals. Matias was arrested on 7/18/2020 and is charged with one count first-degree murder, one count first-degree arson of an occupied structure, and two counts second-degree arson (vehicles). He is currently awaiting trial.



DAYTONA BEACH FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3328 Residential Fire with Arrest

Case Agent: *Detective Daniel Koehler*

On 11/3/2020, the Deland Fire Department requested the assistance of the BFAEI to assist with a structure fire investigation, located at 104 S. Stone Street, Deland, Florida.

Upon Detective Koehler's arrival, he was made aware by the Deland Police Department that a few weeks prior, the owner/victim Cheryl McMillion, was in an altercation with her live-in boyfriend, William "Kirk" Hamblen. During this altercation, Hamblen allegedly threw McMillion to the ground, causing her hip to break. Hamblen also made statements that he would burn her house down and kill her.

During the origin and cause investigation, all accidental sources of ignition were ruled out in the area of origin. Upon the follow-up investigation, a neighborhood canvas was conducted, and several videos were obtained from surrounding businesses that showed William Hamblen arriving at a business down the street from 104 S. Stone Street in his sister's SUV. Hamblen was seen exiting the driver seat and walking down the street into the backyard of 104 S. Stone Street. Several minutes went by, and a large fireball was seen on video with Hamblen running from the backyard and getting back into the SUV before fleeing the area.

On 11/13/ 2020, Detective Koehler obtained an arrest warrant for William Hamblen, charging him with attempted murder, first-degree arson, and arson resulting in injury. Hamblen was believed to be someplace outside the state of Florida, and he had several ties to about five other states. The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services requested the assistance of the US Marshal Services with the tracking and apprehension of William Hamblen. On 11/30/2020, William Hamblen was taken into custody by the US Marshal Services in North Carolina without incident. Hamblen was extradited to Volusia County, Florida where he is being held under no bond awaiting trial.



ORLANDO BEACH FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-1202 8 Bay Auto Repair Facility Fire

Case Agent: *Detective Nicholas Incontrera*

Orange County Fire Rescue Department responded to 10109 E. Colonial Drive in Orlando, Florida (European Car Service Center), in reference to a fully involved structure fire. The structure is an 8-bay auto repair facility connected to three other stores. The other stores were not affected by fire and only sustained minimal damage. Fire suppression was conducted without incident or injury and the Bureau

of Fire, Arson & Explosives Investigations were requested to conduct an origin and cause investigation. Detective Incontrera and several other members of the Orlando Field Office responded and worked throughout the day to process the fire scene. Investigators were initially unable to make a determination due to the extensive amount of damage and the inability to make safe entry. Several interviews were conducted, and a store-by-store search was conducted for video surveillance. At this time, the fire is not considered suspicious. A total of 15 vehicles were damaged and the building is considered a total loss, including several customer's vehicles that were being repaired. The owner was insured.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

LAKE WALES FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-575, Residential Explosion and Fire

Case Agent: Detective Paul Snider

On 2/25/2020, at approximately 1846 hours, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) requested the investigative assistance of the BFAEI at 2117 Azalea Court in Lakeland, Florida. The request was in reference to a fire/explosion that occurred at approximately 1737 hours at a residential structure. Detective Paul Snider responded and immediately noted what appeared to be trip wires installed on the property to possible Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). He coordinated with LFD and the Polk County Sheriff's Office and evacuated the immediate area and notified Lt. Stacy McIntyre and the BFAEI Explosives Ordinance Disposal Team which responded and conducted an examination and determined them to be hoax devices. Detective Snider's investigation revealed multiple points of origin with a vapor explosion that blew out the rear wall of the structure. Further investigation revealed that Esau Garnelo was in the structure at the time of the explosion and was identified as the suspect. He was interviewed the following day at a local hospital due to injuries received from the explosion and confessed to setting the fires by pouring gasoline throughout the residence and igniting the vapors with a lighter. Mr. Garnelo was arrested upon leaving a medical facility on 3/20/2020 by Detective Snider based on a warrant for first-degree arson. On 2/11/2021, Mr. Garnelo was convicted of first-degree arson and was sentenced to 34.5 months in a Florida state prison with an additional 24-month probation upon his release and ordered to pay restitution and investigative costs.



LAKE WALES FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-2388, Attempted Murder by Fire, Bartow, FL

Case Agent: *Detective David Lockard*

On 9/22/2020 at approximately 0639 hours, Detective David Lockard of the BFAEI was requested by the Bartow Police Department (BPD) to investigate a person being set on fire at a homeless encampment off Church Street in Bartow, FL. Upon his arrival, BPD detectives advised him that the victim was possibly set on fire by a Timothy Jones. The origin and cause investigation confirmed an incendiary fire to a tent structure occupied by the victim. Further investigation confirmed by a statement from the victim that Timothy Jones poured gasoline on the victim which was corroborated by witness interviews.

A warrant was prepared by BPD and BFAEI for first-degree attempted murder and a search for Timothy Jones commenced. He was located later that day and charged with first-degree attempted murder. The victim in this case, while initially critically injured, is currently in a medical rehab facility and is expected to recover.



TAMPA FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3599 Frontier Communication Construction Explosion and Fire

Case Agent: *Hector Noyas*

On 1/23/2020 at approximately 1130 hours, Cedar Hammock Fire Department (CHFD) was dispatched to a gas leak incident at 8th St. Ct. W. and 30th Ave. W., in unincorporated Bradenton, Manatee County. The BFAEI was requested by Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue to assist in the investigation and examination of an explosion scene.

Sub-contractors for Frontier were conducting communication line underground boring operations when a 2-inch natural gas line strike occurred. During the incident, the smell of gas was noticed permeating from the surrounding sewers.

At approximately 1402 hours, an occupied, single story residence addressed at 2921 8th ST., W. and approximately 300 feet east of the gas leak incident site exploded, causing the two male occupants inside to sustain severe burns.

Emergency crews were already on scene of the gas leak and provided immediate care for the injured. Two people were transported as trauma patients to Blake Medical Center by Manatee County EMS units. Burn assessments list both patients with second- and third-degree burns to their face, head, arms, legs, and back. They were both in critical condition and intubated upon arrival to Blake.

The explosion created a sustained fire to the interior Alpha/Bravo corner. The fire damage to the structure was minimal compared to the blast damage. The roof of the structure was blown off, making the exterior and bearing walls of the structure unstable. BFAEI detectives did not enter the structure due to these structural conditions. However, as much information that could be safely gathered regarding how and why the explosion occurred was documented.

The boring operation site was examined and found to have a 2-inch natural gas line with catastrophic damage caused by the boring tip. The gas line was near a sewer line. The highest probable factor found, leading to the explosion, was that the sewer line was filled with natural gas which had made its way into the residence at 2921 8th St., W. The occupants were unaware that the gas had filled the structure, and an unknown source of ignition sparked the explosion.

Follow-up over the next few weeks found that one person died from their injuries, and the other injured person was still recovering from the injuries sustained. It was also revealed that a third occupant was also injured; however, they did not receive severe injury and would make a full recovery. They had not been reported injured at the scene but were later admitted to the hospital for a shock-wave related injury.

TECO/Peoples Gas has made notification with the State Public Service Commission; there is a representation responding to investigate the leak incident. TECO/Peoples Gas also mitigated the damaged pipeline by capping off the line.

No other explosion-related injuries were reported at the time of the incident. One fire fighter was transported to Manatee Memorial Hospital for exhaustion and was treated and later released.



TAMPA FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-98 BB&T Bank ATM Explosion

Case Agent: Detective Sarah Charbonneau

On 11/3/2019 at approximately 0445 hours, Detective Charbonneau was contacted by Tampa dispatch and advised of an explosion at the BB&T bank located at 3902 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, Florida. Contact was made with ATF who were advised of the BB&T explosion.

On 1/12/2020, at approximately 0750 hours, BFAEI Detective Charbonneau was contacted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Tampa Division Special Agent Christopher Nicolussi, who advised her of an explosion at the Regions Bank located at 3522 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, Florida.

Subsequently, Mawdo Malick T. Sallah and Kirk Douglas Johnson II were identified to be involved in the blowing up of four ATM's, three of which were in the Tampa Bay area and one located in Georgia. In all, the pair took nearly \$70,000 from the explosions of the Tampa banks between November 2019 and January 2020.

The pair was arrested on 3/22/2020 after setting off an explosion at an ATM in Watkinsville, Georgia. The pair was unsuccessful at obtaining any money from the Georgia bank. Subsequently, they were both arrested and booked into the Oconee County Jail.

Sallah and Johnson are being held without bond at this time. Charges filed include first-degree arson, manufacturing of an explosive device, damage to property, and conspiracy to commit a felony.



FT. MYERS FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-2023 Fatal Structure Fire with Arrest

Case Agent: *Detective Steve Rice*

On 6/23/2020, a 911 call was placed into the Greater Naples Fire Department to report a structure fire located at 5301 24th Ave, Naples, Florida. The 911 caller advised that he was trapped inside the burning home. First arriving fire units found the structure fully involved in fire. Upon extinguishing the fire, the deceased body of the 911 caller was found inside the structure. There was also another victim, who was seriously injured, trying to help other occupants escape. The BFAEI was requested to determine the origin and cause of the fire. Detective Steve Rice was assigned the investigation, assisted by Lt. Joe Minervini and Detective Jeff Batz with ADK9 Booker. The investigation was worked in conjunction with the Collier County Sheriff's Office Homicide and Forensics units. Based on the findings of the origin and cause investigation, the fire was determined to have been intentionally set by the ignition of a flammable liquid. A juvenile suspect was subsequently identified as one of the occupants of the residence. The suspect was interviewed, and probable cause was established that he was responsible for setting the fire. The suspect was arrested and charged with first-degree arson and second-degree murder.



Case # 20-2980 Structure Fire with Arrest

Case Agent: *Detective Steve Rice*

On 10/1/2020, the Cape Coral Fire Department requested the assistance of the BFAEI at the scene of a structure fire located at 314 SE 15th Street, Cape Coral, Florida. The fire department investigator had interviewed the occupant of the home and was concerned that his explanation was not consistent with what he saw. Detective Steve Rice responded and conducted an origin and cause investigation into the fire. Based on his findings, he determined that the fire was incendiary in nature. Rice found that there were three non-connected fires set throughout the interior of the residence in the kitchen, bathroom, and master bedroom. Interviews and statements obtained in the subsequent latent investigation confirmed that the occupant had admitted to setting the fires because he had a verbal altercation with his mother. Detective Rice established probable cause and placed the occupant of the residence under arrest for first-degree arson.



SOUTH REGION

WEST PALM FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-351 Vehicle Fire Investigation/Arrest

Case Agent: *Detective Alex Galan*

On 2/04/2020, Detective Galan was requested by the City of Miami Fire Rescue (MFR) to provide investigative assistance to determine origin and cause of a vehicle fire located at 351 NW 51st St., Miami, Florida.

Detective Galan, Miami Fire, and Miami Police concluded the investigation with a determination of arson. A mop head had been doused in gasoline, placed inside the gas tank fill tube, and set on fire.

During the origin and cause investigation, Detective Galan was alerted to the presence of a possible suspect. The subject, George Louis Santiago, was detained for questioning and later charged with arson and burglary.



WEST PALM FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-2573 Structure Fire/Arrest

Case Agent: *Detective Howard Bennett*

On 10/21/2020, Detective Bennett was responded to assist with the origin and cause determination of a fire, which took place at a construction site located at 1500 Venera Ave, Coral Gables, Florida.

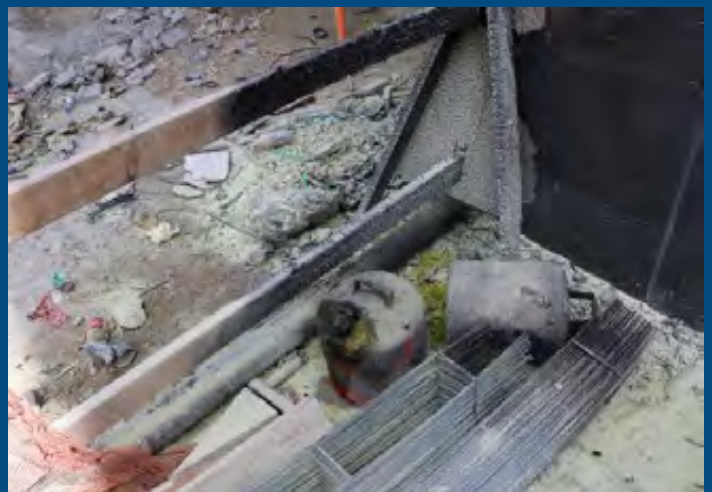
Coral Gables police and fire departments documented reports of a small fire on the second floor, which appeared to be confined to boxes stored near the south wall. This fire was discovered at approximately 0920 hours and was extinguished on site by employees.

A second fire reported at 1326 hours started at the north west exit stairway at the point where the fire standpipe is located. Wooden barricades were part of the fuel at this fire.

Following the origin and cause determination, the fire was classified as Incendiary/Arson. Video footage was collected from nearby video surveillance and indicated an employee as a possible suspect. The employee was positively identified by a supervisor of the construction site. An interview with the employee, Christian Garcia, resulted in his confession to both fires. No injuries were reported as result of the fire.

Christian Garcia was charged with two counts of first-degree arson (occupied structure), one count obstruction of the extinguishment of fire, and one count failure to report or control a dangerous fire.

Garcia was taken into custody by BFAEI and transported to the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center by Coral Gables Police.



PLANTATION FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3138 Wellcraft 42' Cabin Cruiser Fire with Multiple People Injured

Case Agent: *Det. Bryan Dietrich*

On 10/15/2020 Det. Bryan Dietrich responded to a boat explosion at 2029 SW. 29 ST. Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) requested the investigative assistance of the BFAEI.

This request was in reference to an explosion that occurred on a 1988 42' Wellcraft cabin cruiser traveling on the New River in Fort Lauderdale behind the Lauderdale Marine Center. There was a total of 21 people onboard, 13 of which were injured.

The 13 individuals harmed in the boat fire received first- to third-degree burns. Seven patients were transported to Broward Health, including one in stable condition and two in critical condition.



PLANTATION FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3156 \$4 million Commercial Fire with Arrest

Case Agent: Det. Bruce Hoffman

On 10/18/2020, Det. Hoffman and Tapanes responded to a structure/vehicles fire at 3101 NW 16th Ter. Pompano Beach, Florida. The location was the Waste Pro garbage facility. It was in reference to fire damages to ten garbage trucks and a minor fire in the property break room. The fire caused approximately causing \$4 million in damages.

On 10/18/2020, an unknown subject wearing a black garbage bag type suit and goggles entered the Waste Pro facility in Pompano Beach. After the subject forced entry by torching the gate to gain access into the compound, he walked toward the rear of the property alongside the garbage trucks with what appeared to be a gas canister.

Surveillance video of the incident showed the subject walk to the rear of the property and light a garbage truck on fire. The subject then proceeded to walk back toward the front gate, lighting several other garage trucks on fire before opening a door to the building, placing a clear bottle of liquid on the floor and then lighting the liquid, causing the building to catch fire. The suspect was then seen leaving the compound through the gate and fleeing in a black sedan.

The suspect has been arrested and was charged with one count of burglary with structural damage and 11 counts of second-degree arson.



MIAMI FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3838 Rented Structure Fire with Injury and Arrest

Case Agent: *Detective Jeff Clare*

On 12/27/2020 at approximately 0500 hours, Martin County Fire Rescue requested the investigative assistance of the BFAEI. This request was in reference to a structure fire that occurred at 9086 SE Mars St, Hobe Sound, Florida, at approximately 0451 hours. Upon arrival, Det. Clare met with Chief Dan Jouver from the Martin County Fire Rescue. At this time the facts and circumstances surrounding this fire were discussed. Det. Clare was advised that there were injuries as a result of the fire. The fire scene investigation was conducted at the request and under the authority of the Martin County Fire Rescue. Chief Jouver stated that upon their arrival, they found the structure was secured with an injured male in the driveway. He stated they found smoke coming from the structure eaves. There was power to the structure and upon entry, fire department personnel found fire in four separate locations within the structure with an odor of an accelerant present. The fire was extinguished with no problems. Preliminary findings reveal the 70-year-old renter had attempted to harm himself by igniting four separate fires within the structure. This was confirmed by MCFR firefighter Michael Messier whom questioned the renter about the fire. The renter was later airlifted to Jackson Memorial Burn Center for internal lung damage due to smoke inhalation. A suicide note (letter) addressed to the suspect's daughter was later recovered inside the mailbox.

An arson arrest warrant for was Vick Hansen approved and later entered into the active warrant database.



MIAMI FIELD OFFICE

Case # 20-3209 Mobile Home Fire Arrest Warrant Issued

Case Agent: *Det. Jeff Clare*

On 10/25/2020, at approximately 0730 hours, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue requested the investigative assistance of the BFAEI. This request was in reference to a structure fire that occurred at 11600 NE 101st Street, Okeechobee, Florida, at approximately 0656 hours. Upon arrival, Det. Clare met with Capt. Ryan Hathaway from the Okeechobee County Fire Rescue. The facts and circumstances surrounding this fire were discussed during this meeting. Det. Clare was advised there were no injuries or fatalities as a result of the fire. The fire scene investigation was

conducted at the request and under the authority of the Okeechobee County Fire Rescue. Capt. Hathaway stated that upon their arrival, they found the structure was vacant and unsecured. He stated that they found smoke coming from the southeast side of the structure.

An arson arrest warrant was issued for Thomas Andrew Seals. The warrant was entered into the active warrant database.

On 01/31/2021, at 0500 hours, Highlands County SO arrested Thomas Andrew Seals for grand theft motor vehicle and driving with a suspended or revoked driver license. A hold was placed on him in Highlands County for the Okeechobee County first-degree arson arrest warrant.





FIELD OPERATIONS

DISTRICT 1

Major **Thomas Bosco** is in command of Field Operations for District One, which comprises three geographic regions (Northwest, North and Northeast). Major Bosco is headquartered in Tallahassee and can be contacted by phone at (850) 413-3909.

NORTHWEST REGION

The Northwest Region is under the command of Captain Chris Welsh. The region has three field offices serving the twenty-one western most Florida counties, totaling 15,783 square miles.

Lt. John Bell supervises the Pensacola office. He and six law enforcement detectives respond to calls for service in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and North Walton Counties.) Lt. Matt Streichert coordinates the activities of four law enforcement detectives assigned to the Panama City office. This office covers South Walton, Bay, Holmes, Washington, and Gulf counties. Lt. Jason Roberts supervises the field operations of the six detectives in the Tallahassee field office. The Tallahassee field office coverage area consists of Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla counties.

The region is supported by an administrative secretary and two crime intelligence analysts located in Pensacola and Tallahassee.

The Northwest Region responded to 558 requests for service and fielded 57 fire consultations this year. Of those requests 155 were accidental fires and 155 incendiary (intentional) fires were investigated. These fire investigations included 378 structures and 99 vehicles.

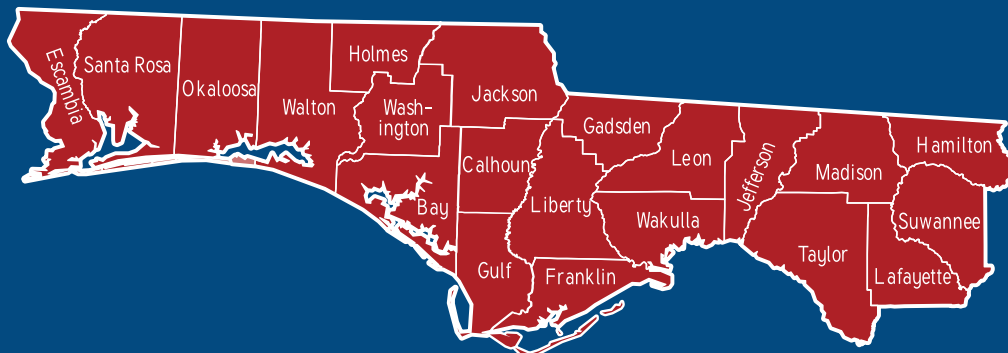
Pensacola Office: (850) 453-7803

Panama City Office: (850) 747-5888

Tallahassee Field Office: (850) 413-3900

Counties of Assignment: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Holmes, Washington, and Gulf. Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla

Specialized Units: Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team (EOD), Accelerant Detection Canine Team (ADC), Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), and Crime Intelligence Analyst (CIA).



NORTHEAST REGION

The Northeast Region is under the command of Captain Matt Legler and encompasses fourteen counties in the Northeast Florida area. The region is divided into two field offices, Jacksonville and Ocala. Both field offices are supported by administrative secretaries. The region has one Crime Intelligence Analyst. Lieutenants Ernest Cooper and Joseph Pietrafesa lead the Jacksonville squad of detectives serving seven counties. There are five detectives in the Jacksonville Field Office. The Ocala Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Tommy Pudlo and serves nine counties. There are seven law enforcement detectives assigned to the Ocala Field Office.

The Northeast Region responded to 743 requests for service and fielded 97 fire consultations this year. Of those requests 206 accidental fires and 281 incendiary (intentional) fires were investigated. These fire investigations included 460 structures and 198 vehicles.

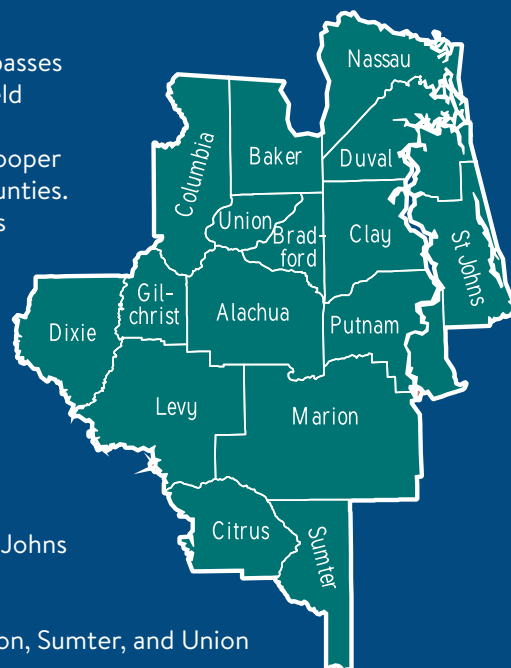
Jacksonville Field Office: (904) 798-5804

Counties of Assignment: Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns

Ocala Field Office: (352) 369-2801

Counties of Assignment: Alachua, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Sumter, and Union

Specialized Units: Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Team Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA)
Crime Intelligence Analyst



DISTRICT 2

Major **Phil Roman** is in command of Field Operations for District Two, which comprises three geographic regions (North Central, South Central and South). Major Roman is headquartered in Lake Wales and may be contacted by phone at (863) 679-4185.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

The North Central Region is under the command of Captain Paul Patterson and consists of seven counties which are served by two field offices, one in Orlando and the other in Daytona Beach.

The Orlando Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Cindy Campina; Lieutenant Amelia B. Hitchcock leads the Daytona Beach Field Office. Both field offices are supported by administrative secretaries. The Orlando Field Office covers a three-county area and is supported by eight law enforcement detectives. The Daytona Beach Field Office covers a five-county area and is supported by five law enforcement detectives.

The North Central Region responded to 4,477 requests for service and fielded 51 fire consultations this year. Of those requests 122 accidental fires and 151 incendiary (intentional) fires were investigated. These fire investigations included 282 structures and 132 vehicles.

Orlando Field Office: (407) 893-3654

Counties of Assignment: Orange, Osceola and Lake

Daytona Beach Field Office: (386) 323-0904

Counties of Assignment: Brevard, Seminole, Volusia and Flagler

Specialized Units: Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), Crime Intelligence Analyst,
Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Team



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

The South Central Region is under the command of Captain Cindy Campina and consists of 13 counties, totaling 11,568 square miles. The region has field offices in Tampa, Lake Wales and Ft Myers.

The Tampa Field Office serves six counties, is under the supervision of Lt. Raul Vallejo and is supported by six law enforcement detectives, an administrative secretary, and a crime intelligence analyst supervisor. The Lake Wales Field Office covers four counties, is supervised by Lt. Stacy McIntyre and is supported by eight law enforcement detectives and an administrative secretary. The Ft. Myers Field Office covers three counties, is supervised by Lt. Joseph Minervini, supported by five law enforcement detectives and an administrative secretary.

The South-Central Region responded to 696 requests for service and fielded 134 fire consultations in 2020. Of those requests 213 fires were classified as accidental and 190 were classified as incendiary (intentional). These fire investigations included 386 structures and 184 vehicles. The South-Central Region EOD team responded to 59 requests for service.

Tampa Field Office: (813) 972-8604
Counties of Assignment: Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota.

Lake Wales Field Office: (863) 679-4180
Counties of Assignment: Polk, Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto.

Ft. Myers Field Office: (239) 278-7525
Counties of Assignment: Charlotte, Collier, and Lee.

Specialized Units: Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team (EOD), Accelerant Detection Canine Team (ADC), Explosives Ordnance Disposal Canine Team (EODC) a Criminal Intelligence Analyst Supervisor (CIAS) and a Criminal Intelligence Analyst.



SOUTH REGION

The South Region is supervised by Captain Ross Holt and consists of ten counties, with offices located in, West Palm Beach, Miami, and Plantation.

The Plantation Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant James Milton and consists of five detectives responsible for providing service to Broward County. The West Palm Beach Office has four law enforcement detectives under the supervision of Lieutenant Anthony Mozealous who are responsible for serving seven counties. The Miami Office has five law enforcement detectives, under the supervision of Lieutenant Edwin Tapanes, responsible for providing service to two counties.

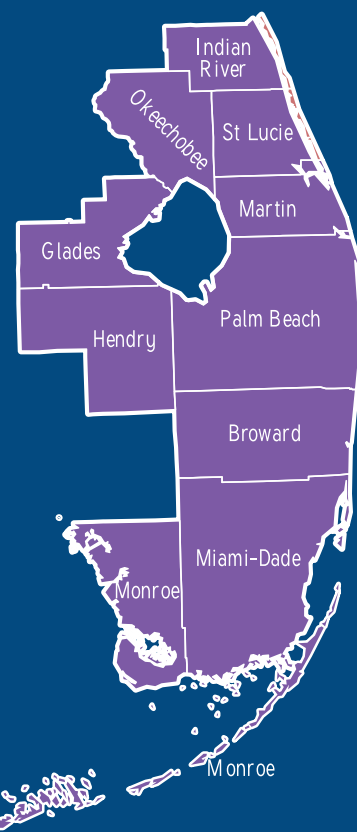
The South Region responded to 495 requests for service and fielded 93 fire consultations this year. Of those requests, 160 accidental fires and 142 incendiary (intentional) fires were investigated. These fire investigations included 252 structure and 129 vehicle fires.

Plantation Field Office: (954) 321-3704
Counties of Assignment: Broward

West Palm Beach Office: (561) 640-6704
Counties of Assignment: Glades, Hendry, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie

Miami Field Office: (954) 321-3704
Counties of Assignment: Dade, and Monroe

Specialized Units: Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), Criminal Intelligence Analyst and an Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Team.





CIVILIAN DEATHS FROM FIRES

Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section

The following civilian fire death statistics are based on death certificates received from the 24 Regional Medical Examiner offices in the State of Florida, identifying the underlying or sub-causes of fire-related deaths. The Department of Health (DOH), Office of Vital Statistics, then applies the proper codes for the cause of death, using codes defined by the tenth revision of the International Classification of Disease (ICD).

Based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire deaths and only fire deaths are primarily identified by the code range for accidental fire exposure X00-X09. The X00-X09 range includes most, but not all, fire deaths. The code refers to uncontrolled vs. controlled building/structure or non-building/structure fires. Using these guidelines, the State of Florida had a total of **103** civilian fire deaths.

Deaths due to homicides (X97) and suicides (X76) involving smoke, fire or flames, pathological fire-setting (F63.1), discharge of fireworks (W39) and exposures to smoke, fire or

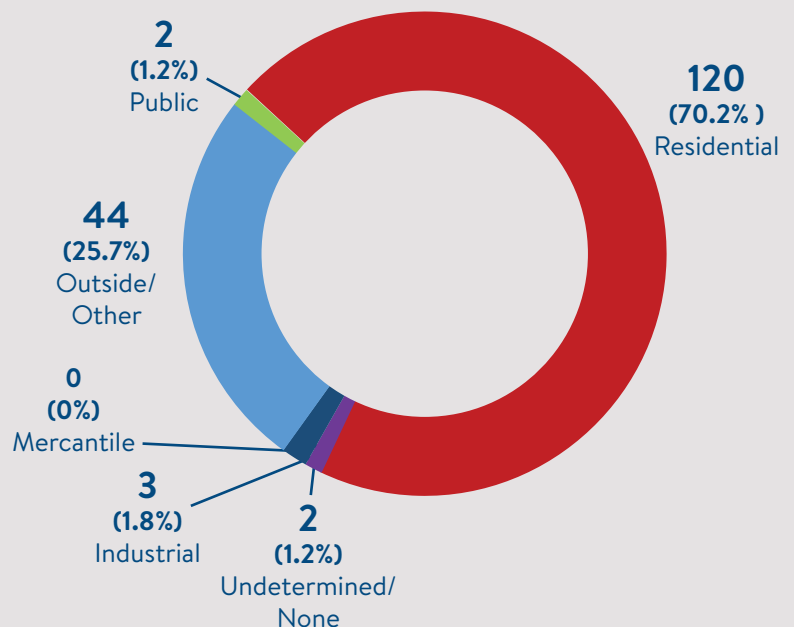
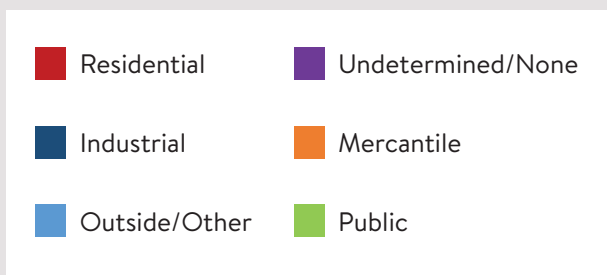
flame with undetermined intent (Y26) are not included in the NFPA standards, but are included by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Tri-Data and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) when performing state-by-state analysis. Utilizing the five additional categories based on their methodology, the State of Florida civilian fire fatalities would increase to **122** (an additional **18%**).

Excluded from NFPA, CPSC, Tri-Data and USFA analyses are fire deaths in vehicles, which would increase the civilian fire deaths in 2020 to **161** (an additional **32%**). The State of Florida has included in its analysis deaths due to explosions (code range W35-W40), intentional self-harm by explosive materials (X75), assault by explosive materials (X96) and contact with explosive materials, undetermined intent (Y25). These deaths are not readily identifiable in the DOH Vital Statistics Database. The additional 8 categories bring Florida civilian fire and explosion fatalities to **167** (a further increase of **4%**). The Catastrophic storm/flood code (X37) was added to the year's total bringing it to **171**.



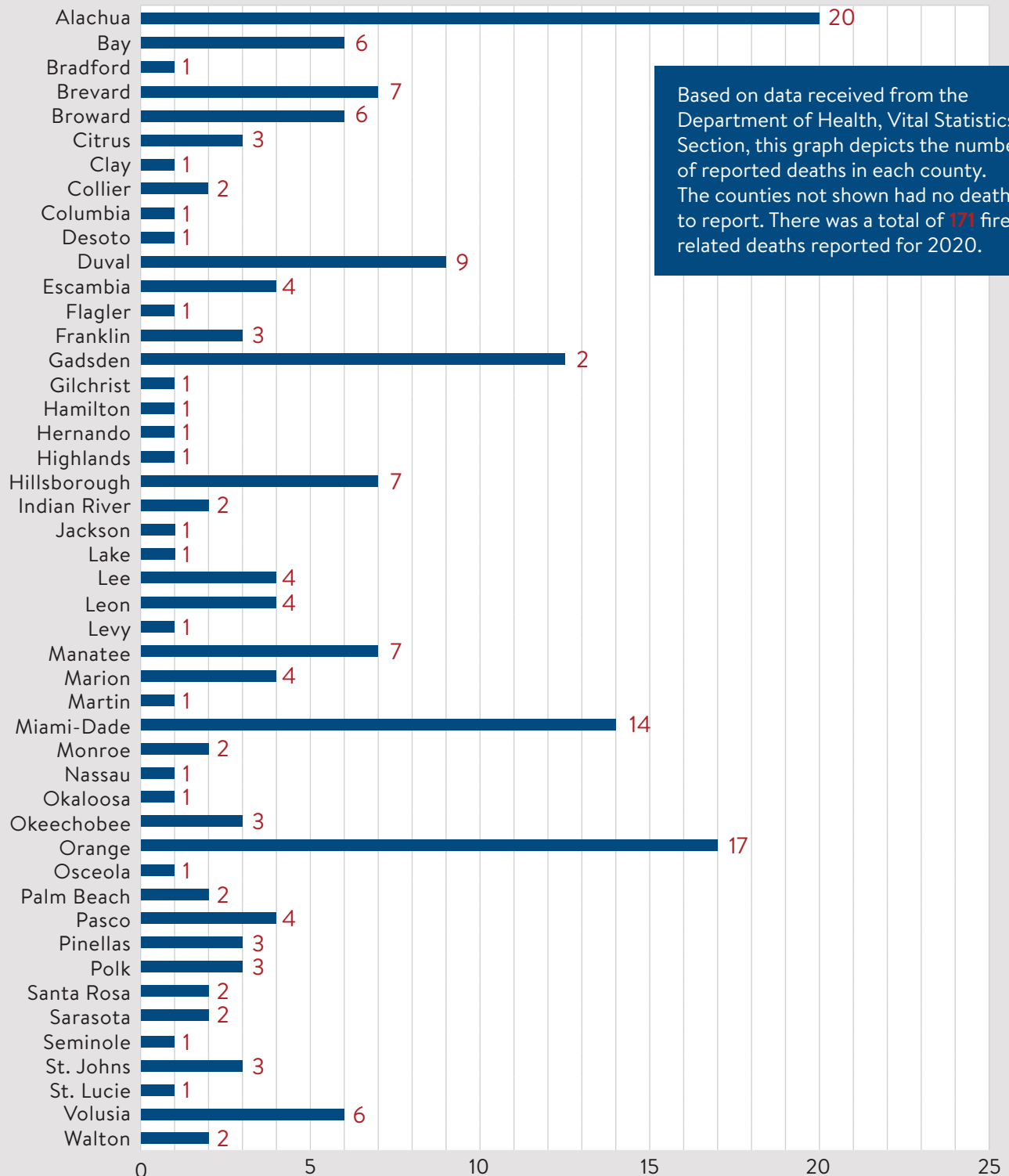
CIVILIAN DEATHS FROM FIRES BY PROPERTY USE

The following graph depicts **171** civilians that died in 2020 from fire related incidents based on data received from the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section. This represents a **13.91%** decrease in total fire related deaths compared to 2019.





CIVILIAN DEATHS BY COUNTY

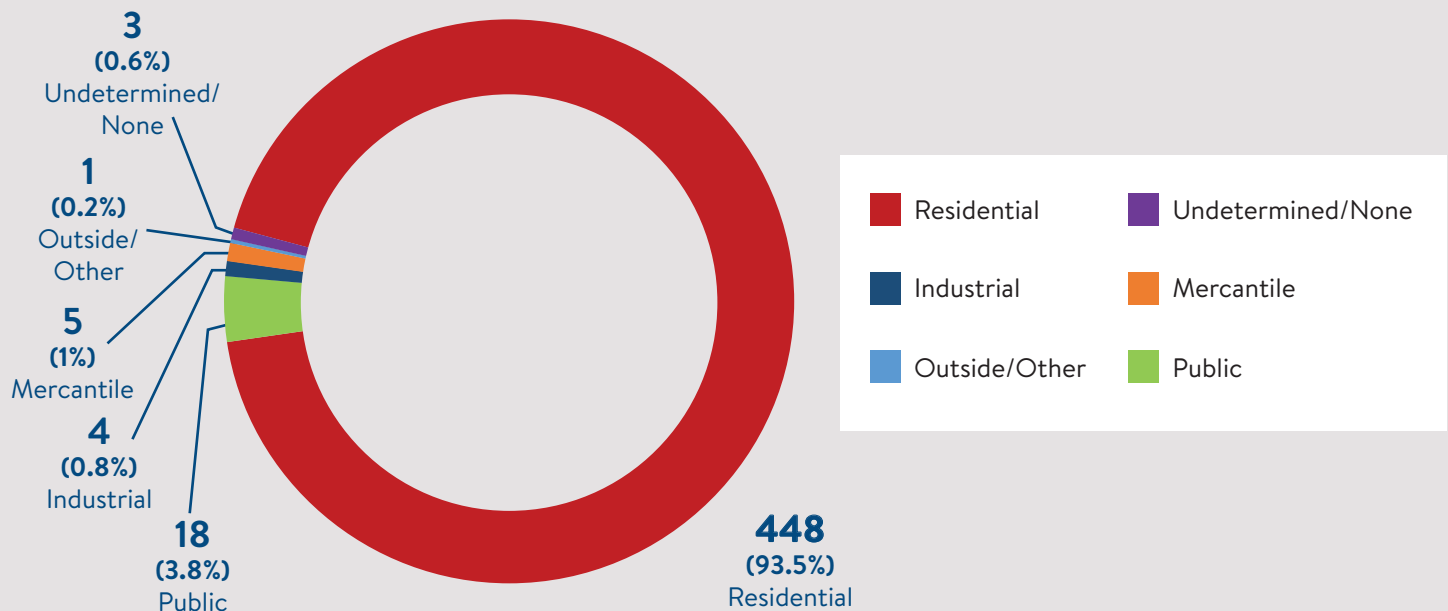


High numbers in Alachua, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade and Orange Counties, are because these areas house the regional trauma and burn centers.



CIVILIAN INJURIES FROM FIRES BY PROPERTY USE

During 2020, **479** civilians were injured from fires (based on data received from the State Fire Marshal Office). Residential properties continue to have the greatest number of fire injuries among structure fires. Each year, many factors contribute to the number of fire-related injuries, but cooking remains one of the most prominent factors with **24%** of residential property fires originating in the kitchen.





FLORIDA COUNTIES FIRE AND NON-FIRE TOTALS

Counties	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	Exposures	Total Fires	Rescue EMS	Other Calls	False Alarms
Alachua (11)	258	134	587	2	979	3036	3214	2268
Baker (52)	6	4	6	0	16	552	102	39
Bay (23)	266	105	330	3	701	14648	6997	2022
Bradford (45)	42	21	95	1	158	736	344	50
Brevard (19)	475	279	866	20	1620	57409	23052	3787
Broward (10)	1185	927	1155	33	3267	184006	65292	20747
Calhoun (58)	11	6	46	0	63	216	103	1
Charlotte (53)	122	92	456	13	670	25717	6884	1164
Citrus (47)	99	122	300	48	521	4019	3073	512
Clay (48)	137	80	248	6	465	17861	5501	1020
Collier (64)	218	147	641	58	1006	35550	15798	4735
Columbia (29)	70	83	155	6	308	4498	1726	282
Desoto (34)	36	20	161	0	217	3625	534	138
Dixie (54)	26	19	50	0	95	3208	317	27
Duval (02)	508	395	1348	2	2251	107870	33128	8802
Escambia (09)	443	191	919	33	1553	8756	8512	2969
Flagler (61)	96	78	146	2	320	15724	8656	880
Franklin (59)	6	3	32	0	41	288	31	6
Gadsden (21)	110	66	162	3	338	606	1384	374
Gilchrist (55)	5	4	18	0	27	373	129	11
Glades (60)	18	13	48	0	79	899	227	28
Gulf (66)	8	1	24	0	33	27	29	9
Hamilton (56)	94	56	97	0	247	295	202	21
Hardee (30)	25	23	145	0	193	3233	761	184
Hendry (49)	48	39	317	0	404	6941	3719	340
Hernando (40)	117	75	222	6	414	20799	4816	1091
Highlands (27)	104	46	191	5	341	12813	2434	569
Hillsborough (03)	422	275	1074	10	1771	78850	16456	5659
Holmes (51)	36	31	65	0	132	216	323	30
Indian River (32)	59	19	247	1	325	13985	1739	748
Jackson (25)	177	90	315	0	582	5914	939	219
Jefferson (46)	14	14	57	0	85	110	183	47
Lafayette (62)	3	0	3	0	6	3	0	0
Lake (12)	560	176	715	13	1451	42159	12546	2343
Lee (18)	496	360	1235	17	2091	62872	29890	5085
Leon (13)	337	168	630	44	1135	17376	8440	1883
Levy (39)	37	18	125	0	180	2475	898	62
Liberty (67)	7	4	40	0	51	52	28	1



FLORIDA COUNTIES FIRE AND NON-FIRE TOTALS

Counties	Total Incidents	Add Mutual Aid Given	Total Responses	Total Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
Alachua (11)	9497	398	9895	8940897	10	6
Baker (52)	709	4	713	167400	0	0
Bay (23)	24368	358	24726	5210668	2	5
Bradford (45)	1288	108	1396	1177574	4	0
Brevard (19)	85868	3490	89358	19317385	18	32
Broward (10)	273312	3623	276935	47587151	27	357
Calhoun (58)	383	150	533	44000	0	0
Charlotte (53)	34435	4575	39010	6268530	7	5
Citrus (47)	8125	1188	9313	5946949	15	6
Clay (48)	24847	1398	26245	3267123	7	22
Collier (64)	57089	25874	82963	17930791	15	315
Columbia (29)	6814	80	6894	3395607	1	2
Desoto (34)	4514	147	4661	3409554	2	4
Dixie (54)	3647	86	3733	138000	0	0
Duval (02)	152051	2940	154991	0	36	0
Escambia (09)	21790	231	22021	12196091	16	13
Flagler (61)	25580	1200	26780	3016789	0	0
Franklin (59)	366	5	371	28500	0	0
Gadsden (21)	2702	269	2971	1707961	0	3
Gilchrist (55)	540	83	623	19300	0	0
Glades (60)	1233	8	1241	504300	0	0
Gulf (66)	98	44	142	58730	0	0
Hamilton (56)	765	195	960	737000	1	4
Hardee (30)	4371	26	4397	1122162	0	0
Hendry (49)	11404	133	11537	234151	0	54
Hernando (40)	27120	118	27238	3881665	8	2
Highlands (27)	16157	78	16235	3997901	1	4
Hillsborough (03)	102736	735	103471	6969354	34	47
Holmes (51)	701	116	817	390932	0	0
Indian River (32)	16797	12	16809	1262860	0	2
Jackson (25)	7654	408	8062	4168328	0	0
Jefferson (46)	425	35	460	807950	0	0
Lafayette (62)	9	3	12	0	0	0
Lake (12)	58499	2704	61203	6777675	10	124
Lee (18)	99938	6620	106558	113349338	21	27
Leon (13)	28834	1071	29905	16894902	9	6
Levy (39)	3615	1777	5392	418951	0	0
Liberty (67)	132	29	161	1639000	0	0



FLORIDA COUNTIES FIRE AND NON-FIRE TOTALS

Counties	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	Exposures	Total Fires	Rescue EMS	Other Calls	False Alarms
Madison (35)	37	40	57	1	134	2151	475	65
Manatee (15)	227	143	437	11	807	19858	6995	2883
Marion (14)	297	284	957	0	1538	15315	12403	2242
Martin (42)	87	73	202	1	362	22418	7400	1560
Miami-Dade (01)	1183	1021	1734	121	3938	188386	33399	23401
Monroe (38)	57	35	96	0	188	9182	2213	1107
Nassau (41)	83	47	115	2	245	8207	2289	490
Okaloosa (43)	385	89	271	1	745	17530	6310	1812
Okeechobee (57)	73	38	135	2	246	6868	1061	118
Orange (07)	1068	583	1526	17	3177	141513	25697	15442
Osceola (26)	310	198	406	9	914	35990	8229	3454
Palm Beach (06)	832	483	941	1	2256	155586	39603	14698
Pasco (28)	327	233	628	73	1188	63791	14774	2707
Pinellas (04)	1096	342	815	22	2253	169998	21558	8567
Polk (05)	644	370	1284	45	2298	86195	23437	3370
Putnam (22)	20	11	26	0	57	2090	433	176
Santa Rosa (33)	416	100	404	0	920	6894	4111	986
Sarasota (16)	274	158	634	8	1066	60070	9570	3710
Seminole (17)	352	159	488	23	999	42145	10699	3624
St. Johns (20)	280	104	282	4	666	22739	6001	2002
St. Lucie (24)	296	126	254	0	676	37078	4692	1720
Sumter (44)	90	51	145	0	286	14886	7824	706
Suwannee (31)	18	43	105	4	166	9611	563	126
Taylor (37)	47	26	91	0	164	443	563	52
Union (63)	16	9	49	2	74	64	252	20
Volusia (08)	478	253	711	7	1442	48365	21728	3709
Wakulla (65)	44	25	85	6	154	258	394	56
Walton (36)	175	83	429	0	687	10696	3388	1052
Washington (50)	5	2	8	0	15	11	44	3
Total Incidents	15,898	9,313	26,586	686	51,797	1,956,055	544,512	168,011
Mutual Aid	2,798	661	2,225		5,684	55,012	33,069	4,408
Total Responses	18,696	9,974	28,811	686	57,481	2,011,067	577,581	172,419

* No Data Received

The above statistics are based on the data submitted by 441 fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) in 2020.



FLORIDA COUNTIES FIRE AND NON-FIRE TOTALS

Counties	Total Incidents	Add Mutual Aid Given	Total Responses	Approximate Total Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
Madison (35)	2825	36	2861	1054880	0	0
Manatee (15)	30543	681	31224	7459531	4	9
Marion (14)	31498	274	31772	11180847	20	3
Martin (42)	31740	1515	33255	3589829	12	4
Miami-Dade (01)	249124	199	249323	49873769	1	439
Monroe (38)	12690	201	12891	755074	3	0
Nassau (41)	11231	56	11287	2288741	0	23
Okaloosa (43)	26397	1537	27934	2049245	3	3
Okeechobee (57)	8293	56	8349	1186750	8	3
Orange (07)	185829	3047	188876	21578514	49	108
Osceola (26)	48587	1445	50032	7131829	21	354
Palm Beach (06)	212143	1890	214033	23363769	75	565
Pasco (28)	82460	1197	83657	13314496	32	11
Pinellas (04)	202376	6459	208835	32422330	83	2493
Polk (05)	115300	1239	116539	25944058	26	20
Putnam (22)	2756	27	2783	370801	0	0
Santa Rosa (33)	12911	842	13753	2449823	7	105
Sarasota (16)	74416	1699	76115	8480591	13	9
Seminole (17)	57467	7608	65075	25705785	39	48
St. Johns (20)	31408	587	31995	2738576	4	0
St. Lucie (24)	44166	9	44175	3289769	0	0
Sumter (44)	23702	433	24135	1682340	5	2
Suwannee (31)	10466	75	10541	3172180	1	0
Taylor (37)	1222	33	1255	1743190	0	0
Union (63)	410	4	414	738611	9	0
Volusia (08)	75244	5860	81104	13996347	17	31
Wakulla (65)	862	5	867	1267320	5	0
Walton (36)	15823	835	16658	14075256	5	10
Washington (50)	73	5	78	250005	0	0
Total Incidents	2,720,375	98,173	2,818,548	\$586,139,725	686	5,280
Mutual Aid	98,173	98,173				
Total Responses	2,818,548	196,346	2,818,548	\$586,139,725	686	5,280

* Departments must be compliant under the Firefighter's Occupational Safety and Health Act, Rule Chapter 69A-62 and Florida Statutes 633.801 – 633.821, as well as other Florida statutes and rules to be recognized as a fire department + Fires reported after the initial deadline for reporting to FFIRS prior to publication.



FLORIDA WILDFIRES BY COUNTY AND ACRES BURNED

Class	Total Fires		A 0.1 - 0.2 AC		B 0.3 - 9 AC	
County	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres
All Counties	1,968	44,176.5	429	47.1	1,168	2,576.90
Alachua	39	352.8	3	0.4	28	69.4
Baker	26	151.1	8	0.9	14	33.2
Bay	49	1,178.0	16	1.6	18	40
Bradford	40	73.1	10	1	28	40.8
Brevard	25	1,788.4	3	0.3	14	32.1
Broward	8	2,505.0	0	0	3	13
Calhoun	26	421.1	5	0.5	14	34.6
Charlotte	50	664.6	5	0.5	31	92.4
Citrus	56	308.6	7	0.8	43	115.8
Clay	31	414.7	8	0.9	15	32.1
Collier	44	9,363.3	4	0.5	25	60.3
Columbia	37	82.2	17	1.8	17	50.4
DeSoto	19	431.9	4	0.4	7	15.8
Dixie	36	156.6	12	1.4	22	40.2
Duval	15	180.5	2	0.2	11	37.3
Escambia	16	1,221.2	3	0.4	12	29.8
Flagler	20	88.1	4	0.4	14	55.7
Franklin	22	112.9	7	0.7	12	30.2
Gadsden	17	74.9	3	0.3	13	24.6
Gilchrist	4	68.0	0	0	3	8
Glades	24	219.6	7	0.8	12	33.8
Gulf	14	158.1	1	0.1	8	14
Hamilton	23	36.2	12	1.3	10	14.9
Hardee	14	114.2	2	0.2	9	32
Hendry	42	1,993.2	8	0.8	25	66.9
Hernando	24	574.5	4	0.5	18	51
Highlands	70	412.0	20	2.3	41	75.4
Hillsborough	27	107.2	1	0.1	21	44.1
Holmes	10	17.6	3	0.3	6	7.3
Indian River	16	35.1	7	0.7	7	13.4
Jackson	41	87.6	10	1.1	29	51.5
Jefferson	5	3.6	1	0.1	4	3.5
Lafayette	22	45.7	8	1.1	13	34.6
Lake	32	450.0	3	0.2	22	42.1



FLORIDA WILDFIRES BY COUNTY AND ACRES BURNED

Class	C 10 - 99 AC		D 100 - 299 AC		E 300 - 999 AC		F 1000 - 4999 AC		G 5000 & Up	
County	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres
All Counties	300	8,642.30	46	6,969.20	19	10,441.00	5	7,250.00	1	8,250.00
Alachua	7	151	1	132	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baker	4	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bay	9	132	6	1,004.40	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	2	31.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brevard	6	266	0	0	2	1,490.00	0	0	0	0
Broward	1	40	2	400	0	0	2	2,052.00	0	0
Calhoun	6	273	1	113	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlotte	13	340.7	1	231	0	0	0	0	0	0
Citrus	6	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay	6	119.7	2	262	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collier	11	402	2	290.5	1	360	0	0	1	8,250.00
Columbia	3	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeSoto	7	267.7	1	148	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dixie	1	15	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duval	1	38	1	105	0	0	0	0	0	0
Escambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,191.00	0	0
Flagler	2	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	3	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadsden	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gilchrist	1	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glades	5	185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gulf	5	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardee	3	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hendry	5	250.5	1	160	3	1,515.00	0	0	0	0
Hernando	1	20	0	0	1	503	0	0	0	0
Highlands	8	234.3	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillsborough	5	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holmes	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian River	2	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	2	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lafayette	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake	6	223.7	1	184	0	0	0	0	0	0



FLORIDA WILDFIRES BY COUNTY AND ACRES BURNED

Class County	Total Fires		A 0.1 - 0.2 AC		B 0.3 - 9 AC	
	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres
Lee	65	315.5	11	1.1	41	66.7
Leon	7	9.7	3	0.4	4	9.3
Levy	75	542.8	12	1.3	55	77.5
Liberty	11	59.9	5	0.6	5	14.3
Madison	45	57.5	22	2.7	22	34.8
Manatee	18	252.6	3	0.3	10	30.3
Marion	46	598.8	6	0.6	31	82.3
Martin	17	269.9	6	0.6	6	7.3
Miami-Dade	51	4,180.1	3	0.3	28	71.8
Monroe	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Nassau	15	80.7	5	0.5	8	8.2
Okaloosa	16	607.7	2	0.2	11	30.5
Okeechobee	40	130.8	18	1.8	18	47
Orange	21	384.4	2	0.2	15	35.2
Osceola	15	253.1	0	0	9	28.1
Palm Beach	12	1,749.2	2	0.2	5	9
Pasco	15	185.8	0	0	13	25.8
Pinellas	3	103.0	1	0	1	1
Polk	118	3,545.1	6	0.9	63	168.9
Putnam	65	386.5	7	1	45	66.9
Santa Rosa	37	2,529.4	7	0.7	20	28.9
Sarasota	27	121.5	6	0.6	18	43.4
Seminole	3	3.6	1	0.1	2	3.5
St. Johns	40	320.5	11	1.3	24	50.1
St. Lucie	19	529.0	8	0.9	6	14.1
Sumter	16	336.7	4	0.4	9	22.3
Suwannee	42	156.7	9	1	28	54.7
Taylor	48	99.9	23	2.9	23	42
Union	22	76.1	8	0.8	12	12.3
Volusia	62	1,412.1	16	1.7	34	83.6
Wakulla	13	29.7	5	0.5	7	3.2
Walton	24	797.6	6	0.6	14	30
Washington	16	159.0	3	0.3	12	33.7

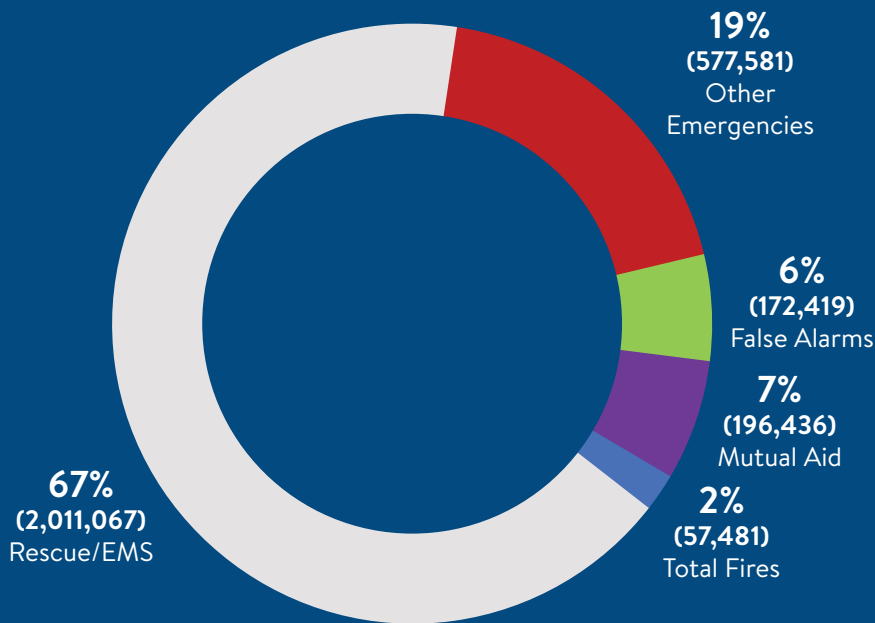


FLORIDA WILDFIRES BY COUNTY AND ACRES BURNED

Class	C 10 - 99 AC		D 100 - 299 AC		E 300 - 999 AC		F 1000 - 4999 AC		G 5000 & Up	
County	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres	# Fires	# Acres
Lee	13	247.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Levy	6	166	2	298	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liberty	1	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manatee	4	79	1	143	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	7	199.9	2	316	0	0	0	0	0	0
Martin	4	134	1	128	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miami-Dade	15	452	1	225	3	1,639.00	1	1,792.00	0	0
Monroe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nassau	2	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Okaloosa	2	40	0	0	1	537	0	0	0	0
Okeechobee	4	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orange	3	139	1	210	0	0	0	0	0	0
Osceola	6	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palm Beach	2	40	1	100	2	1,600.00	0	0	0	0
Pasco	1	50	1	110	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinellas	0	0	1	102	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polk	40	1,147.00	6	873.3	3	1,355.00	0	0	0	0
Putnam	13	318.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Rosa	9	284.8	0	0	0	0	1	2,215.00	0	0
Sarasota	3	77.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seminole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Johns	4	139.1	1	130	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Lucie	3	79	1	104	1	331	0	0	0	0
Sumter	1	28	2	286	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suwannee	5	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor	2	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	2	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volusia	10	378.8	1	180	1	768	0	0	0	0
Wakulla	1	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walton	1	15	2	409	1	343	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	1	125	0	0	0	0	0	0



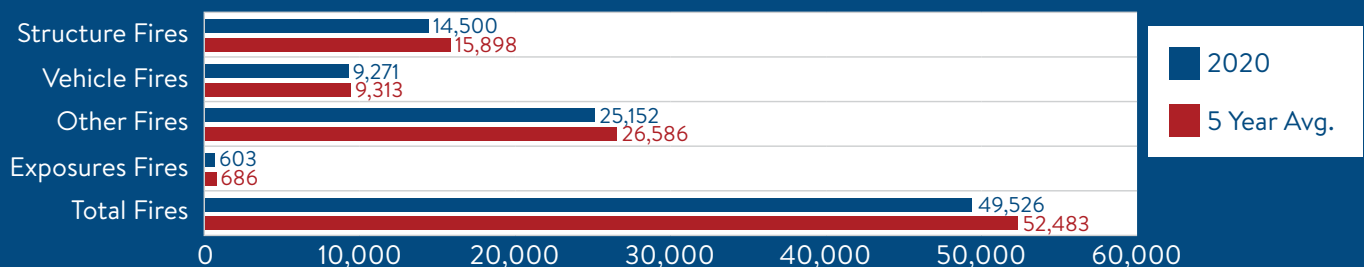
2020 SUMMARY STATISTICS



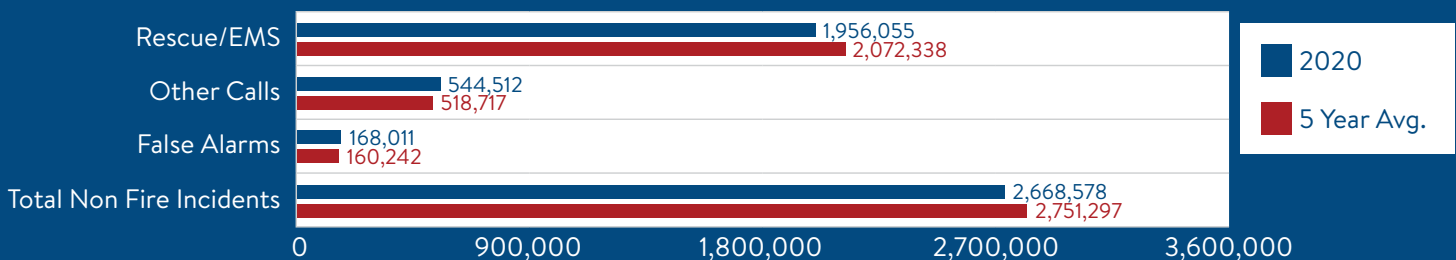
In 2020, fire departments responded to a total of **2,818,548** incidents, which generated slightly higher requests for fire department services than in 2019. Total fire response incidents increased slightly by **2.39%** and total dollar loss increased by **30.6%** based on 2020 data. The number of fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) was **339**, which is a decrease of **21.53%** from the previous year, due primarily to consolidation of smaller agencies into larger ones or disbanding of a few rather than decreased participation in the reporting program.

2020 State Incident Summary Compared to (2016-2020) 5 Yr. Average

2020 FIRES

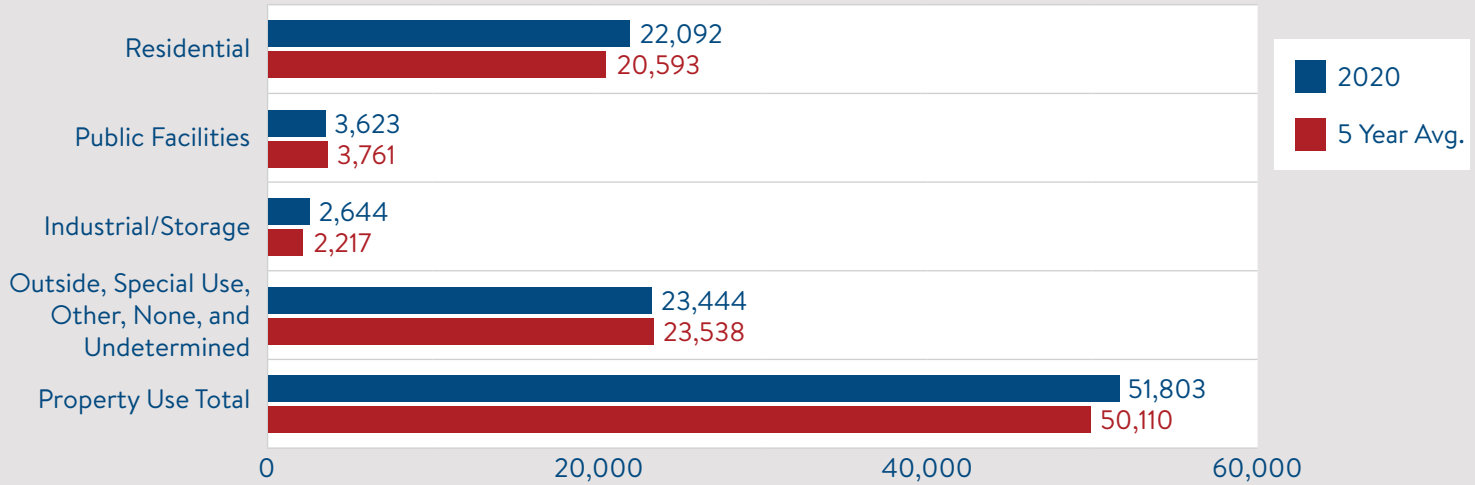


2020 NON FIRE RELATED INCIDENTS





TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF FIRES BY PROPERTY USE

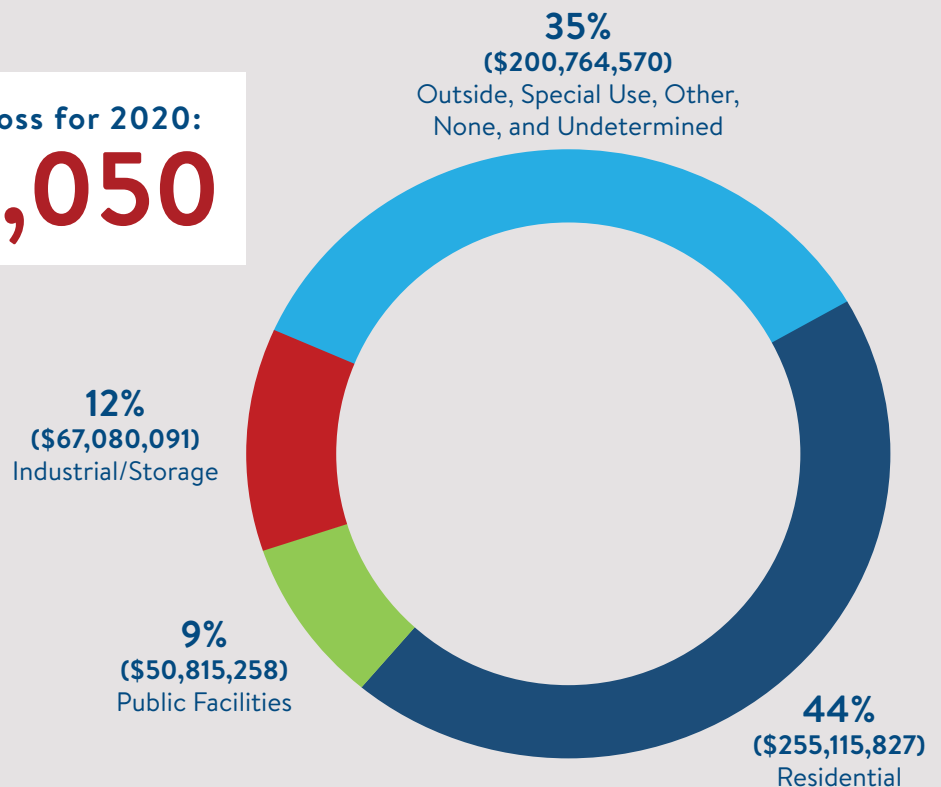


TOTAL STATE DOLLAR LOSS

Reported Value of Property Loss for 2020:

\$450,676,050

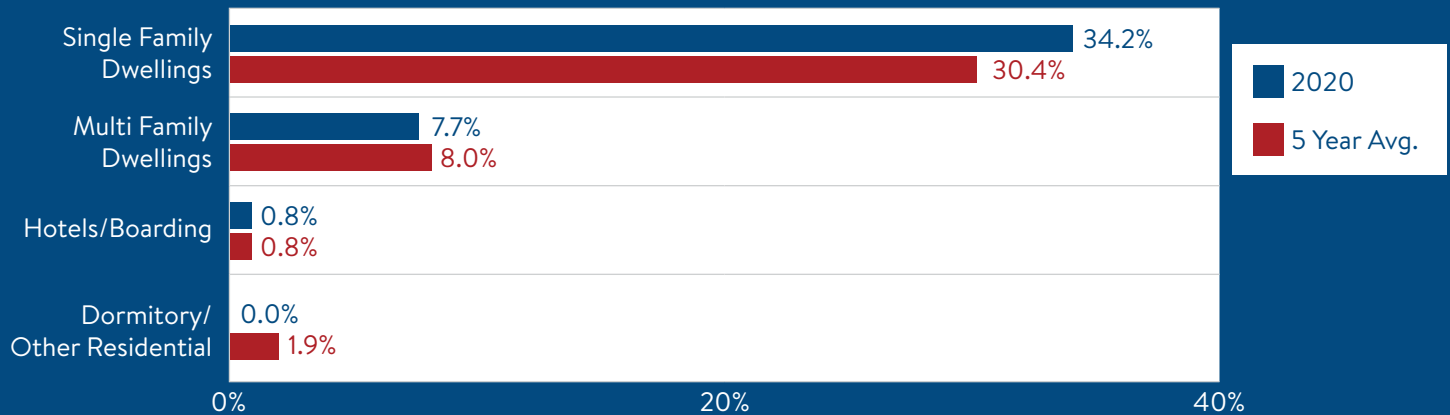
- Residential
- Outside, Special Use, Other, None, and Undetermined
- Public Facilities
- Industrial/Storage





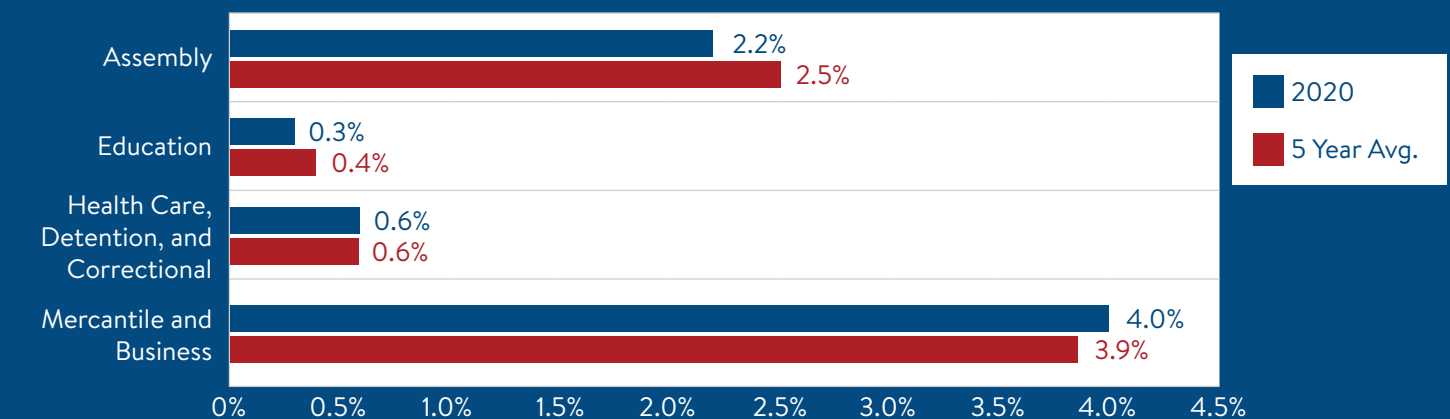
PERCENTAGE OF FIRES AND DOLLAR LOSS COMPARED TO FIVE YEAR AVERAGE BY PROPERTY USE

RESIDENTIAL



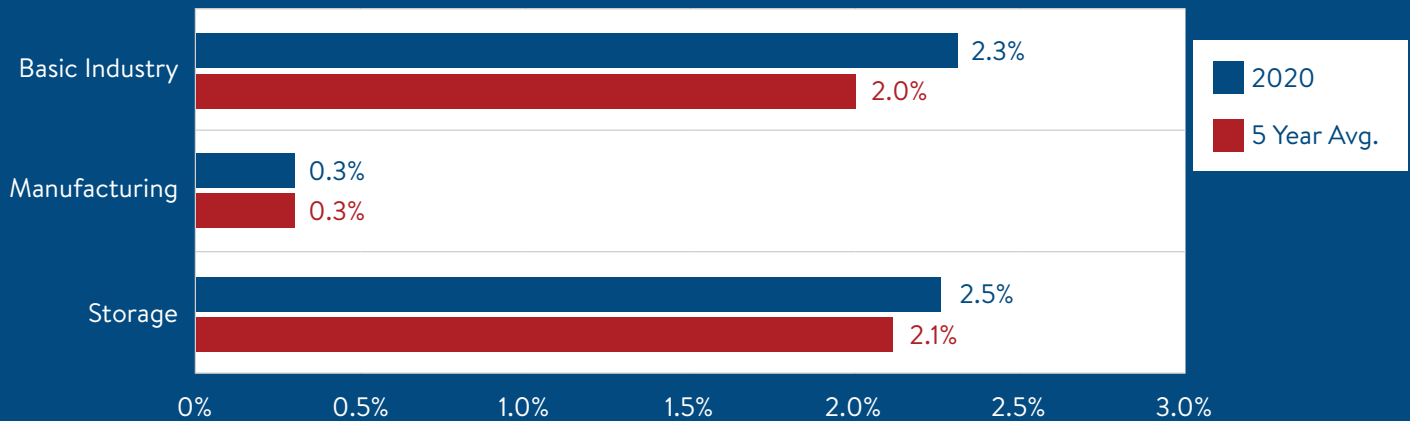
Residential Property Type	2020 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2020 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Single Family Dwelling	17,695	15,252	\$212,006,415	\$167,670,399
Multifamily Dwelling	3,968	4,002	\$39,769,799	\$36,933,064
Hotels/Boarding	406	381	\$3,251,113	\$3,700,021
Dormitory/Other Residential	23	958	\$88,500	\$6,608,780
Total	22,092	20,593	\$255,115,827	\$214,912,264

PUBLIC FACILITIES



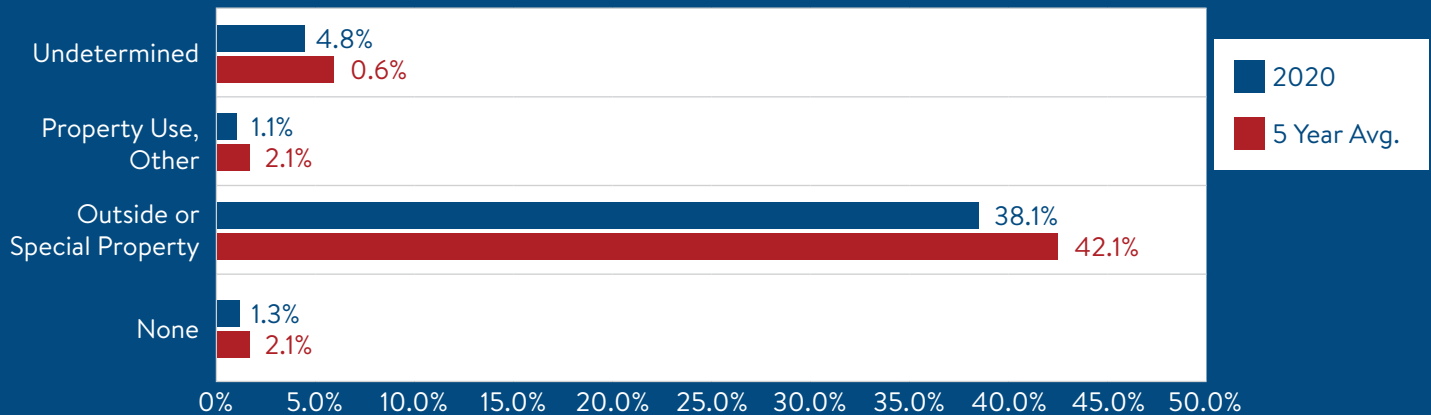
Public Facilities Property Type	2020 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2020 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Assembly	1,132	1,262	\$13,653,836	\$18,880,548
Education	146	215	\$830,719	\$1,621,326
Health Care, Detention and Correctional	296	307	\$4,373,539	\$2,494,232
Mercantile and Business	2,049	1,978	\$31,957,164	\$43,386,839
Total	3,623	3,761	\$50,815,258	\$66,382,945

INDUSTRIAL/STORAGE



Industrial Property Type	2020 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2020 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Basic Industry	1,197	1,026	\$12,581,501	\$47,700,128
Manufacturing	159	154	\$3,852,650	\$6,704,326
Storage	1,288	1,037	\$50,645,940	\$28,868,574
Total	2,644	2,217	\$67,080,091	\$83,273,028

OUTSIDE, SPECIAL USE, OTHER, NONE, AND UNDETERMINED

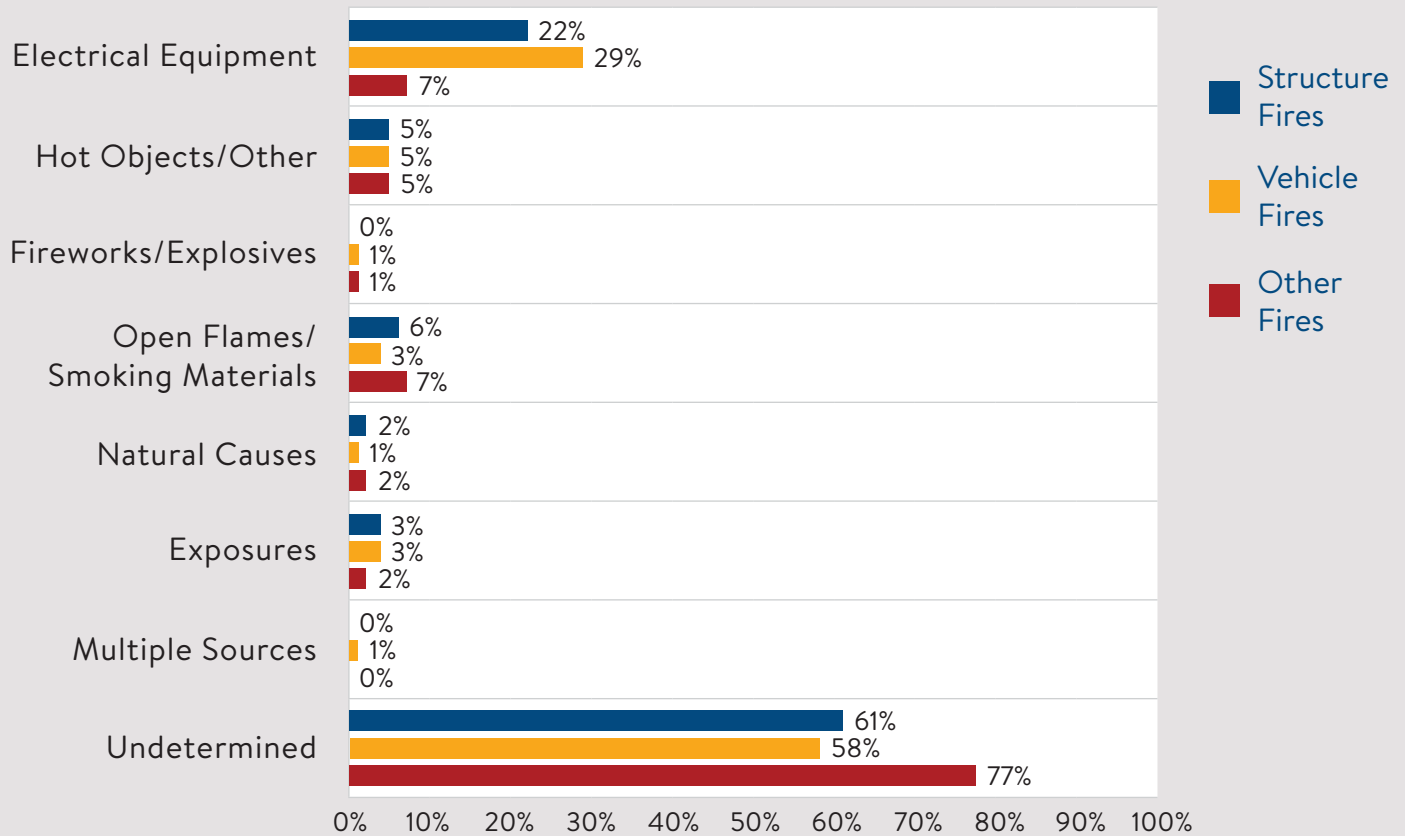


Outside, Special Use, Other, None, and Undetermined Property Type	2020 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2020 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
None	666	1,074	\$1,255,956	\$6,277,952
Outside or Special Property	19,761	21,100	\$185,671,065	\$101,141,626
Property Use, Other	556	1,039	\$11,791,823	\$3,692,637
Undetermined	2,461	325	\$2,045,726	\$1,120,898
Total	23,444	23,538	\$200,764,570	\$112,233,113



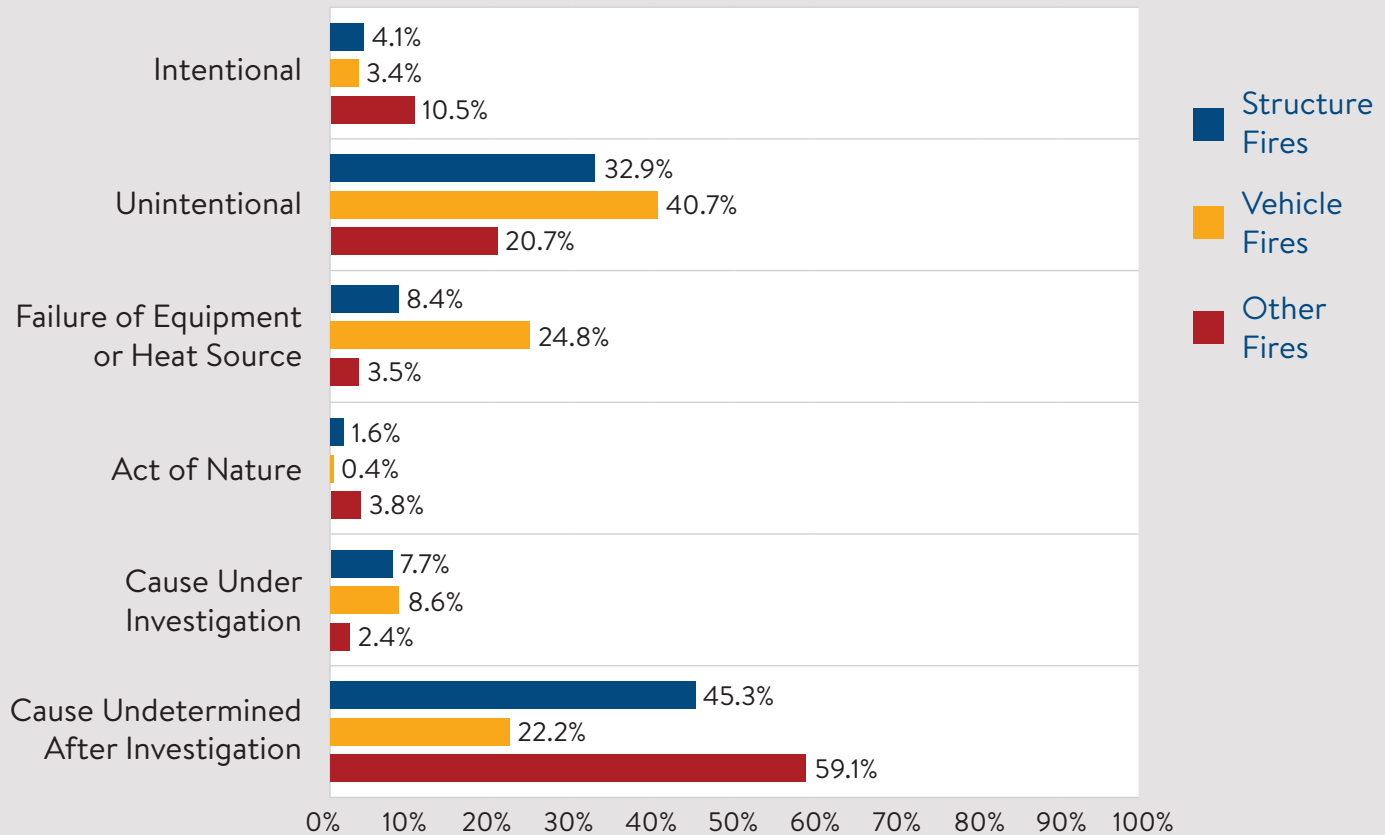
2020 HEAT SOURCE AND CAUSE OF IGNITION PERCENTAGES

STRUCTURE, VEHICLE AND OTHER FIRES HEAT SOURCE



Cause of Ignition	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires
Electrical Equipment	3,528	2,697	1,735
Hot Objects/Other	872	500	1,382
Fireworks/Explosives	79	49	267
Open Flames/Smoking Materials	907	291	1,735
Natural Causes	264	57	531
Exposures	466	256	486
Multiple Sources	24	47	59
Undetermined	9,759	5,416	20,396

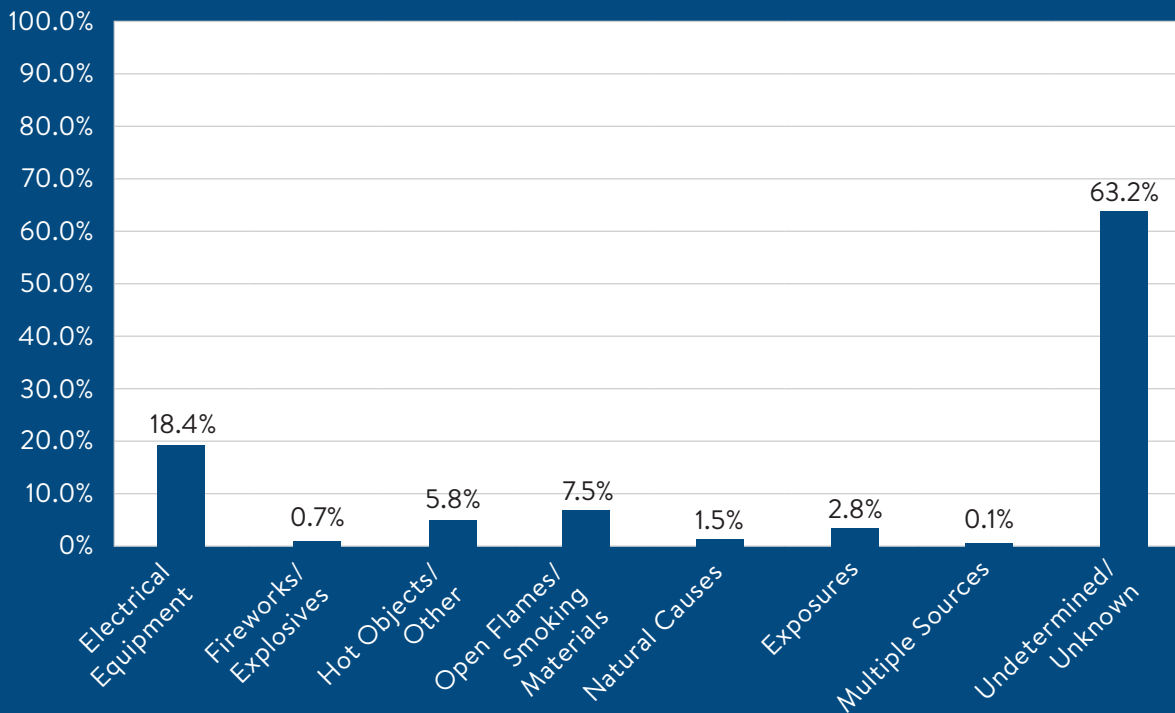
STRUCTURE, VEHICLE AND OTHER FIRES CAUSE OF IGNITION



Cause of Ignition	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires
Intentional	647	317	2,787
Unintentional	5,223	3,787	5,501
Failure of Equipment or Heat Source	1,340	2,308	931
Act of Nature	258	33	1,009
Cause Under Investigation	1,223	800	644
Cause Undetermined After Investigation	7,208	2,068	15,719



TOTAL DOLLAR LOSS, AREA OF ORIGIN AND FIRE CAUSE PERCENTAGES FOR RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

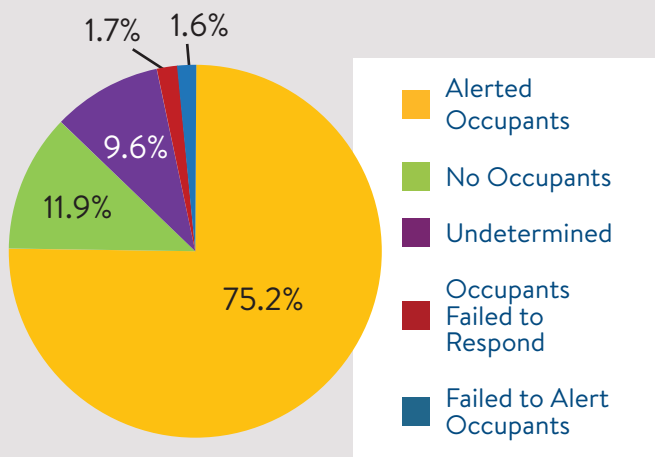




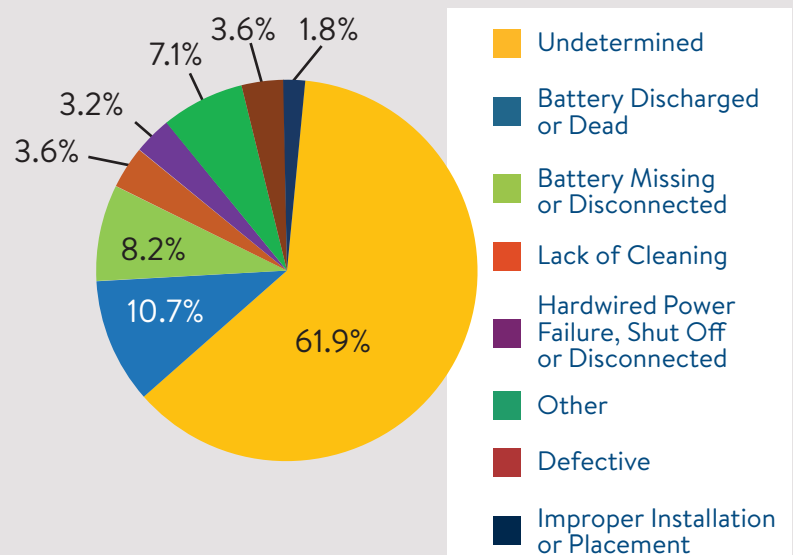
SMOKE ALARM USE DATA

Smoke detectors were present in **44** percent of reported structure fires, in which the presence or absence of detectors were reported, with **62** percent of those operational. **19** percent were reported as undetermined and **7** percent did not operate due to a variety of reasons such as no batteries, lack of maintenance, etc. In **12** percent, the fire was too small for the detector to operate. Unfortunately, **34** percent of the structures did not have smoke detectors and **22** percent of the structures reported as undetermined.

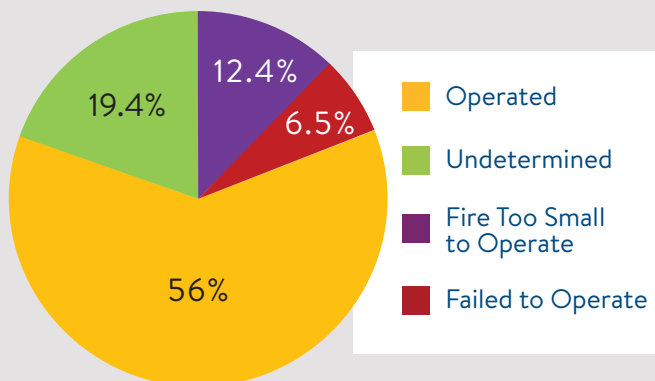
DETECTOR EFFECTIVENESS



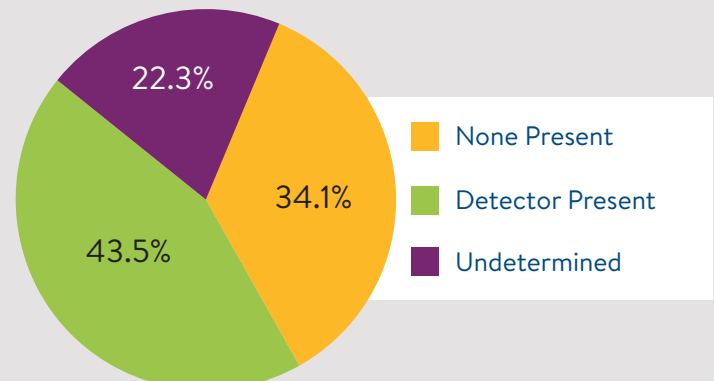
SMOKE ALARM FAILURE



DETECTOR OPERATION



DETECTOR PRESENT

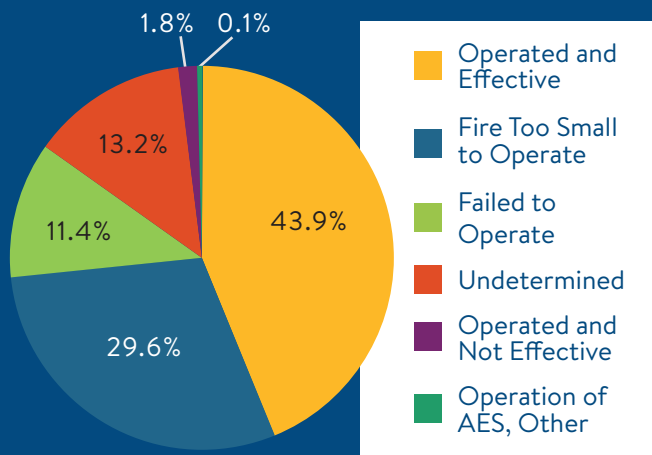




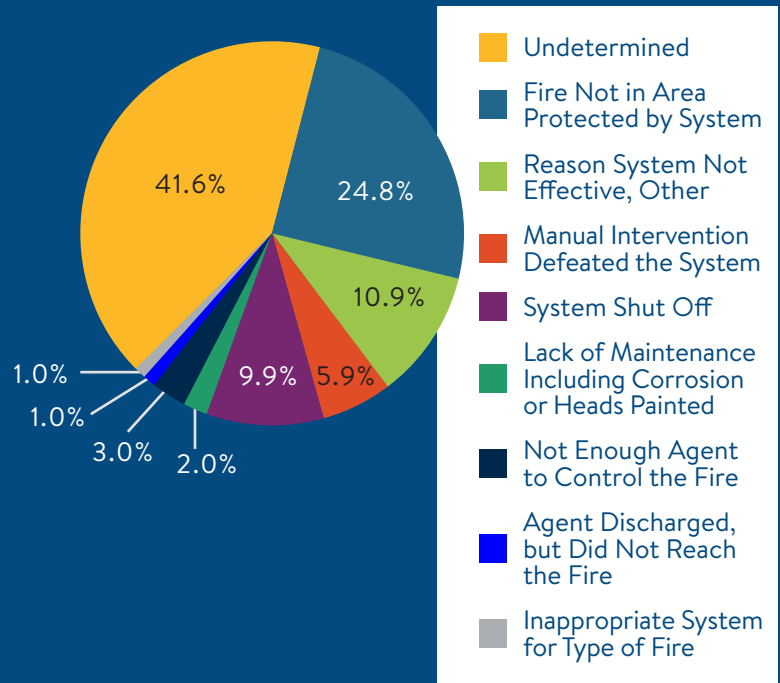
FIRE SPRINKLER USE DATA

Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) were present in 11 percent of reported structure fires with 44 percent of those operational. 8 percent were reported as undetermined and 11 percent did not operate due to a variety of reasons, such as manual intervention, agent discharged but did not reach the fire, etc. In 25 percent of structure fires, the fire was not in the vicinity of the AES for it to be effective. Unfortunately, in 81 percent of the structure fires there was not an AES present and 8 percent were reported as undetermined.

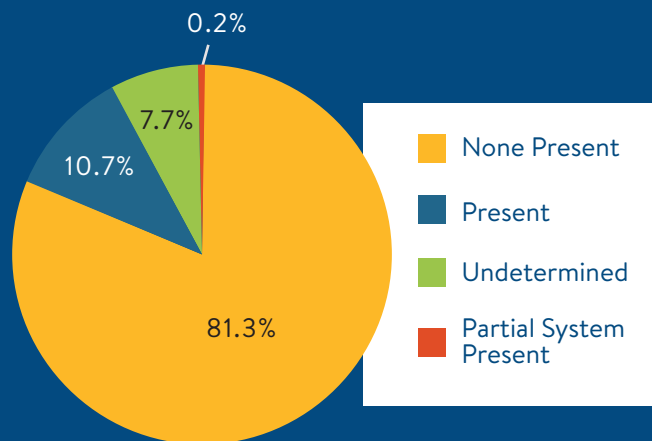
AES OPERATION



AES FAILURE



AES PRESENCE





AVERAGE RESPONSE FREQUENCIES REPORTED BY FLORIDA FIRE DEPARTMENTS

These statistics do not include exposures or automatic/mutual aid given responses.



ONE FLORIDA
FIRE
DEPARTMENT
RESPONDS
EVERY
12 SECONDS

ONE
STRUCTURE
FIRE OCCURS
EVERY **33**
MINUTES AND
1 SECONDS IN
FLORIDA





ONE FIRE
OCCURS EVERY
10 MINUTES
AND **1** SECOND
IN FLORIDA

ONE OTHER
EMERGENCY
CALL OCCURS
EVERY **12**
SECONDS IN
FLORIDA



ONE VEHICLE
FIRE OCCURS
EVERY **56**
MINUTES AND
4 SECONDS IN
FLORIDA

ONE EMS/
RESCUE CALL
OCCURS EVERY
16 SECONDS
IN FLORIDA



ONE OUTSIDE/
OTHER FIRE
OCCURS EVERY
19 MINUTES
AND **8**
SECONDS
IN FLORIDA



ONE FALSE
ALARM OCCURS
EVERY
3 MINUTES AND
1 SECONDS
IN FLORIDA

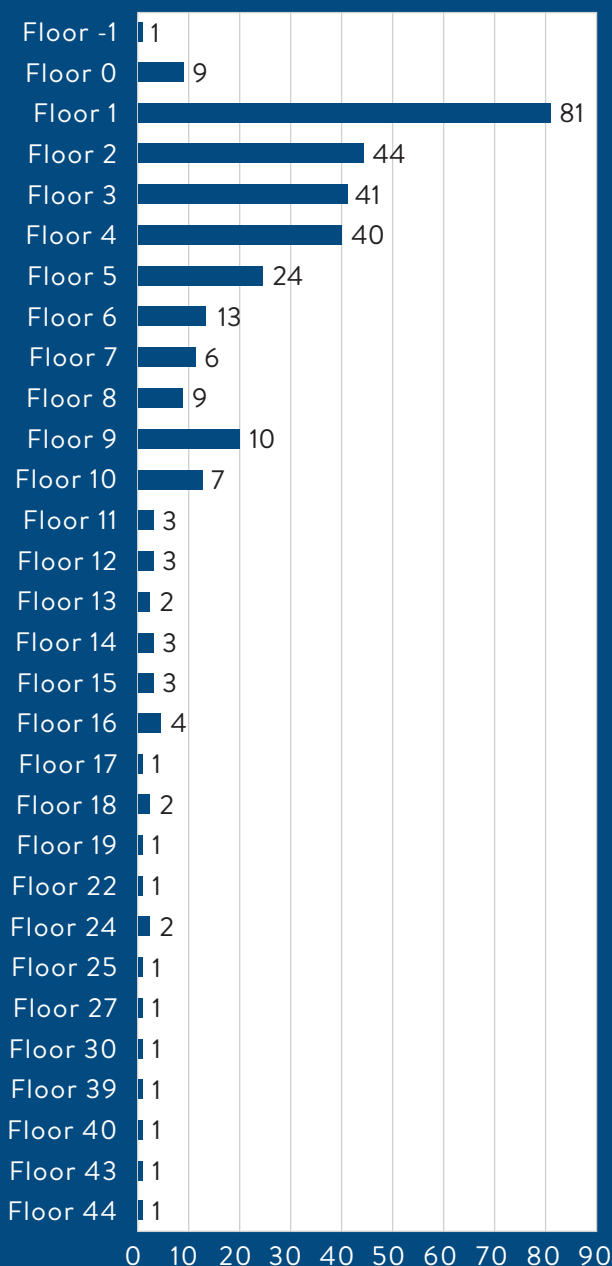




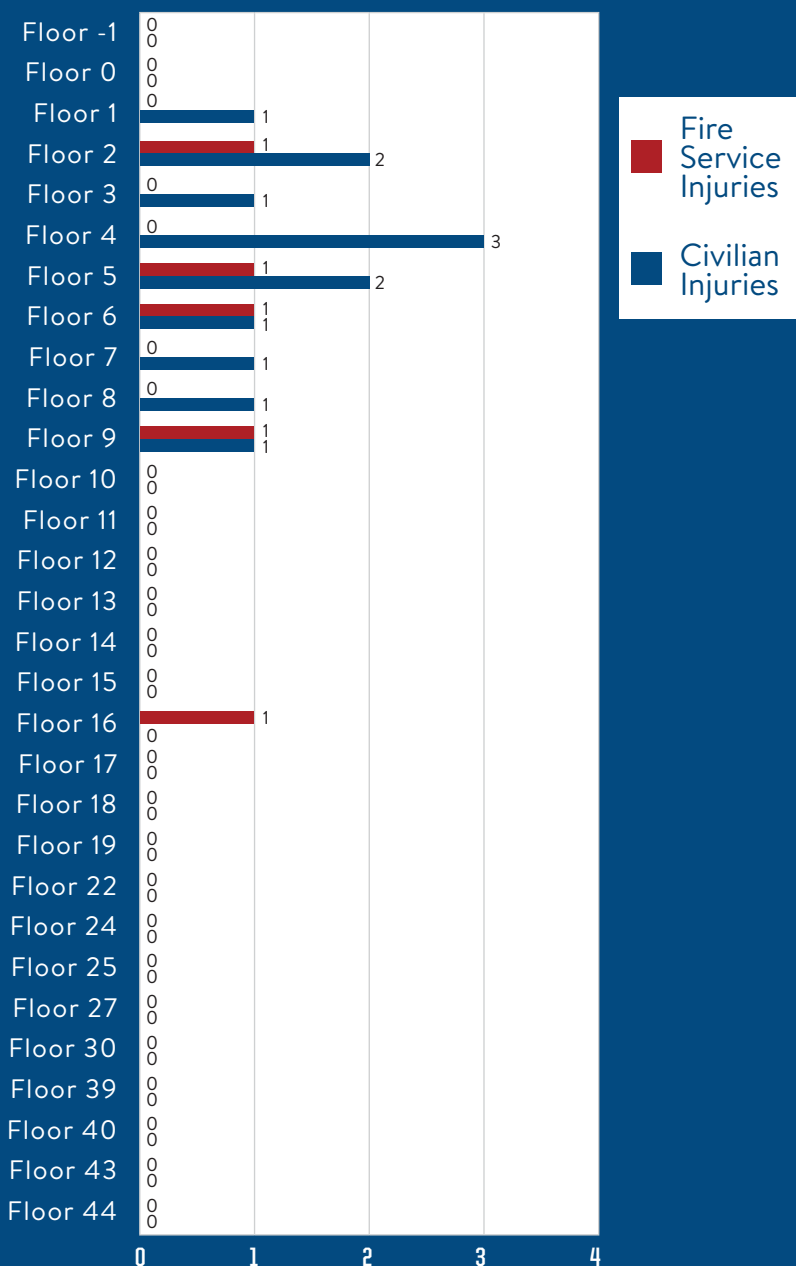
FREQUENCY AND NUMBER OF CIVILIAN & FIRE SERVICE INJURIES IN HIGH RISE STRUCTURE FIRES

The National Fire Protection Association reports there are more than 13,000 structure fires in high rise buildings each year in the United States. The State of Florida had a total of **317** structure fire incidents in high rise structures with **5** fire service injury and **13** civilian injuries in 2020.

HIGH RISE STRUCTURE FIRE INCIDENTS BY FREQUENCY



CIVILIAN AND FIRE SERVICE INJURIES IN HIGH RISE STRUCTURE FIRES







2020 FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

More than 6,000 people, including members of Congress, Administration Officials and other dignitaries, members of the fire service, and families and friends of fallen firefighters attend the Annual National Firefighters Memorial Service event each year in Emmitsburg, Maryland at the National Fire Academy. Families receive flags that were flown over the U. S. Capitol and the National Memorial. Members of the fire service, honor guard units, and pipe and drum units from across the U.S. participate in this national tribute. Four Florida firefighters died in the line of duty in 2020: **Anthony C. “Tony” Christensen**, a firefighter with City of Naples Fire Rescue; **Donald DiPetrillo**, Fire Chief with the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue; **James Gunter**, Driver Engineer at Cape Coral Fire Department; and **Brian S. Smith**, a firefighter with St. George Island Fire Department.



Florida Fallen Firefighter
Memorial in Ocala, Florida



Florida Wildland Firefighter
Memorial in Brooksville, Florida



Florida Fallen Firefighter
Memorial Monument at the
Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida

The Firefighter Safety and Health Program Section is charged with the implementation of the “Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act (FFOSHA)” (Florida Statute 633.801-633.821) and “Firefighter Employment Standards” (Florida Administrative Code 69A-62).

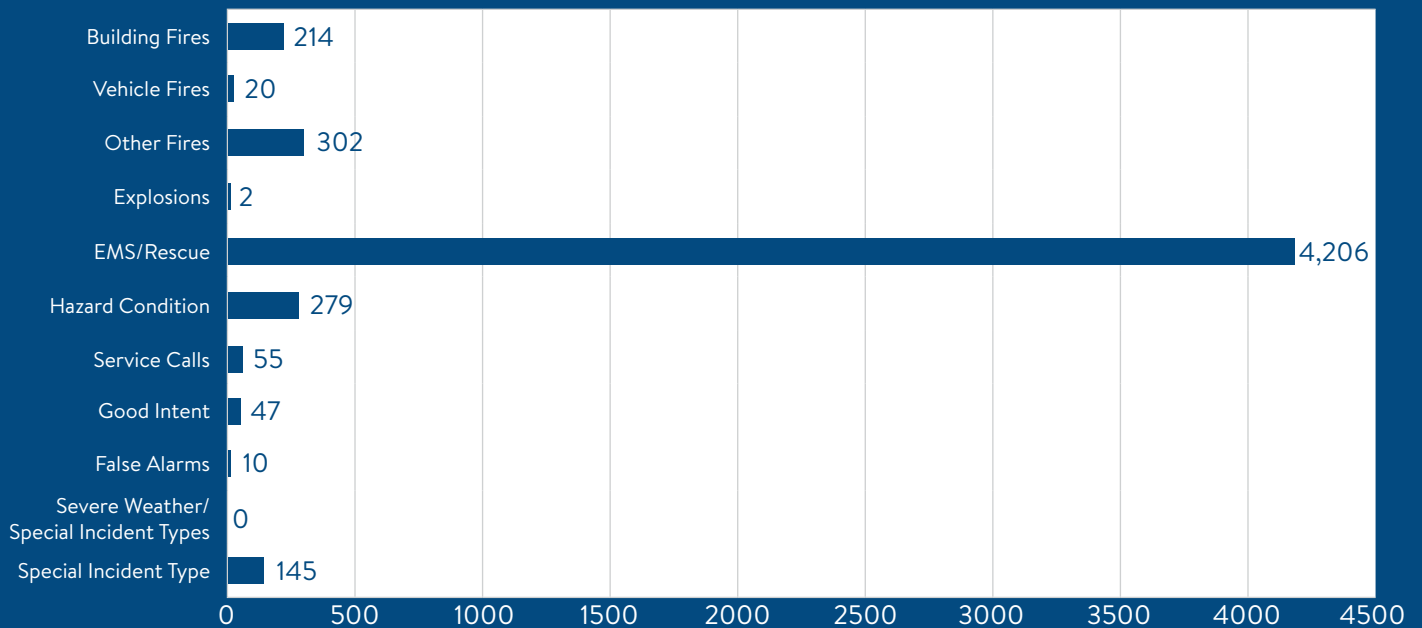




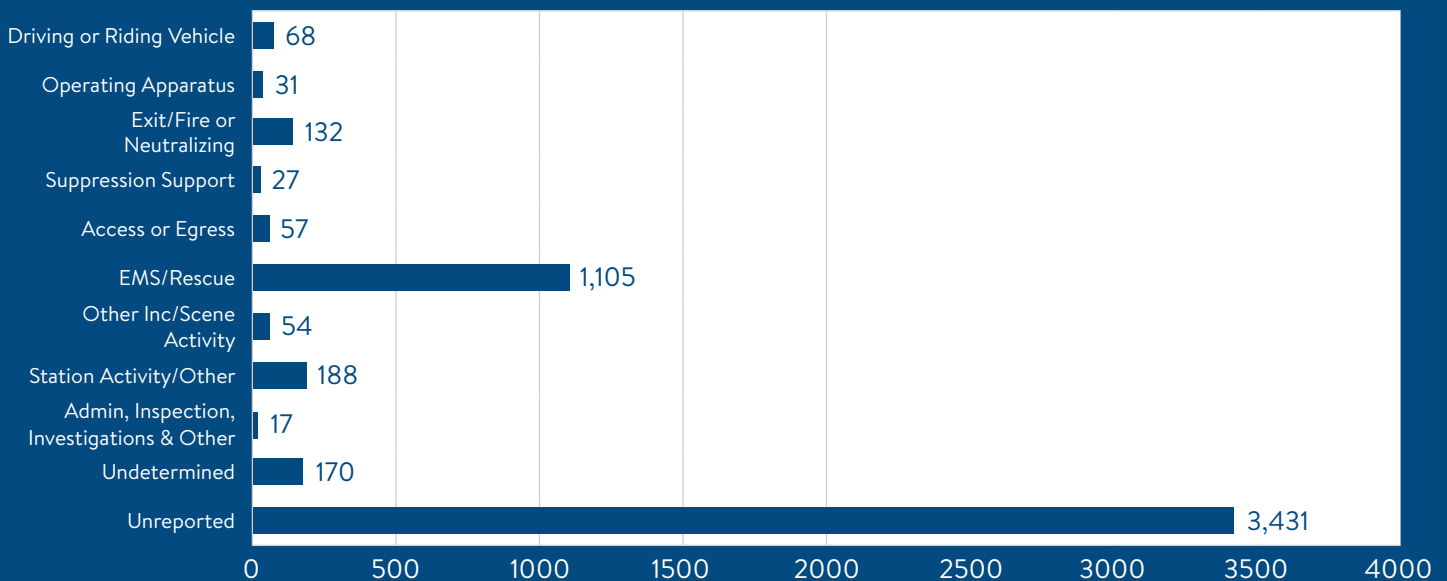
FIREFIGHTER INJURIES VS. NUMBER OF FIRE INCIDENTS

Firefighters throughout Florida deal with a variety of hazards while performing their duties. These hazards include, but are not limited to, smoke inhalation, burns, straining of body parts, exposure to chemicals and stress.

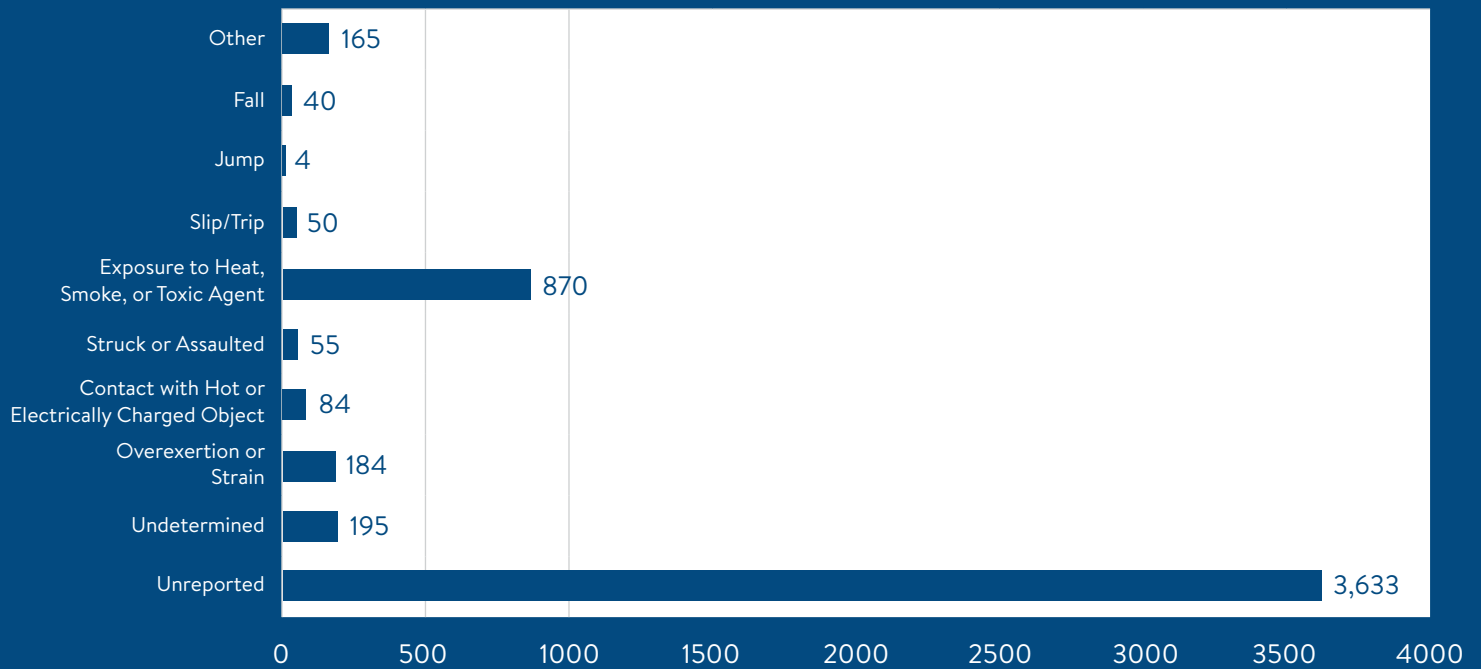
INCIDENT TYPES RESULTING IN INJURIES



ACTIVITY AT TIME OF INJURY



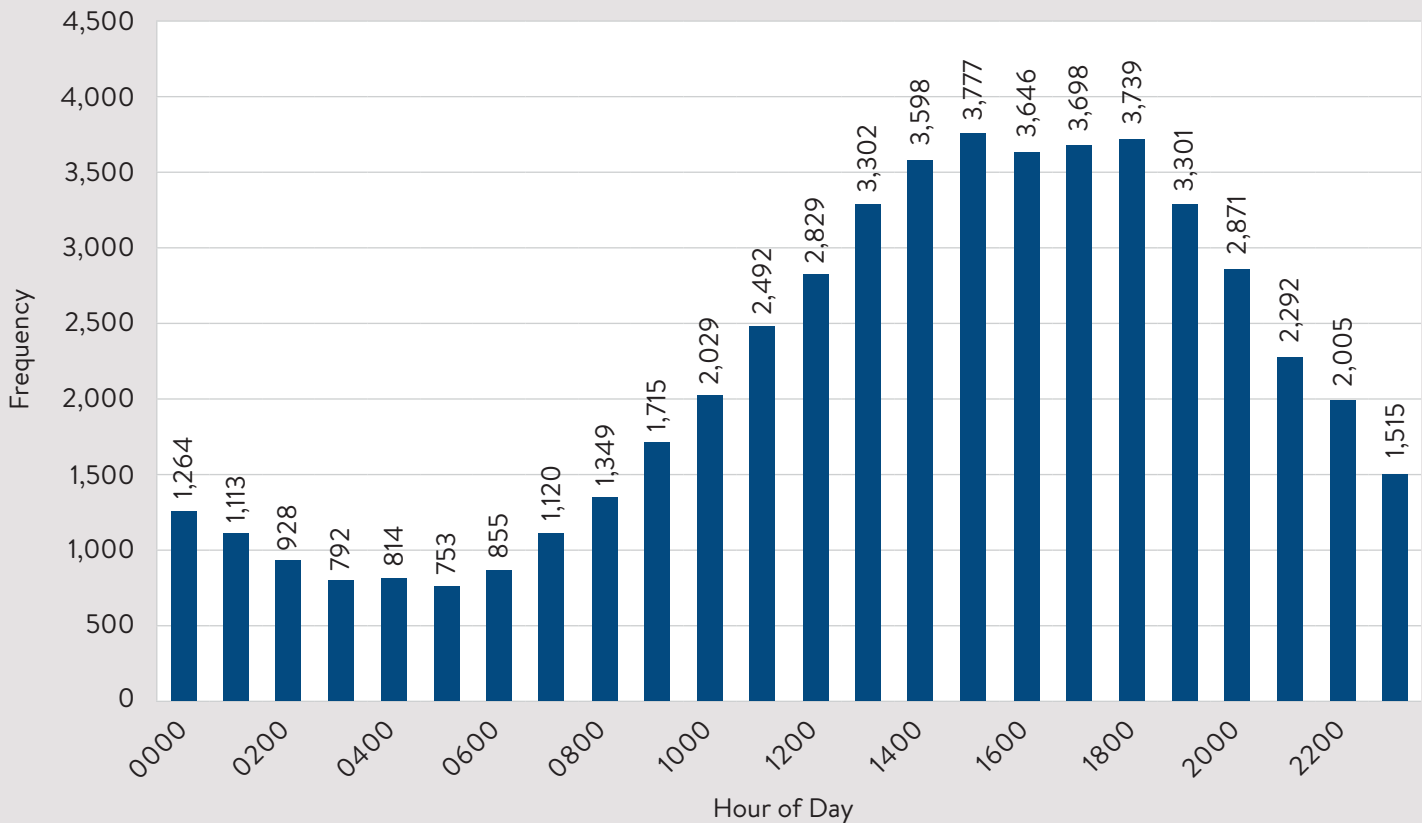
CAUSE OF FIRE RELATED INJURY



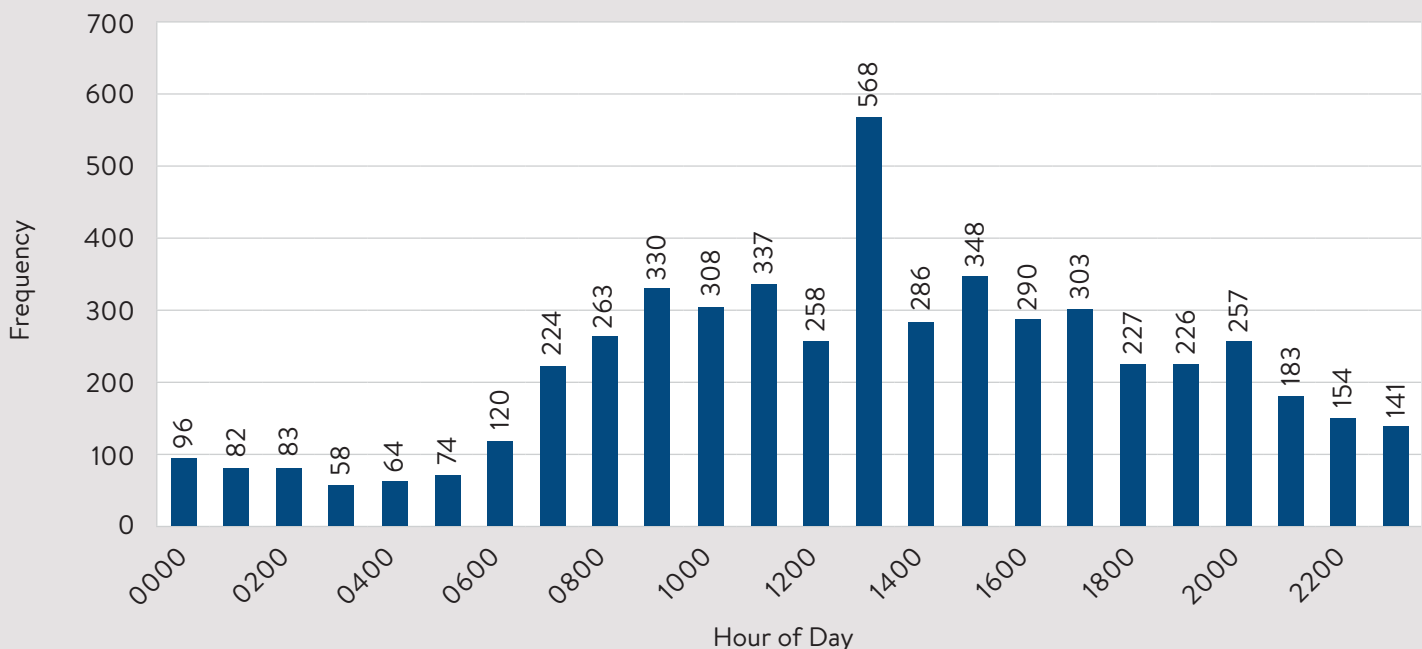


FIRE INCIDENTS AND FIRE RELATED INJURIES BY PEAK HOUR AND DAY OF THE WEEK

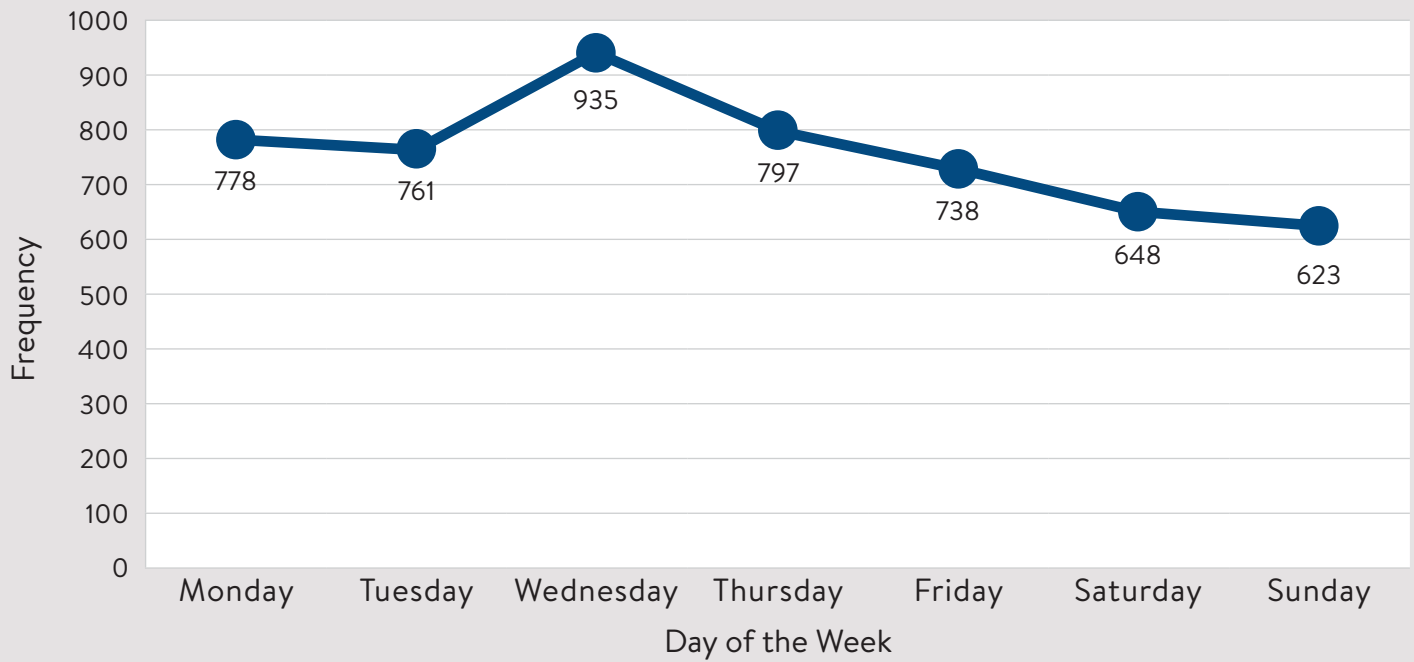
FIRE INCIDENTS BY HOUR OF THE DAY



FIRE RELATED INJURIES BY HOUR OF THE DAY



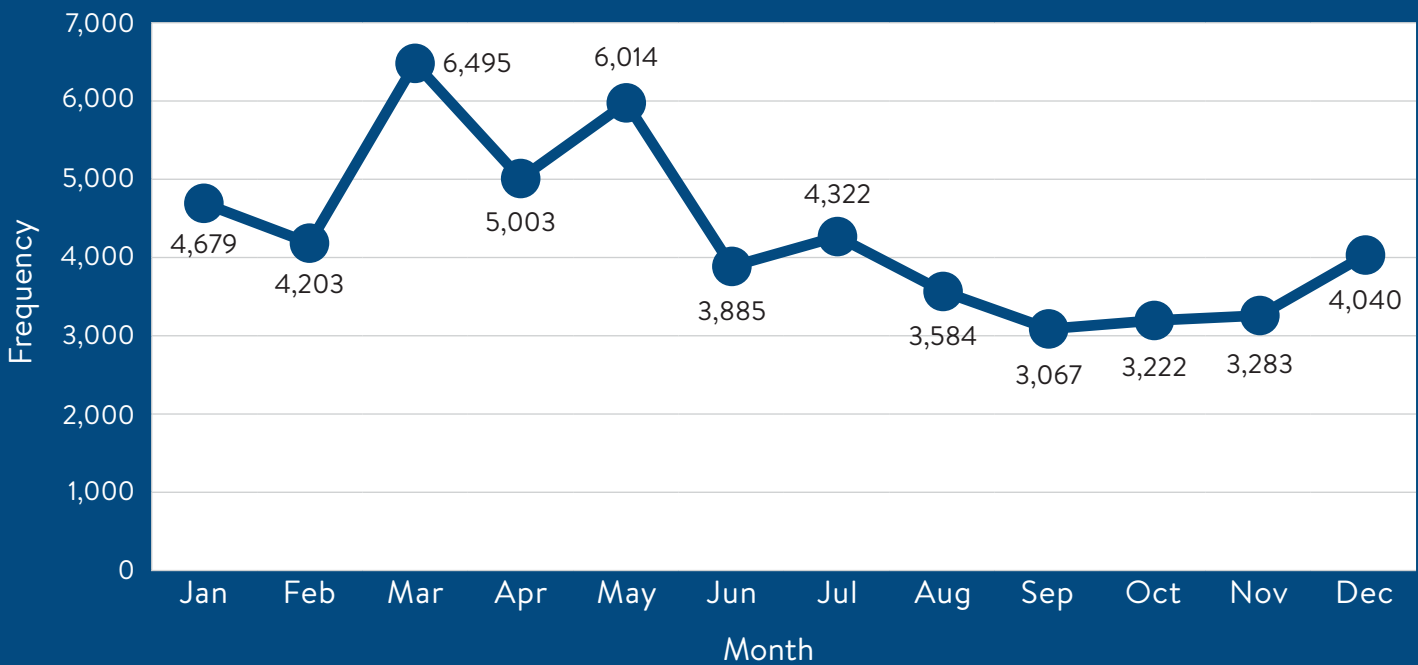
FIREFIGHTER INJURIES BY DAY OF THE WEEK



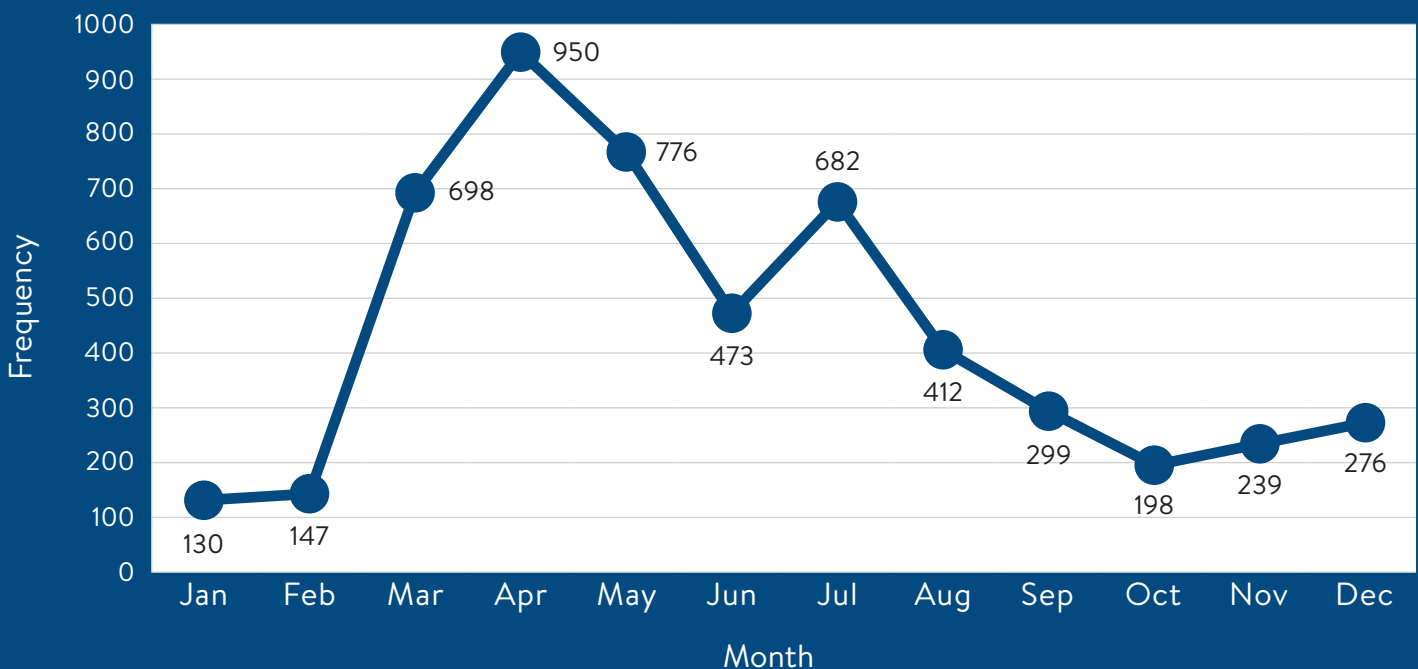


FIRE INCIDENTS AND INJURIES BY MONTH AND QUARTER OF THE YEAR

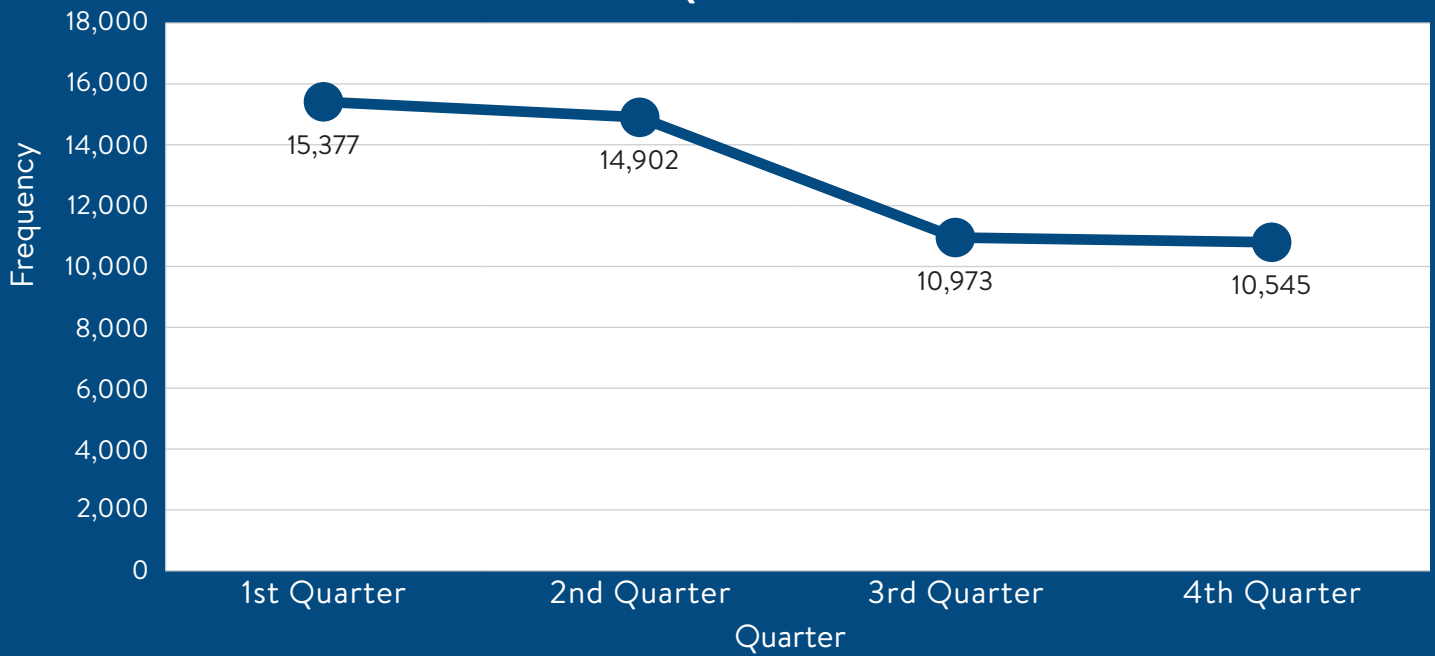
FIRES BY MONTH OF THE YEAR



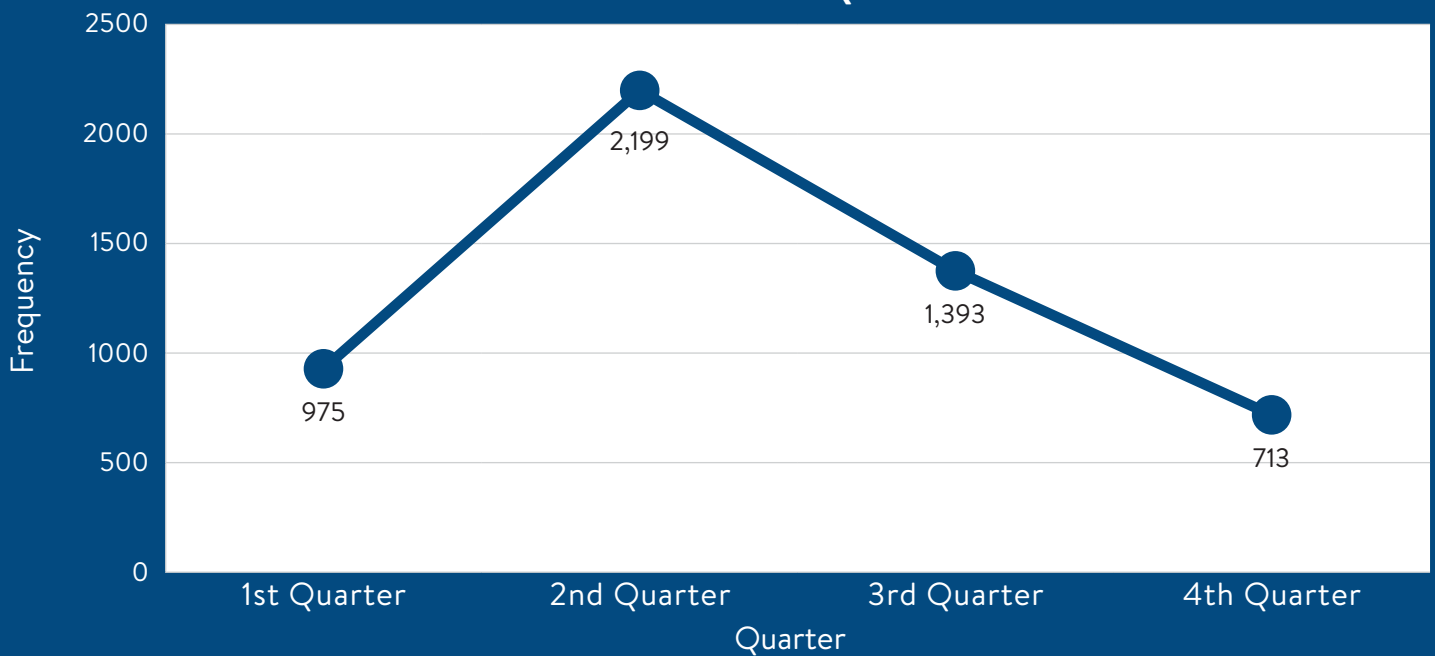
FIREFIGHTER INJURIES BY MONTH OF THE YEAR



FIRES BY QUARTER OF THE YEAR



FIREFIGHTER INJURIES BY QUARTER OF THE YEAR





2020 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AWARDS

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has reported that the following departments received Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Awards for 2020. One of the requirements placed upon grantees under this award is that recipients “agree to provide information, through established reporting channels, to the USFA’s National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the period covered by the assistance if the grantee is a fire department. In Florida, the established reporting channel would be through the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) Section of the Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM). Nonaffiliated EMS organizations do not have to comply with the NFIRS reporting requirement. If a fire department grantee does not currently participate in the incident reporting system and does not have the capacity to report at the time of the award, that grantee must agree to provide information to the NFIRS system for a twelve-month period commencing as soon as they develop the capacity to report. We expect non-reporting grantees to pursue the capacity to report

immediately after notification of an award, and for these non-reporting grantees to be actively reporting to NFIRS within the approved period of performance. AFG program grantees from previous years will not be allowed to close out their grants until they demonstrate that they are complying with this requirement. Failure to closeout your previous years’ grants may affect the consideration of future awards. This requirement is included in the 2020 Program Guidance for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, as well as being included in the actual grant agreement. The award announcement dates for the 2020 recipients may be reviewed by entering the following link into your web browser: <https://www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grants-award-year>.

Please contact the FFIRS Section at (850) 413-3698 for assistance in helping your department comply with this reporting requirement.

A total 441 fire departments throughout the State of Florida reported incidents to FFIRS for 2020, and of those departments, 46 received federal grants. A few were recipients of multiple awards.



Award Date	Organization Sort descending	City	Program	Activity Level
7/8/2020	Bay County Board of County Commissioner	Panama City	Operations and Safety	\$24,022
7/29/2020	Boca Grande Fire Control District	Boca Grande	Operations and Safety	\$49,047
8/12/2020	Boynton Beach, City of	Boynton Beach	Operations and Safety	\$137,392
7/8/2020	Clay, County of	Orange Park	Operations and Safety	\$26,666
8/12/2020	Concord Volunteer Fire Department Inc	Havana	Operations and Safety	\$34,552
8/3/2020	County of Jackson office Clerk	Marianna	Operations and Safety	\$178,829
6/18/2020	Miami-Dade, County of	Doral	Operations and Safety	\$869,565
6/18/2020	County of Palm Beach	Palm Beach	Operations and Safety	\$897,556
7/1/2020	County of Volusia	Deland	Operations and Safety	\$240,909
8/3/2020	Dundee, Town of	Dundee	Operations and Safety	\$117,178
8/3/2020	East Milton Volunteer Fire Department Inc.	Milton	Operations and Safety	\$48,476
8/12/2020	Financial Services, Florida Department of	Tallahassee	Operations and Safety	\$51,010
7/29/2020	Fort Lauderdale, City of (Inc)	Ft. Lauderdale	Operations and Safety	\$976,429
8/3/2020	Fort Walton Beach, City of	Ft. Walton Beach	Operations and Safety	\$63,119
8/3/2020	Highlands, County of	Sebring	Operations and Safety	\$75,636
7/1/2020	Hillsborough, County of	Tampa	Operations and Safety	\$299,527
7/1/2020	Jacksonville, City of	Jacksonville	Operations and Safety	\$620,723
8/12/2020	Lake, County of	Tavares	Operations and Safety	\$328,554
8/12/2020	Liberty Fire District, Inc.	Defuniak Springs	Operations and Safety	\$37,580
7/29/2020	Marion, County of (Inc)	Ocala	Operations and Safety	\$397,272
8/10/2020	Merritt Island Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	Merritt Island	Operations and Safety	\$72,095
9/23/2020	Miami, City of	Miami	Operations and Safety	\$1,104,350
8/19/2020	Miami-Dade, County of	Doral	Operations and Safety	\$234,782
7/29/2020	North Bay Fire Control District	Niceville	Operations and Safety	\$140,909
7/17/2020	North Collier Fire Control & Rescue District	Naples	Operations and Safety	\$85,818
8/3/2020	Ocala, City of	Ocala	Operations and Safety	\$411,836
7/1/2020	Orange, County of	Winter Park	Operations and Safety	\$909,090
8/3/2020	Orange, County of	Winter Park	Operations and Safety	\$696,595
8/12/2020	Orlando, City of	Orlando	Operations and Safety	\$90,801
7/29/2020	Ormond Beach, City of	Ormond Beach	Operations and Safety	\$46,835
7/8/2020	Palm Coast, City of	Palm Coast	Operations and Safety	\$2,285
7/8/2020	Pasco, County of	Land O'Lakes	Operations and Safety	\$909,080
7/29/2020	Pembroke Pines, City of	Pembroke Pines	Operations and Safety	\$70,919
8/31/2020	Pensacola, City of	Pensacola	Operations and Safety	\$562,832
7/29/2020	Pinellas Park, City of	Pinellas Park	Operations and Safety	\$181,636
8/3/2020	Plantation, City of	Plantation	Operations and Safety	\$82,360
7/17/2020	Ponce Inlet, Town of	Ponce Inlet	Operations and Safety	\$6,171
8/31/2020	Seminole Tribe of Florida	Clewiston	Operations and Safety	\$307,270
8/3/2020	Seminole Tribe of Florida	Clewiston	Operations and Safety	\$174,276
8/31/2020	Seminole, County of	Sanford	Operations and Safety	\$185,820
8/3/2020	Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District	Bradenton	Operations and Safety	\$44,748
8/12/2020	St Lucie, County of	Port St. Lucie	Operations and Safety	\$71,134
8/26/2020	St Lucie, County of	Port St. Lucie	Operations and Safety	\$561,331
8/26/2020	Town of Melbourne Beach	Melbourne Beach	Operations and Safety	\$22,272
8/3/2020	Umatilla, City of	Umatilla	Operations and Safety	\$12,221
7/17/2020	Walton, County of	Defuniak Springs	Operations and Safety	\$72,737



2020 FFIRS REPORTING FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The Following is a Listing of the Fire Departments that Reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) Section During 2020

ALACHUA COUNTY

Gainesville Fire Rescue {5.0}
Newberry Fire Rescue {5.0}
Melrose VFD {5.0}
Lacrosse Fire Dept. {5.0}
Cross Creek VFD {5.0}
Windsor VFD {5.0}
Alachua County Dept. of Public Safety {5.0}
• Hawthorne Fire Dept.
Micanopy Fire Rescue {5.0}

BAKER COUNTY

City of Macclenny Fire Dept. {5.0}

BAY COUNTY

Panama City Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Lynn Haven Fire & EMS {5.0}
Panama City Fire Dept. {5.0}
Parker Fire Dept. {5.0}
Panama City Airport Fire Dept. {5.0}
Springfield Fire Dept. {5.0}
Callaway Fire Dept. {5.0}
Bay County Fire Rescue {5.0}

BRADFORD COUNTY

Starke Fire Dept. {5.0}
Bradford County FR {5.0}

BREVARD COUNTY

Cape Canaveral Fire Rescue {5.0}
Indianantic Fire Rescue {5.0}
CCAFS/KSC Fire Rescue {5.0}
Palm Bay Fire Dept. {5.0}
Cocoa Fire Dept. {5.0}
Cocoa Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Melbourne Fire Dept. {5.0}
Indian Harbour Beach VFD {5.0}
Malabar VFD {5.0}
Melbourne Beach VFD {5.0}
Satellite Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Rockledge Fire & EMS {5.0}
Titusville Fire & EMS {5.0}
Brevard County Fire Rescue {5.0}
• Scottsmeer VFD
• South Melbourne Beach VFD
• Bellwood VFD
• Four Communities Fire Dept.
• Mims VFD
• Merritt Island VFD
• Canaveral Port Fire Dept.

• Canova Beach/Patrick Shores Fire Dept.
• District Four VFD
• Lake Washington VFD
• Micco VFD
• Suntree/Viera VFD

BROWARD COUNTY

Hallendale Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}
Southwest Ranches VFR {5.0}
Plantation Fire Dept. {5.0}
Hollywood Fire Rescue {5.0}
Lauderhill Fire Rescue {5.0}
Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue {5.0}
Margate Fire Rescue {5.0}
Lauderdale by the Sea VFD {5.0}
North Lauderdale Fire Rescue {5.0}
Coral Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}
• Parkland Fire Dept.
Sunrise Fire Rescue {5.0}
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}
Oakland Park Fire Rescue {5.0}
Fort Lauderdale Fire Dept. {5.0}
Tamarac Fire Dept. {5.0}
Miramar Fire Rescue {5.0}
Davie Fire Rescue {5.0}
Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue {5.0}
Broward Sheriff's Office Dept. of Fire
Rescue & EMS {5.0}
• Dania Beach Fire Dept.
• Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue
• Carver Ranches VFD
• Southwest Broward VFD
• Port Everglades Dept. of Public Safety
• Wilton Manors Fire Dept.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Kinard VFD {5.0}
Scott's Ferry VFD {5.0}
Mossy Pond VFD {5.0}
Nettle Ridge VFD {5.0}

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Punta Gorda Fire Dept. {5.0}
Charlotte County Fire & EMS {5.0}

CITRUS COUNTY

Citrus County Fire Services {5.0}
Crystal River Fire Dept. {5.0}

CLAY COUNTY

Orange Park FD {5.0}
Clay County Public Safety & Fire Rescue {5.0}

COLLIER COUNTY

Immokalee FCD {5.0}
Greater Naples Fire Rescue Dist. {5.0}
North Collier FC & Rescue Dist. {5.0}
City of Naples Fire Rescue {5.0}
Marco Island Fire Dept. {5.0}

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Lake City Fire Dept. {5.0}
Columbia County Fire Dept. {5.0}

DESOTO COUNTY

Desoto County Fire Rescue {5.0}

DIXIE COUNTY

Cross City Fire Dept. {5.0}
Horseshoe Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Dixie County EMS {5.0}
• Suwannee VFD
• Old Town Fire Rescue
• Jena VFD

DUVAL COUNTY

Jacksonville Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Jacksonville Fire Rescue {5.0}
• Jacksonville Int'l Airport
• Neptune Beach Fire Dept.
• Baldwin Fire Dept.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Pensacola Fire Dept. {5.0}
Escambia County Fire Rescue {5.0}

FLAGLER COUNTY

Flagler Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Palm Coast Fire Dept. {5.0}
Flagler County Fire Rescue {5.0}
• Korona Fire Dept.
• St Johns Park VFD
• Hammock Community VFD
• Rima Ridge Fire Rescue
• Espanola VFD

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Apalachicola Fire Dept. {5.0}
St. George Island VFD {5.0}

GADSDEN COUNTY

Chattahoochee VFD {5.0}
Florida State Hospital Fire Dept. {5.0}
Greensboro VFD {5.0}
Quincy Fire Dept. {5.0}
Gadsden County Fire Services {5.0}
Gretna VFD {5.0}
Robertsville VFD {5.0}
Havana Fire Dept. {5.0}
Mt. Pleasant VFD {5.0}
Wetumpka Vol Fire Dept. {5.0}
Concord VFD {5.0}
Midway VFD {5.0}
Sycamore VFD {5.0}

GILCHRIST COUNTY

Gilchrist County Fire Rescue {5.0}
Trenton Fire Rescue {5.0}
Fanning Springs VFD {5.0}

GLADES COUNTY

Moore Haven VFD {5.0}
Glades County VFD {5.0}
Lake Port VFD {5.0}
Buckhead Ridge VFD {5.0}

GULF COUNTY

South Gulf County Fire Dept. {5.0}
Wetappo Creek VFD {5.0}
Port St. Joe VFD {5.0}
Gulf County Beaches VFD {5.0}
Stone Mill Creek VFD {5.0}

HAMILTON COUNTY

Jennings VFD {5.0}
Jasper Fire Rescue {5.0}
Crossroads VFD {5.0}
White Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}
Genoa VFD {5.0}
Hamilton County EMS & FR {5.0}
Bellville Fire Dept. {5.0}

HARDEE COUNTY

Hardee County Fire Rescue {5.0}

HENDRY COUNTY

Labelle VFD {5.0}
Montura Fire Dept. {5.0}
Pioneer Plantation VFD {5.0}
Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue {5.0}

HERNANDO COUNTY

Brooksville Fire Dept. {5.0}
Hernando County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Springhill Fire Rescue
- Tri County VFD

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Sebring Fire Dept. {5.0}
West Sebring VFD {5.0}
Avon Park Fire Dept. {5.0}
Highlands County Fire Admin. {5.0}
Leisure Lakes VFD {5.0}

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Plant City Fire Rescue {5.0}
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue {5.0}
Tampa Fire Dept. {5.0}
Temple Terrace Fire Dept. {5.0}

HOLMES COUNTY

Bonifay VFD {5.0}
New Hope VFD {5.0}
Pittman VFD {5.0}
Esto VFD {5.0}

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Indian River Shores Public Safety {5.0}
Indian River County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Indian River County EMS
- Sebastian VFD

JACKSON COUNTY

Cottondale VFD {5.0}
Campbellton VFD {5.0}
Malone VFD {5.0}
Marianna Fire Rescue {5.0}
Grandridge Fire Dept. {5.0}
Graceville VFD {5.0}
Sneads VFD {5.0}
Jackson County Fire Rescue {5.0}
Alford VFD {5.0}
Compass Lake VFD {5.0}
Dellwood VFD {5.0}

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Lloyd VFD {5.0}
Monticello VFD {5.0}
Jefferson County Fire Rescue {5.0}
Wacissa VFD {5.0}

LAKE COUNTY

Eustis Fire Dept. {5.0}
Leesburg Fire Dept. {5.0}
Groveland Fire Dept. {5.0}
Tavares Fire Dept. {5.0}
Mount Dora Fire Dept. {5.0}
Minneola Fire Rescue {5.0}
Fruitland Park Fire Rescue {5.0}
Mascotte Fire Rescue {5.0}
Umatilla Fire Dept. {5.0}
Lake County Fire Rescue {5.0}

LEE COUNTY

San Carlos Park FCD {5.0}
Tice Fire & Rescue District {5.0}
Bayshore Fire Rescue Dist. {5.0}
Cape Coral Fire Rescue {5.0}
Alva FCD {5.0}
Estero Fire Rescue {5.0}
Bonita Springs Fire Rescue {5.0}
Captiva Island FCD {5.0}
Lehigh Acres FCD {5.0}
North Ft. Myers Fire District {5.0}
Fort Myers Fire Dept. {5.0}
Fort Myers Beach FCD {5.0}
Ft Myers Shores Fire District {5.0}

South Trail Fire Rescue {5.0}
Iona McGregor Fire District {5.0}
Useppa Island VFC {5.0}

LEON COUNTY

Chaires Capitola VFD {5.0}
Tallahassee Fire Dept. {5.0}
Lake Jackson Fire Rescue {5.0}
Woodville VFD {5.0}
Bradfordville Fire Rescue {5.0}

LEVY COUNTY

Inglis Fire Dept. {5.0}
Bronson VFD {5.0}
Cedar Key VFR {5.0}
Chiefland Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Yankeetown VFD
- Fowlers Bluff VFD

Levy County Fire Rescue {5.0}

LIBERTY COUNTY

Bristol VFD {5.0}
Hosford FD {5.0}

MADISON COUNTY

Lee Fire Dept. {5.0}
Madison Fire Dept. {5.0}
Cherry Lake VFR {5.0}
Madison County VFR {5.0}

MANATEE COUNTY

West Manatee Fire Rescue {5.0}
Trailer Estates Fire Dept. {5.0}
Southern Manatee Fire Rescue {5.0}
Bradenton Fire Rescue {5.0}
East Manatee Fire Rescue {5.0}
Myakka City Fire District {5.0}
Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue {5.0}
Parrish Fire District {5.0}
North River Fire District {5.0}

MARION COUNTY

DFIS SFM {5.0}
Rainbow Lakes Estates VFD {5.0}
Ocala Fire Dept. {5.0}
Marion County Fire Rescue {5.0}

MARTIN COUNTY

Jupiter Island Dept. of Public Safety {5.0}
Martin County Fire Rescue {5.0}
Stuart Fire Dept. {5.0}

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Miami Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue {5.0}
City of Miami Fire Rescue {5.0}
Coral Gables Fire Dept. {5.0}
Village of Key Biscayne Fire Rescue {5.0}

MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Big Coppitt VFD
- Big Pine Key VFD

- Layton VFD
- Tavernier VFD
- Sugarloaf Key Fire Rescue
- Key West Intl Airport Fire Dept.

Key West Fire Dept. {5.0}

Ocean Reef Public Safety {5.0}

Key Largo VFD {5.0}

Islamorada Fire Rescue {5.0}

Marathon Fire Rescue {5.0}

NASSAU COUNTY

Fernandina Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

Nassau County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Nassau Oaks VFD
- Bryceville VFD
- Nassauville VFD

Callahan VFD {5.0}

- Nassau Village Gray Gables Fire Dept.
- River Road Community VFD
- Ratliff VFR

OKALOOSA COUNTY

Destin FCD {5.0}

Crestview Fire Dept. {5.0}

Baker Fire Dist. {5.0}

Fort Walton Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

Ocean City-Wright FCD {5.0}

- Sylvania Heights Fire District

Valparaiso VFD {5.0}

Mary Esther VFD {5.0}

Niceville Fire Dept. {5.0}

Okaloosa Island Fire District {5.0}

North Bay Fire District {5.0}

Almarante VFD {5.0}

North Okaloosa Fire Dept. {5.0}

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Okeechobee County Fire Rescue {5.0}

Okeechobee Fire Dept. {5.0}

ORANGE COUNTY

Winter Park Fire Dept. {5.0}

Apopka Fire Dept. {5.0}

Reedy Creek Improvement District {5.0}

Maitland Fire Dept. {5.0}

Ocoee Fire Dept. {5.0}

Orlando Fire Dept. {5.0}

Winter Garden Fire Dept. {5.0}

Orange County Fire Rescue {5.0}

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Kissimmee Fire Dept. {5.0}

St. Cloud Fire Rescue {5.0}

Osceola County Fire Rescue {5.0}

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Boynton Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}

Palm Beach Gardens Fire Dept. {5.0}

Greenacres Dept. of Public Safety {5.0}

North Palm Beach Public Safety {5.0}

Boca Raton Fire Dept. {5.0}

Delray Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}

Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}

Palm Beach Shores VFD {5.0}

Riviera Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}

West Palm Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}

Tequesta Fire Rescue {5.0}

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Pahokee Fire Rescue

PASCO COUNTY

New Port Richey Fire Dept. {5.0}

Zephyrhills Fire Dept. {5.0}

City of Port Richey Fire Dept. {5.0}

Pasco County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Land O'Lakes VFD

PINELLAS COUNTY

Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue {5.0}

South Pasadena Fire Dept. {5.0}

Clearwater Fire Dept. {5.0}

Oldsmar Fire Rescue {5.0}

Largo Fire Rescue {5.0}

Lealman Fire Dept. {5.0}

Tarpon Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}

Pinellas Park Fire Dept. {5.0}

Gulfport Fire Dept. {5.0}

Dunedin Fire Dept. {5.0}

East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control {5.0}

Madeira Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

Palm Harbor Special Fire Control {5.0}

Safety Harbor Fire Dept. {5.0}

St Petersburg Fire Rescue {5.0}

St Petersburg Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

Seminole Fire Rescue {5.0}

Treasure Island Fire Dept. {5.0}

St Pete/Clearwater Airport Fire Dept. {5.0}

POLK COUNTY

Auburndale Fire Dept. {5.0}

Davenport VFD {5.0}

Lakeland Fire Dept. {5.0}

Haines City Fire Rescue {5.0}

Lake Alfred Fire Dept. {5.0}

Bartow Fire Dept. {5.0}

Fort Meade Fire Dept. {5.0}

Lake Wales Fire Dept. {5.0}

Polk County Fire Dept. {5.0}

- Fedhaven VFD
- Jan Phyl Village Fire Dept.
- Medulla VFD
- Rifle Range Fire Dept.
- Eagle Lake City Fire Dept.
- Indian Lake Estates VFD
- Polk City Fire Dept.
- Providence Fire Dept.
- Highland City VFD
- Mulberry Fire Rescue
- Willow Oaks Fire Dept.
- Loughman VFD
- Poinciana VFD
- Golfview Park Fire Dept.
- Caloosa Lake VFD
- Grape Hammock VFD

Frostproof Fire Dept. {5.0}

Winter Haven Fire Dept. {5.0}

Dundee Fire Rescue {5.0}

PUTNAM COUNTY

Palatka Fire Dept. {5.0}

Southwest VFD {5.0}

Interlachen Lake Estates Fire Dept. {5.0}

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Allentown VFD {5.0}

Milton Fire Dept. {5.0}

Bagdad VFD {5.0}

Berrydale VFD {5.0}

East Milton VFD {5.0}

Munson Vol Fire Dept. {5.0}

Pace VFD {5.0}

Avalon Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

Gulf Breeze VFD {5.0}

Jay VFD {5.0}

Midway Fire District {5.0}

Skyline Fire Prot & Rescue District {5.0}

Holley Navarre Fire Protection {5.0}

Harold VFD {5.0}

Navarre Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

SARASOTA COUNTY

Englewood Area Fire Control District {5.0}

North Port Fire Rescue {5.0}

Venice Fire Dept. {5.0}

Sarasota County Fire Dept. {5.0}

Sarasota-Bradenton Int'l Airport {5.0}

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Lake Mary Fire Dept. {5.0}

Sanford Fire Dept. {5.0}

Oviedo Fire Dept. {5.0}

Seminole County Fire Dept. {5.0}

Longwood Fire Dept. {5.0}

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

St. Augustine Fire Dept. {5.0}

St. Johns County Fire Rescue {5.0}

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

St. Lucie County Fire District {5.0}

SUMTER COUNTY

Sumter County Fire Rescue {5.0}

The Villages Public Safety Dept. {5.0}

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Branford VFD {5.0}

Live Oak Fire Dept. {5.0}

Suwannee County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Falmouth VFD

- Luraville VFD

- Wellborn VFD

- McAlpin VFD

- O'Brien VFD

- Ranchette VFD

TAYLOR COUNTY

Perry Fire Dept. {5.0}

Taylor County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Steinhatchee VFD

- Taylor Beach Fire Dept.

- West District VFD

- Athena VFD

- North District VFD

- Shady Grove VFD

UNION COUNTY

Union County Dept. of Emergency Services {5.0}

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Ormond Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Deltona Fire Rescue {5.0}
Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety {5.0}
Deland Fire Dept. {5.0}
Edgewater Fire Rescue {5.0}
New Smyrna Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}
Daytona Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

Holly Hill Fire Rescue {5.0}
Orange City Fire Dept. {5.0}
Port Orange Fire Rescue {5.0}
Ponce Inlet Fire Rescue {5.0}
Volusia County Fire Services {5.0}
• Daytona Beach Int'l Airport Fire Dept.

WAKULLA COUNTY

Wakulla County Fire Rescue {5.0}

WALTON COUNTY

South Walton Fire Dept. {5.0}
Defuniak Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}
Liberty Fire District, Inc. {5.0}
Argyle VFD {5.0}
Walton County Fire Rescue {5.0}
• Freeport Fire Rescue

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Chipley Fire Dept. {5.0}

The FFIRS Section would like to thank each of the fire departments responsible for making this report possible. In total **441** fire departments reported incidents for 2020. This annual report is the product of the compilation of information received from those departments. We appreciate your support which is essential to the production of the annual report. It is our goal to have all fire departments utilizing the reporting system. If your department is not currently participating in FFIRS and would like to, please contact our office at (850) 413-3632 or (850) 413-3749 or FFIRS@MyFloridaCFO.com.



2020 FLORIDA FIRE SERVICE AWARDS RECEPTION

September 20, 2021, on the 22nd Floor of the Capitol at 5:30

and

CABINET PRESENTATION

September 21, 2021

In the Cabinet Room of the Capitol

Florida Fire Chief of the Year by FFCA

Chief Doug Riley

Volunteer Firefighter of the Year by FSFA

Joshua Florence

Fire Marshal of the Year by FFMIA

Christina Diaz

Fire Investigator of the Year by FFMIA

Pamela Summers

Professional Firefighter of the Year by FPF

Captain Omar Blanco

Training Center of the Year by FFTDA

Hillsborough Community College Fire Academy

Fire Service Instructor of the Year

Brian Torres

Forestry Firefighter of the Year by FSFA/Forestry

David Sechrist

Career Firefighter of the Year by FSFA

Chief Gary Diamond (posthumous award)

Fire Inspector of the Year by FFMIA

Brett Dunkel

Fire and Life Safety Educator by FFMIA

Charbel Khadij

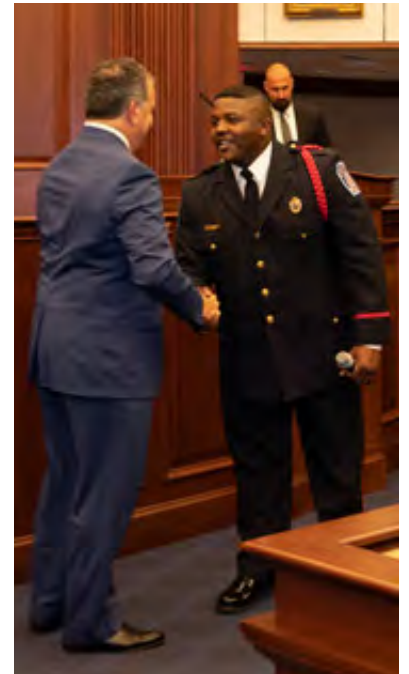
Chad Reed Emergency Preparedness Manager by FEPA

All EM Professionals

"I was proud to honor the outstanding members of Florida's brave firefighting community who work so tirelessly to protect us. Our first responders are the lifeblood of our communities, and these brave men and women exemplify the hard work, courage, dedication, and integrity necessary to ensure the health and safety of all of Floridians. I cannot thank these firefighters enough for their outstanding service to their communities and our great state."

— Jimmy Patronis, State Fire Marshal







FLORIDA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM



WAYNE WATTS
State Program Manager

Established under Florida Statute 633.136 within the division of State Fire Marshal, the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) Section is responsible for establishing and maintaining an electronic database and communication system. The section is tasked with receiving fire and emergency incident information from local fire departments; preparing and disseminating annual reports to the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, fire protection agencies, and the public.

The section provides state and federal agencies with fire and emergency response data, establishes policies and procedures ensuring a consistent reporting format for state and local fire protection stakeholders. These protocols use an electronic information database to help protect the citizens and fire and emergency responders of the State of Florida. The FFIRS staff also offer on-site training in the various areas of using the database free of charge.

The section manages the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) in conjunction with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The state program manager sits on the board of the National Fire Information Council (NFIC), which is committed to enhancing public safety through the collection and dissemination of timely, accurate and useable fire-related and emergency response data. Their vision is to be the leading subject matter experts for NFIRS and their goal is to encourage every fire service organization's participation in the NFIRS program.

In 2020, fire departments responded to a total of 2,818,548 incidents, which generated more requests for fire department services than in 2020. Total fire response incidents increased by just over 18% and total dollar loss increased by 35% based on 2020 data. The number of fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) was, 339 according to data reported to NFIRS which is a decrease from the previous year, due to consolidation of numerous smaller agencies or several agencies reporting through a single

agency. This is a continuation of the steady increase in reporting and data collection since the system was established in 1998, with approximately 775,000 incidents reported statewide that year. The division also uses privileged information obtained from the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) and the Florida Department of Health (DOH). Their data provides FFIRS information on Florida county wildfire statistics and fire related deaths.

Although FFIRS is a voluntary program, the section has maintained at least 90% participation by our stakeholders, thanks to the support and efforts of the Division of State Fire Marshal (DSFM), the Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel (FEIISTAP), and fire service professionals at the state and local level. The FEIISTAP members are appointed by the State Fire Marshal to assist the Division with program improvements. In making appointments, the State Fire Marshal considers geography, population, and other factors, offering representation to the entire state rather than any single region. The 15 required members include: one from DOH, one from FFS, and 13 others from the Firefighters' Employment, Standards, and Training Council. Their combined input is used to improve efforts in reducing the state's fire problem and making Florida a safer place. The section is staffed by Mr. Wayne Watts – State Program Manager, Ms. Dalfnie Burt—Records Specialist, and a Statistician II which is currently vacant.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) Data Entry Tool Software is available to National Fire Incident Reporting System users and is accessible from the NFIRS website www.fema.gov. Access to the tools is still granted through user accounts, and the accounts are still created and managed by your state NFIRS program manager. Join the Division of State Fire Marshal and FFIRS in its endeavor to Fight Fires with Facts! If assistance is needed, please contact FFIRS at (850) 413-3698 or ffirs@myfloridacfo.com.



FLORIDA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION UPDATE



Please take a moment to complete the following survey and return it to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System Section. We are dedicated to enhancing our training services, course information, and support to Florida fire departments.

Fire Chief: _____ Email: _____

Fire Department: _____ FDID: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Phone Number () _____ - _____ Fax Number () _____ - _____

FFIRS Administrator: _____ Email: _____

Name of Reporting Software: _____

*** Users of the USFA/National Fire Incident Reporting System Software (Data Entry Tool) Only***

What version is your fire department using: _____

Are you reporting On-Line or Off-Line: _____

If not currently reporting, please check the reason(s) below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> No reporting software |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited knowledge of software and/or reporting options | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain: _____ |

If not currently reporting to FFIRS, is your fire department providing incident data to a local or county department?

- ☐ Yes, name of department: _____
- ☐ No

The FFIRS Section offers courses on the following:

Please check any that would be beneficial to your department.

- ☐ Guidelines to proper coding of incidents
- ☐ Data analysis
- ☐ Installation and use of the USFA/NFIRS Software

Contact Person (If different from above): _____

Phone Number: () _____ - _____

Additional Comments: _____

RETURN THIS FORM IN ONE
OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

By Mail: Division of State Fire Marshal
FFIRS Section
200 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0340

By EMail: scan the document
and email it to:
FFIRS@MyFloridaCFO.com







EVERYONE GOES HOME

WWW.EVERYONEGOESHOME.COM



"Fighting Fires with Facts"

Florida Fire Incident Reporting System Section

