

Annual Report FY 2010



West Virginia State Fire Commission

West Virginia State Fire Commission/
West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office
1207 Quarrier Street, 2nd Floor
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: (304) 558-2191 Fax: (304) 558-2537

www.firemarshal.wv.gov

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The Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Bob Sullivan
Chairman
Carl Sizemore
Vice Chairman
Randy James
Secretary

STATE FIRE COMMISSION
1207 Quarrier Street Suite 200
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Phone: 304-558-2191
Fax: 304-558-2537

September 14, 2010

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Manchin:

On behalf of the members of the West Virginia State Fire Commission, and in accordance with the West Virginia Code, I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report for FY 2010.

The support you have shown for the entire Fire Service of West Virginia, the State Fire Commission, and the Office of the Fire Marshal is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission, if you or your office should have any inquiries in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Sullivan".

Bob Sullivan
Chairman



State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Joe Manchin III, Governor

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
State Fire Marshal

Phone: (304) 558-2191
Fax: (304) 558-2537

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

1207 Quarrier St, 2nd Floor
Charleston, WV 25301

September 14, 2010

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Manchin:

In compliance with the West Virginia Code, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 20, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010 of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office is submitted for your review.

This report is a representative, but by no means complete look at the myriad of services provided to West Virginia's citizens by the dedicated personnel of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

Since 1909, the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office has consistently increased its level of public service to the State of West Virginia through emergency response, code inspection, licensing and regulatory enforcement, public fire education, fire investigation, and many other duties.

This report is in part also a reflection of the efforts of West Virginia's fire departments, and the fire service organizations that represent full-time career, volunteer and part-paid departments. It should not be forgotten that on a daily basis, these brave men and women are ready to give their lives protecting their communities from fire and other emergency incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
West Virginia State Fire Marshal

SLjr/nlo

State Fire Commission

Mission Statement

To provide, through leadership, the best possible fire prevention and life safety for our citizens by legislation, education, training, standards, and resource allocation.

COMMISSION REPRESENTATION

3 members.....full-time paid firefighters
1 member.....full-time paid fire chiefs
3 members.....volunteer firefighters
2 members.....volunteer fire chiefs
2 members.....business & industry
1 member.....fire insurance industry
1 member.....registered architects

STANDING COMMITTEES

Training
Fire Department Standards & Evaluation
Building Code & Fire Code
Procedures & Development
Special Issues
Public Education
Recruitment & Retention
Legislative

FIRE COMMISSION OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: Bob Sullivan
6007 US Rt. 60 East, Suite 109
Barboursville, WV 25504
Represents: Insurance
Term Expires: 6/30/14

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Carl E. Sizemore
323 Price Road
Mineral Wells, WV 26150
Represents: Paid Firefighters
Term Expires: 6/30/13

SECRETARY: Randy James
PO Box 155
Gassaway, WV 26624
Represents: Volunteer Firefighters
Term Expires: 6/30/12

FIRE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Michael Butcher 1704 25 th Street Parkersburg, WV 26101 Represents: <i>Business & Industry</i> Term Expires: 6/30/12	Dale Clayton Rt. 3, Box 431 Fairmont, WV 26554 Represents: <i>Volunteer Fire Chiefs</i> Term Expires: 6/30/11
Larry Goodwin 700 27 th Street Vienna, WV 26105 Represents: <i>Volunteer Firefighters</i> Term Expires: 6/30/15	Grant Gunnoe 20 Beech Hill Drive Winfield, WV 25213 Represents: <i>Paid Firefighters</i> Term Expires: 6/30/14
Thomas Keefer 54 Riverdale Estates Winfield, WV 25213 Represents: <i>Business & Industry</i> Term Expires: 6/30/11	Robert Miller 9940 Union Ridge Road Glenwood, WV 25520-9630 Represents: <i>Volunteer Fire Chiefs</i> Term Expires: 6/30/13

FIRE COMMISSION MEMBERS (Continued)

Doug Mongold
140 Rohrbaugh Lane
Moorefield, WV 26836
Represents: *Volunteer Firefighters*
Term Expires: 6/30/13

Rick Scott
PO Box 22
Lumberport, WV 26386
Represents: *Paid Fire Chiefs*
Term Expires: 6/30/15

Ted A. Shriver
1051 Shawnee Trail
Elkview, WV 25071
Represents: *Registered Architects*
Term Expires: 6/30/12

Virgil "Peanut" White
PO Box 18047
South Charleston, WV 25303
Represents: *Professional Firefighters*
Term Expires: 6/30/2012

FIRE COMMISSION ACTIVITY FY 2010

- Held six (6) meetings as required by Code and one (1) special meeting.
- Discussed and implemented a number of training activities for fire departments, including Fire Officer I and II.
- Submitted the 2009 Fire Code and 2009 Building Code to Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee for submission to the 2010 Legislature. This passed and became effective as of July 1, 2010.
- State Fire Marshal's Office collaborated with the Fire Marshals' Association of WV and Fire Team USA to provide a 1-1/2 day Sprinkler Seminar in Charleston, with side-by-side burn demonstration, April 2010.
- Fire Safe Cigarette (Reduced Ignition Propensity) Program began under the direction of the State Fire Marshal's Office after law went into effect in West Virginia, July 2009. All tobacco manufacturers must submit proof of testing certification for all brands sold in West Virginia. Three-year certification fees will be divided with the State Tax Department; Fire Marshal portion is designated by Legislature for use in fire prevention programs.

State Fire Marshal's Office

Administration Division

STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Sterling Lewis, Jr.
SECRETARY: Nancy Olson
OFFICE ASSISTANT: Leslie Racine
REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR/ASFM Shawn Alderman

Regulatory and Licensing Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Anthony W. Carrico
ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:
Michael Barrick Matt Hutchinson
Timothy Mouse Robert Tribbie
SECRETARY: Tanya Bradshaw
OFFICE ASSISTANTS: Deborah K. Lucas
Valerie J. Lacy

Public Education Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL Carol E. Nolte
SECRETARY: Pat Lynch
OFFICE ASSISTANT: Alice Carpenter

Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Clarence J. Leake

ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:

John R. Akers	Bobby Light
Jeffrey Armentrout	John Oliver
Bryan Casto	Rudy L. Raynes
Allan Casto	Aubrey E. Smith, Jr.
Norman Fetterman	Michael Trabert
Douglas E. Gregory	Charles Vannatter

CONTRACT EMPLOYEE: Terry Lively

SECRETARY: Deborajean Hudson

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Ramona Snyder

Fire Investigation Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Eugene R. Cook

ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:

Ronald C. Ayersman	Paul J. Gill
Robert Bailey IV	Bradley Hartley
Jason Baltic	Mark R. Lambert
Patrick J. Barker	B.J. Robinson
J. Anthony Domingo	Robert S. Rodes, II

SECRETARY: Cathy Green

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mullen-Thaxton

Regional Response Teams Annual Report

*Assistant State Fire Marshal
Shawn Alderman*

Regional Response Teams

Coordinator: Assistant State Fire Marshal Shawn Alderman

This past fiscal year has brought much-needed equipment upgrades and purchasing of newer technologies in regards to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). While the program still is responsible for Mass Casualty and Hazardous Materials/WMD response, it has been USAR that has begun to take its own destiny into account.

Of primary accomplishment has been the development of the Urban Search and Rescue training ground located at the EPTC site in Institute, WV. This work in progress has been a cooperative effort between the Office of the State Fire Marshal and our RESA III Public Service Training partners. To date, much work has been accomplished on the site, with grade work and stone being placed to start and several props being built to facilitate skills training. Once site work was complete, concrete slabs were poured and culvert pipe, J-barriers and vaults were brought in to allow multiple different training evolutions and scenarios for Task Force members. It is due solely to the efforts of these members, working on their own time, that the training site is finally coming to fruition.

The work completed on the training site allowed the completion of eight (8) practical skill in-services to be held prior to the Structural Collapse-Technician course held in June. This course was a challenge primarily because it is the first one ever done all at one location. In addition, three (3) of our members completed Instructor certifications on this course, allowing us to teach our own courses from now on.

Two major incidents of note brought the Task Force to work under situations most do not consider as being typical USAR-type deployments. The first was the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in which support operations were carried out for all mine rescue teams on site. It was during this deployment that many began to realize the potential to cross-train members of the Task Force with mine rescue teams. Several impromptu equipment "in-services" were conducted jointly, and this alone began to raise national awareness with regards to the benefits of combined efforts.

Secondly, the recovery of our brother Donnie Adkins (of the Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department), a firefighter killed in the line of duty during swiftwater rescue operations near Beaver, WV, saw Task Force members conducting technical rope-rigging operations to bring him home to his family. This incident also reinforced the need to bring organization and accountability to the swiftwater element of technical rescue in our state.

Regional Response Teams (continued)

In closing, the continued lack of general revenue funding still restricts the program to the use of grant funds. This fiscal year, each team will have their units inspected and all documentation checked and updated prior to awarding of budget funds.

Only those teams that are in compliance with team requirements will receive funds above the level of basic preventive maintenance. Lack of complete personal protective equipment and replacement of outdated and obsolete equipment continue to be critical issues in need of resolution.

Regulatory & Licensing Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Anthony W. Carrico*

Regulatory & Licensing Division

STAFF

Division Director:	Anthony W. Carrico, DSFM
Field Personnel:	Michael Barrick, ASFM Matthew Hutchinson, ASFM Timothy Mouse, ASFM Robert Tribbie, ASFM
Secretary:	Tanya Bradshaw
Office Assistants:	Debbie Lucas Valerie Lacy

DIVISION OBJECTIVE

The Regulatory & Licensing Division aims to provide a better and safer standard of living for the citizens of West Virginia by ensuring only qualified applicants obtain licensure, by investigating customer complaints, by checking for compliance with all applicable codes and regulations, by monitoring state fire departments and by providing citizens with information on State Laws.

INTRODUCTION

The Regulatory & Licensing Division enforces and interprets laws, rules and regulations and issues licenses relating to the electrical industry, the explosives industry, the fireworks industry, Building Code Officials, Electrical Inspectors, Home Inspectors, and Fire Protection Workers.

The Division also oversees, consults and assists all 448 certified fire departments in the State of West Virginia and provides information and guidance to new fire departments seeking certification.

As charged in State Code, the Licensing & Regulatory Division writes and updates in-house testing for 8 different classifications of Electrician exams as well as Indoor and Outdoor Pyrotechnician exams.

The divisional Supervisor is the in-house Computer Network Technician, the Computer Purchasing Director and Legislative liaison for the State Fire Marshal.

FY 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fireworks:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Fireworks Display	212	\$ 12,993.00
Pyrotechnic Operator Licenses	398	\$ 7,460.00
Test Fees	26	\$ 950.00
TOTAL		\$22,403.00

Explosives:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Company Permits	218	\$ 84,920.00
Individual Licenses	1,425	\$ 89,105.00
TOTAL	1,269	\$ 174,025.00

Inspectors, Code Officials & Fire Protection Workers:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Home Inspectors	128	\$ 12,800.00
Electrical Inspector	62	\$ 5,750.00
Building Code Officials	122	\$ 5,950.00
Fire Protection Workers	625	\$ 56,535.00
TOTAL		\$ 81,035.00

Electricians:

<u>Type of License</u>	<u>Number Issued</u>	<u>Total Fees Collected</u>
Issued	13, 444	\$ 854,920.00
TOTAL		\$ 854,920.00

Total Special Revenue Collected FY 2010 - \$ 1,173,653.00

Citations issued FY 2010 - 20

Fire Safety Inspection/ Plans Review Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Clarence J. Leake*

Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division

STAFF

Supervisor: Clarence J. Leake, DSFM

Field Personnel:

John R. Akers, ASFM	Bobby Light, ASFM
Jeffrey Armentrout, ASFM	John Oliver, ASFM
Bryan C. Casto, ASFM	Rudy L. Raynes, ASFM
Allan Casto, ASFM	Aubrey E. Smith, Jr., ASFM
Norman Fetterman, ASFM	Michael Trabert, ASFM
Douglas E. Gregory, ASFM	Charles Vannatter, ASFM

Contract Employee: Terry Lively

Secretary: Deborajean Hudson

Office Assistant: Ramona Snyder

INTRODUCTION

The Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division staff consists of one (1) Field Deputy Fire Marshal, twelve (12) Fire Marshals, one (1) Contract Plans Reviewer, One (1) Divisional Secretary and one (1) Office Assistant. The Assistant Fire Marshals are assigned to a designated geographical territory ranging from three (3) to six (6) counties. Three (3) Divisional personnel also assist with the review of plans, spending eight (8) days each in the Charleston Office per month in addition to their inspection duties. Two divisional personnel also serve double duty as they are also assigned a geographical area to investigate fires in addition to their inspection duties. All Assistant Fire Marshals serve as liaison for all Fire Marshal services with the local fire departments and the general public.

The division's duties and responsibilities include:

- Inspection of all types of occupancies except one- and two-family dwellings
- Issuance of citations for fire code violations
- Assistance to the Licensing & Regulatory Division in the enforcement of the licensing programs, electrician, fire protection worker, fireworks, etc.
- Response to hazardous material incidents. Several members are also members of the Regional Response Teams.

- Enforcement of fireworks regulations; monitoring of display sites, investigation of complaints, seizure of illegal fireworks
- Enforcement of forest fire burning laws
- Assistance in conducting on-site review of new fire department, substations and fire department evaluations
- Regulation of aboveground flammable liquid storage tanks
- Conducting fire safety training educational seminars and public fire education
- Providing assistance to the Fire/Arson & Explosives Division and other law enforcement agencies
- Assistance to federal government in the implementation of the Federal Hotel/Motel Fire Safety Act
- Response to disasters
- Serving as liaison for Public Safety Officer Benefit Program
- Administering the Certified Fire Inspector Program for NFPA

This fiscal year, five thousand seven hundred forty-one (5,741) fire safety inspections, consultations, and complaints were conducted by the division. This represents an average of four hundred seventy-eight (478) inspections per fire marshal. This shows an increase from last year due to the fact that the fire marshals who retired were able to be replaced. Inspections continue to be prioritized and limited to certain occupancies.

In addition to fire safety inspections, a significant number of man-hours were expended conducting fire safety training and educational programs, complaint investigations, assisting the Fire Investigation Division and department training. Additional educational programs include: in-service training to county school maintenance and educational staffs, presentations to the West Virginia Landlords Association, Department of Health and Human Services social workers, West Virginia Advocate Employees Day Care and Residential Board & Care providers, and the West Virginia Hospital Engineers Association.

Professional development of our divisional staff continues to be a high priority. Our focus on technology will continue to simplify our business processes, making our services more accessible to our customers. Our divisional personnel are constantly striving to improve their skills and knowledge by attending advanced educational programs. This fiscal year, one thousand six hundred seventy-seven (1,677) hours was spent on training. Also during this past year, two fire marshals completed National Fire Protection Association certification for Fire Inspector Two.

The Plans Review Section dedicates a significant amount of time and research to telephone calls and walk-in consultations regarding code interpretations. These direct contacts assist designers and owners with proper code requirements during the early development of the project under consideration. These contacts are not a formal review of plans; however, this procedure has proven to eliminate costly and time-consuming changes during the design and construction phase of the project.

This section accomplishes a formal review of the plans when construction documents are submitted. This is an in-depth review of all architectural and mechanical plans for code compliance. Specialized systems such as fire alarms, automatic sprinkler systems, hood suppression and smoke management systems are reviewed at the time of submittal of the construction documents.

This fiscal year, one thousand three hundred fifty (1,350) plans were reviewed. Of these plans, one hundred thirty-five (135) were projects that exceeded one million dollars. In the past five years, we have reviewed and provided construction inspections for occupancies for over three billion dollars' worth of construction. **In an effort to become more efficient during the review, construction and final inspection for occupancy stages on large projects, both the reviewer and area fire marshal will conduct both the review process and inspection stages until the building is occupied.**

During this past fiscal year it became necessary to issue twenty-three (23) citations for fire code violations. These citations were issued for various fire code violations, from tampering with fire protection equipment to locked exits. In addition, four (4) juvenile petitions were obtained for arson-related fires in educational facilities.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION DIVISION
LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS 2006 - 2010

OCCUPANCY	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
EDUCATIONAL	3430	3152	2982	3069
ASSEMBLY	279	230	337	323
HEALTH CARE	508	499	514	537
DETENTION	59	50	163	127
RESIDENTIAL	669	593	634	626
MERCANTILE	176	148	191	207
BUSINESS	691	545	678	737
INDUSTRIAL	45	38	41	50
STORAGE	28	20	55	62
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	9	5	5	3
TOTAL	5903	5280	5600	5741

LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS BY OCCUPANCY 2009-2010

	TOTAL INSP	INITIAL INSP	CONST INSP	RE INSP
EDUCATIONAL				
Day Care	743	71	23	604
Schools	2190	17	250	1804
Colleges	136	0	30	90
ASSEMBLY				
Class A	102	2	66	8
Class B	48	0	32	0
Class C	173	11	80	27
HEALTH CARE				
Hospitals	272	0	93	127
Nursing Homes	162	0	21	130
Personal Care	73	2	4	64
Ambulatory Care	30	0	14	11
DETENTION	127	0	14	81
RESIDENTIAL				
Hotel/Motel	110	11	71	11
Apartments	144	1	45	17
Dormitory	97	15	42	30
Rooming/Lodging	151	5	14	126
Dwellings	0	0	0	0
Board & Care	124	2	11	105
MERCANTILE	207	5	121	13
BUSINESS	737	57	272	303
INDUSTRIAL	50	2	27	5
STORAGE	62	4	30	7
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS (Includes Dilapidated Property)	3	0	2	1
TOTAL	5741	205	1262	3564

*Initial inspections include only the first visit to a building or site.

* Construction inspections include all visits to a newly constructed or renovated building or site except for the first and final visits.

* A re-inspection includes inspections for licensure or normal annual inspection for other reasons.

2009-2010 OCCUPANCY PERMITS, CONSULTATIONS, AND COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS BY OCCUPANCY

	OCCUPANCY PERMITS	CONSULTS	COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS
EDUCATIONAL			
Day Care	22	22	1
Schools	23	89	7
Colleges	4	12	0
ASSEMBLY			
Class A	11	13	2
Class B	8	7	1
Class C	31	14	10
HEALTH CARE			
Hospitals	33	19	0
Nursing Homes	4	6	1
Personal Care	0	3	0
Ambulatory Care	5	0	0
DETENTION			
	17	6	9
RESIDENTIAL			
Hotel/Motel	8	5	4
Apartments	59	12	10
Dormitory	6	4	0
Rooming/Lodging	1	5	0
Dwellings	0	0	0
Board & Care	3	2	1
MERCANTILE			
	44	13	11
BUSINESS			
	62	38	5
INDUSTRIAL			
	9	7	0
STORAGE			
	14	3	4
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			
	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS			
(Includes Dilapidated Property)	0	0	0
TOTALS	364	280	66

* A final inspection includes only the visit to a newly constructed or renovated building or site where a certificate of occupancy is issued.

* The above complaints include life safety code violations only. Not included are hazardous materials, illegal fireworks, bomb threats, etc.

* A consultation is a visit to a building or site for discussion of problems and/or questions by the owner/occupant.

PLANS REVIEW ACTIVITY 2006- 2010

OCCUPANCY – PLANS REVIEWED

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
EDUCATIONAL	126	185	145	250
ASSEMBLY	159	246	225	223
HEALTH CARE	113	119	146	145
DETENTION	10	6	22	11
RESIDENTIAL	107	113	119	114
MERCANTILE	158	171	225	224
BUSINESS	182	195	250	213
INDUSTRIAL	47	43	64	61
STORAGE	60	52	59	50
AGST	9	17	11	27
CARPET	32	31	51	32
TOTALS	<hr/> 1003	<hr/> 1178	<hr/> 1317	<hr/> 1350

PLANS REVIEW – TYPE OF PLANS – 2009-2010

TYPE OF PLANS – PLANS REVIEWED

ARCHITECTURAL	523
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS	244
HOOD SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS	180
FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS	308
	<hr/>
TOTALS	1255

PROJECTS OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS PER FISCAL YEAR

FY 2002 – FY 2010

FY 2002-2003	64 Projects
FY 2003-2004	88 Projects
FY 2004-2005	130 Projects
FY 2005-2006	121 Projects
FY 2006-2007	134 Projects
FY 2007-2008	124 Projects
FY 2008-2009	140 Projects
FY 2009-2010	135 Projects

MONIES COLLECTED FOR THE LAST FOUR (5) FISCAL YEARS

09/10: INSPECTION	\$112,119.00
PLANS & REVIEW	\$827,283.78
08/09: INSPECTION	\$132,165.00
PLANS & REVIEW	\$709,076.99
07/08: INSPECTION	\$123,124.90
PLANS & REVIEW	\$708,298.19
06/07: INSPECTION	\$132,511.00
PLANS & REVIEW	\$959,215.84
05/06: INSPECTION	\$135,369.00
PLANS & REVIEW	\$779,206.20

Fire Investigation Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Eugene R. Cook*

Fire Investigation Division

STAFF

Supervisor:	Eugene R. Cook, DSFM
Field Personnel:	
Ronald C. Ayersman, ASFM	Paul Gill, ASFM
Robert Bailey IV, ASFM	Bradley Hartley, ASFM
Jason Baltic, ASFM	Mark R. Lambert, ASFM
Patrick J. Barker, ASFM	B.J. Robinson, ASFM
J. Anthony Domingo, ASFM	Robert S. Rodes II, ASFM
Secretary:	Cathy Green
Office Assistant:	Jennifer Mullen-Thaxton

INTRODUCTION

The Investigation Division currently authorized staffing level is one (1) Field Deputy State Fire Marshal, ten (10) Assistant State Fire Marshals, one (1) Secretary and one (1) Office Assistant III.

Each fire marshal has a designated geographical territory ranging in size from four (4) to eight (8) counties. The fire marshals' primary duties encompass all aspects of fire/arson identification and enforcement, including determining fire origin and cause, fire death investigations, executing state or federal search/arrest warrants, and subsequently giving expert testimony in criminal or civil trials. In addition, each fire marshal is responsible for explosives-related investigation/enforcement in his respective area. Many non-arson-related violations are identified during the course of an arson investigation, and are generally referred to other federal, state or local law enforcement agencies for prosecution.

This fiscal year 930 investigations were conducted, compared to 970 for the same period in the previous year.

The diligent, professional work of the Division's fire marshals continues to give West Virginia an excellent arson case resolution record; however, the objective of a reduction in the total number of incendiary fires has not been achieved. The sustained operation of the Arson Hotline (1-800-233-FIRE),

made possible by a generous grant from the WV FAIR PLAN, continues to enable the State Fire Marshal to better define the scope and severity of the continuing arson problem in West Virginia, and to provide quicker investigative response and make monetary rewards available for information leading to the arrest of arsonists.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Requests for fire investigations from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 decreased by 40 cases. This is directly attributed to increased direct positive interaction between fire marshals, fire service, law enforcement and better initial fire cause determinations being made prior to calling for assistance. This is also a direct result of fire marshals providing advanced in-service training classes to fire/law enforcement agencies and the insurance communities with more widespread use of the statewide toll-free "800" Arson Hotline.

CAUSE DETERMINATION	2009 – 2010
INCENDIARY	377
ACCIDENTAL	85
UNDETERMINED/ PENDING	468
TOTAL	930

OCCUPANCY TYPE	2009 – 2010
ASSEMBLY	7
BUSINESS	83
CORRECTIONS	1
EDUCATIONAL	10
GRASSLANDS	6
INDUSTRIAL	11
MERCANTILE	3
RESIDENCE	658
STORAGE	60
VEHICLE	60
HEALTH CARE	2
UNUSUAL	29

FIRE-RELATED DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

This fiscal year, 94 fire-related deaths in 55 fires have been investigated (29 of these fatalities resulted from the explosion and fire at the Upper Big Branch Mine, in Raleigh County). This has increased from the previous year by 36. It must be noted that West Virginia continues to experience a grossly unacceptable rate per capita. Only proactive statewide fire safety programs will begin to reduce these alarming statistics.

While many of these deaths were either directly or indirectly caused by alcohol/drug abuses, the majority were preventable through increased fire safety awareness by the public, use of smoke alarms, statewide fire code enforcement and increased media attention to fire safety as an important year-round topic.

Occupancy Type	2009 – 2010
Dwellings: One/Two Family	34
Dwellings: Multi-Family	1
Dwellings: Mobile Homes	8
Vehicle	4
Mine	1
Grasslands	2
Explosives Related	2
Barn	1
Camper	1
Other	1

This fiscal year, Fire Marshals conducted (3) three fire death investigations where the fire was determined to be incendiary in nature. Therefore, the manner of death was homicide. The breakdown of the disposition of homicides is as follows:

Cleared by arrest: fire marshals charging defendant(s) with First Degree Arson and/or other felony charges	2
Suicides, no other action taken	1
Unsolved, still pending	3
Total Number of Deaths Resulting From Arson Fires	6

ARRESTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRESTS	91
ADULT	82
JUVENILE	9
CHARGES	152

TRAINING GIVEN

Fire marshals continued to provide direct and indirect training programs in the areas of fire/arson and explosives investigation training to fire service and law enforcement agencies of the state. This support primarily involved providing instructors for formal training programs for the Governor's Committee-approved law enforcement in-service training programs, and informal training classes at county fire schools, fire departments and task force meetings.

Listed below are the classes this division teaches:

- Level I Fire Investigation
- Level II Fire Investigation
- Level III Fire Investigation
- Explosives Recognition for Public Safety Officer's
- Miscellaneous Training
(training presented to fire and police departments, civic groups, insurance groups, etc.)

TRAINING RECEIVED

All fire marshals continue to receive advanced training from the National Fire Academy, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and other nationally accredited training courses.

Public Education Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Carol E. Nolte*

Public Education Division

STAFF

Supervisor: Carol E. Nolte, DSFM

Office staff: Pat Lynch
Alice Carpenter

INTRODUCTION

The Public Education Division staff currently consists of one Field Deputy Fire Marshal and two Office Assistants (OA2).

The Public Education Division is responsible for duties which include, but are not limited to fire and injury prevention education (primary); media communications; oversight, coordination and support services for mandatory incident reporting and data management for West Virginia's fire departments; oversight for quarterly funding eligibility for part-paid and volunteer fire departments; assistance in coordination of continuing training for deputized assistant fire marshals; and the testing certification program for the sales of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes in West Virginia, for all tobacco manufacturers. The division also processes and issues Emergency Vehicle Permits for all West Virginia fire departments.

The Public Education Division promotes programs that aim to reduce loss of life and property through education including but not limited to, the following:

- Fire and injury prevention for all groups, including high-risk (seniors, people with disabilities, young children)
- Train-the-trainer instruction in public fire/life safety education for firefighters and other emergency responders
- Fireworks law and safety for general audiences
- Smoke alarm education and distribution
- Fire safety and emergency planning for public facilities
- Public speaking for civic, governmental and advocacy organizations
- Participation in health and public safety fairs/seminars, and career days
- Membership and active participation in health/safety organizations
- Press conferences, TV and radio interviews
- Notices to fire departments and SFM website (informational including safety topics, educational, reporting and training requirements, etc.)
- Media promotion of fire safety and related topics
- Coordination of FEMA grant writing workshops for fire departments
- Coordinating loan and distribution of educational materials to fire departments, safety groups, schools, businesses and the general public

SPECIAL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES IN FY 2010:

- Coordinated four (4) US Assistance to Firefighter Grant workshops in the following locations:
 - Beckley FD, Raleigh County
 - Bridgeport FD, Harrison County
 - Keyser FD, Mineral County
 - Ripley FD, Jackson County
- 500 smoke alarms were distributed at the WV State Seniors' Conference at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, in May 2010. All seniors attending received a free smoke alarm and a brochure on senior fire safety.
- National Fire Prevention Week Activities:
 - 100 smoke alarms and fire safety pamphlets were donated by the SFMO for distribution during National Fire Prevention Week by WCHS Talk Radio (Charleston) (Metro News Radio).
 - Public Education Officer provided live interview with WCHS Talk Radio on smoke alarms and home fire prevention.
 - Press releases on Fire Prevention Week sent to all media contacts: TV, radio, newspapers, and other media partners.
 - Partnered with Charleston Newspapers for their "Newspapers in Education" Fire Safety program. Approximately 21,000 students in eight (8) counties (58 schools) used the 21-page insert for school-based activities during Fire Prevention Week.
- Fire Safe Cigarette Certification Program: Effective January 2010, all cigarette manufacturers selling cigarettes in West Virginia must provide certification to the SFMO/Public Education Division that their products have met the testing standards set forth in the legislation. Recertification process is every three (3) years and proceeds from the fees are split between the SFMO and State Tax Department, with the SFMO portion designated to be used for fire prevention efforts.
- Media campaign: Due to several fire deaths in FY 2010 involving space heaters, the Public Education Division developed a series of 15-second TV spots that aired beginning in December 2009 over a 4-week period across West Virginia and parts of PA, MD, VA, OH and KY. These spots focused on home heating safety, including the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning; space heaters need space; and the importance of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in the home. This campaign reached approximately 1,329,365 households.

- Media campaign: Television campaign in June 2010 ran 15-second spots in similar coverage areas featuring arson awareness (the WV Arson Hotline); residential fire sprinklers; and smoke alarms.
- Media campaign: The division also developed .15 second radio spots in FY 2010 to air in March during the SSAC State High School Basketball Tournaments. These commercials aired on 40 radio stations across the state and featured messages on home escape plans, smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers.
- Media campaign: The Public Education Division developed three fire safety messages that were displayed beginning in June 2010 on billboards in 34 locations across the state. The messages dealt with locking matches & lighters away from children; home escape plans; and testing and maintaining smoke alarms.

OTHER MEDIA ACTIVITIES IN FY 2010

- TV, Radio and Newspaper Interviews: 4
- Press Releases: 14

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES IN FY 2010

- Coordinated SFMO participation at safety/health fairs/expos: 2
- Presentations/training sessions given on various fire safety topics: 6
- Assisted in coordinating total of 6 seminars for civilian fire wardens, fire service and code enforcement.

NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NFIRS)

The Public Education Division is responsible for administration of the state's fire and non-fire incident reporting system. On a daily basis, the division actively supports and promotes the use of computer-based reporting in an NFIRS-compatible format by all fire departments in an effort to standardize and expedite incident reporting in West Virginia. This enables both the Fire Marshal's Office and fire departments to access statistics that better reflect specific fire and life-safety trends and needs.

The Public Education Division continued to offer and conduct 8-hour NFIRS training courses for fire departments. The following NFIRS classes were provided in FY 2010:

Logan County Fire School
Mingo County Fire School
Summers County (Pipestem/State EMS Conference)

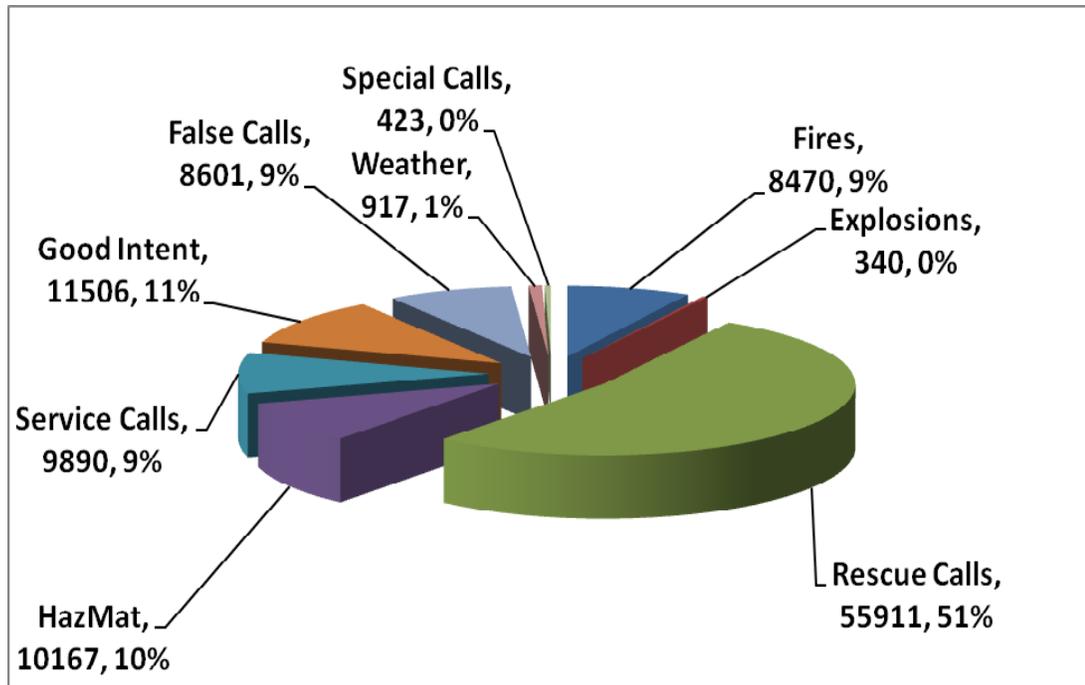
NOTE: All WV fire departments are required to report fire and non-fire incidents in a consistent manner by Code; therefore, participation in NFIRS is for the most part assured.

However, it is increasingly apparent that there is a significant need for improvement with regard to the quality of data submitted. Specifically, selection of the proper incident codes and completeness of the required and supplemental fields must be regularly addressed by this division.

An obvious need in order to correct this problem is for increased participation by the fire departments in taking advantage of the free 8-hour class offered by the division. NFIRS support is currently provided by two (2) staff members, who also are available to schedule in-office one-on-one tutoring for FD members.

WEST VIRGINIA FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE FY 2010

Types of Calls FY 2010



Note: Total number of calls represented above do not include ALL NFIRS incident types. The incident types above were selected to reflect some of the most frequently occurring responses by fire departments.

Code Series Legend (partial):

Service Calls – include person in distress, water problem, smoke/odor problem, animal problem or rescue, public service assistance; unauthorized burning (includes fires under control and not endangering property), cover assignment/standby at fire station/move-up and service call, other.

Good Intent Calls – include dispatched & cancelled enroute; wrong location, no emergency found; controlled burning; vicinity alarm; steam, other gas mistaken for smoke; EMS call where party has been transported; HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat found; good intent call, other.

False Alarm & False Calls – include malicious/mischievous false alarms; bomb scare; system or detector malfunction; unintentional system or detector operation (no fire); biohazard scare; false alarm or false call, other.

Special Calls – Citizen's complaint, includes reports of code or ordinance violation; special type of incident, other.

Total number of FD responses for FY 2010 (All incident types).....	106,225
Total number of FD responses (Fire calls only).....	8,470
Total number of FD responses (Rescue/EMS calls only).....	55,911

MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS FY 2010

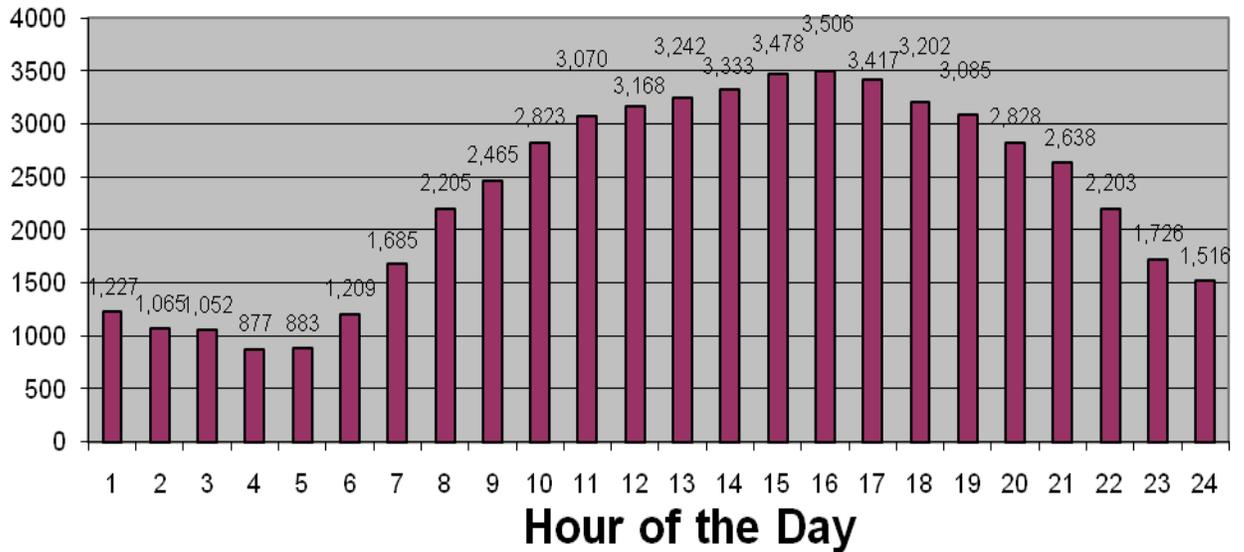
***Mutual aid given to FD's on all types incidents.....16,662**

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) used by the State of West Virginia includes Mutual Aid incidents under the following descriptor:

- **Aid Given (automatic or mutual):** A fire department responds into another fire department's jurisdiction to provide assistance at an incident or to cover a vacated station while the receiving fire department is busy at an incident.

According to NFIRS, "aid information can be used to study response levels necessary to control various fire and emergency situations. It can be used to determine the adequacy of resources at the local level and the need for adjusting cooperative agreements. The "Aid Given or Received" entry serves as data control to ensure that the same incident is not counted more than once while still giving credit for activity performed by outside departments."

EMS Incidents by Time of Day



NOTE: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) runs shown above are those incidents carried out by fire departments that run EMS and do not reflect runs made by private or any other ambulance services.

FIRE IN WEST VIRGINIA FY 2010

The fire problem varies from region to region in the United States. This can be a result of poverty, education, demographics and other causal factors. According to the National Fire Protection Association's Sept. 2007 publication "U.S. Unintentional Death Rates by State", West Virginia easily ranks among the top ten (10) states on four (4) of the major correlating factors for fire deaths: poverty, education, smokers, and rural population.

Statistics reflecting smoke alarm use and operation for the state continue to paint a disturbing picture in terms of inadequate residential fire protection.

Although the Public Education Division has significantly increased media outreach promoting public awareness of fire safety issues as well as the number of smoke alarms distributed over the past few years, much more needs to be done at the state, fire department, and community levels.

The above risk factors point to a critical need for increased fire protection in the home. Residential fire sprinklers, when used in conjunction with smoke detectors, can result in survival rates of over 90%. This is a tremendous boost to life safety, especially given the fact that most fire deaths continue to happen in the home. Legislation continues to be sought by the fire service in West Virginia to require these systems in all new residential construction, but much remains to be done regarding public awareness and education about the value and functioning of sprinkler systems.

As to the capabilities of this agency in providing leadership in public fire education, increased services such as long-term fire prevention campaigns and programs, establishment of juvenile firesetter intervention networks and programs, and other outreach measures will not readily become realities unless and until additional Public Education Officers are added to the SFMO staff.

All following data is based on NFIRS statistics as submitted by West Virginia's fire departments. The State of West Virginia utilizes the NFIRS Version 5.0 Federal Client Tool to coordinate fire and non-fire data.

Data gathered by use of on-line, USFA vendor-approved software is acceptable to the SFMO. In cases where fire departments choose to use independently purchased software, the Public Education Division cannot provide program-specific technical support but will assist in providing all other information needed to report in the NFIRS.

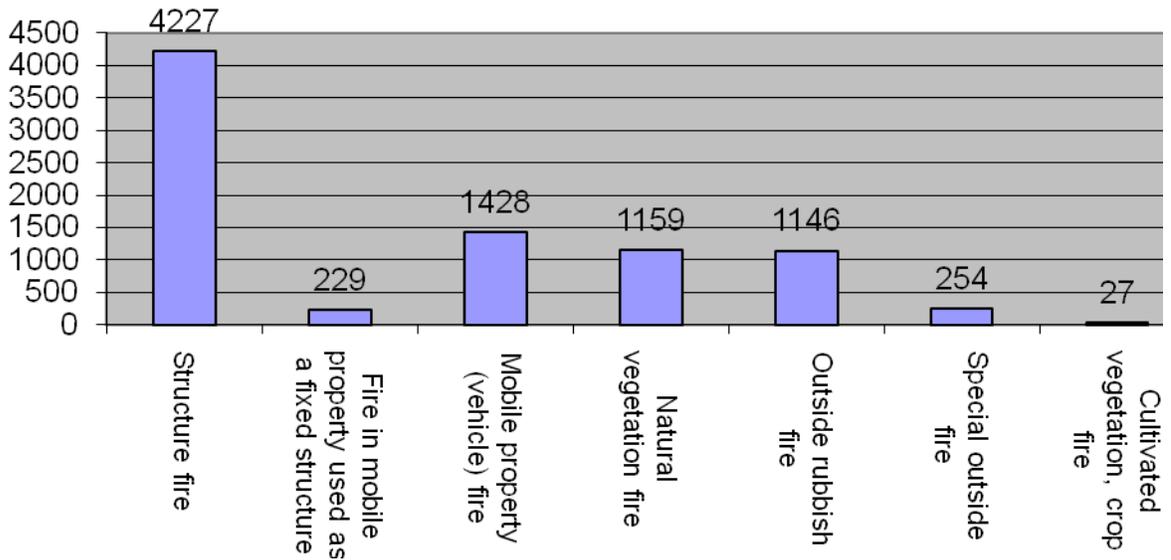
FIRE IN WEST VIRGINIA FY 2010

Civilian deaths:	54 *
Civilian injuries:	95
Firefighter deaths:	0 (from fire); 2 from other causes
Firefighter injuries:	73
Total [estimated] fire loss:	\$113,458,389

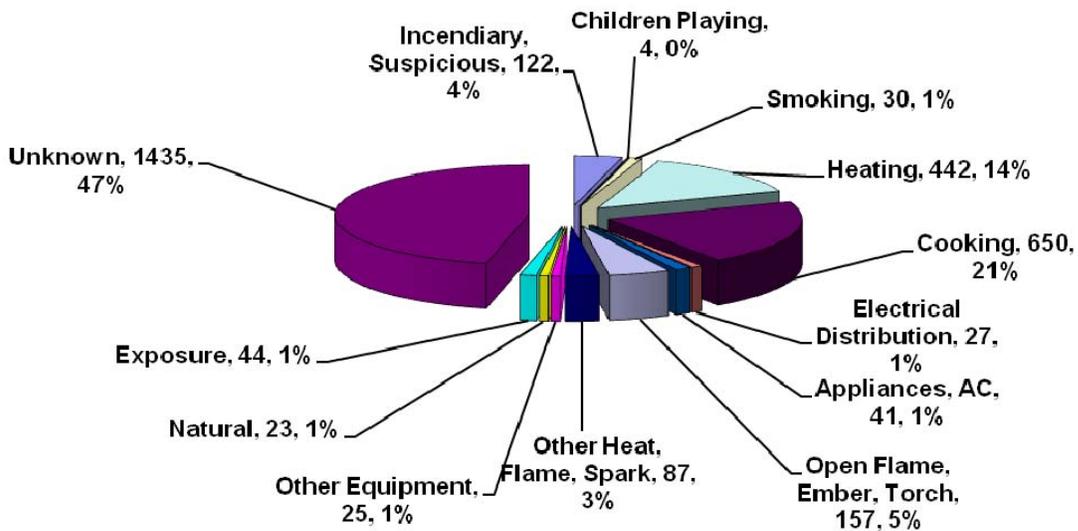
(Fire loss includes estimated property and contents)

- **As reported by WV FD's using NFIRS Version 5.0. Number of fire fatalities reported by FD's differs from SFMO Fire Investigation Division statistics, which show 94 fire-related deaths for this fiscal year. This discrepancy is in part due to lack of follow-up as to fire victims transported out of area to burn centers for treatment, and later died (fire department did not update existing fire report to reflect change from fire injury to fire death); victims who died in incidents in which no fire department was called; and other factors.*
- *** This includes ALL types of injury to firefighters, including those involving fire/smoke, vehicle crashes, explosions, falls, training injuries, etc.*

FY 2010 Reported Fires

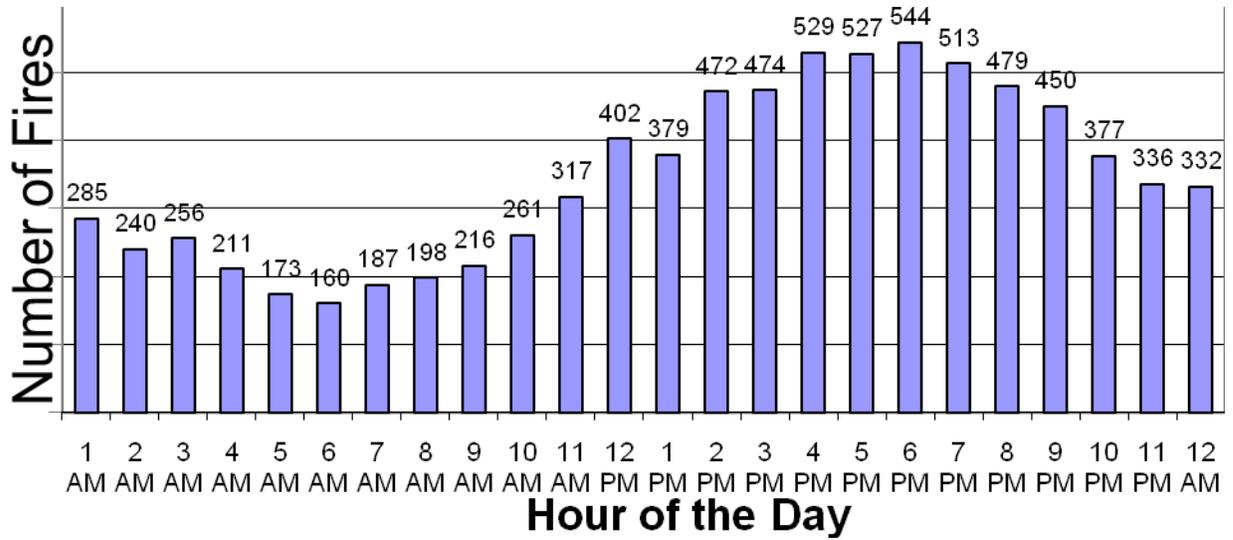


Fire Causes FY 2010

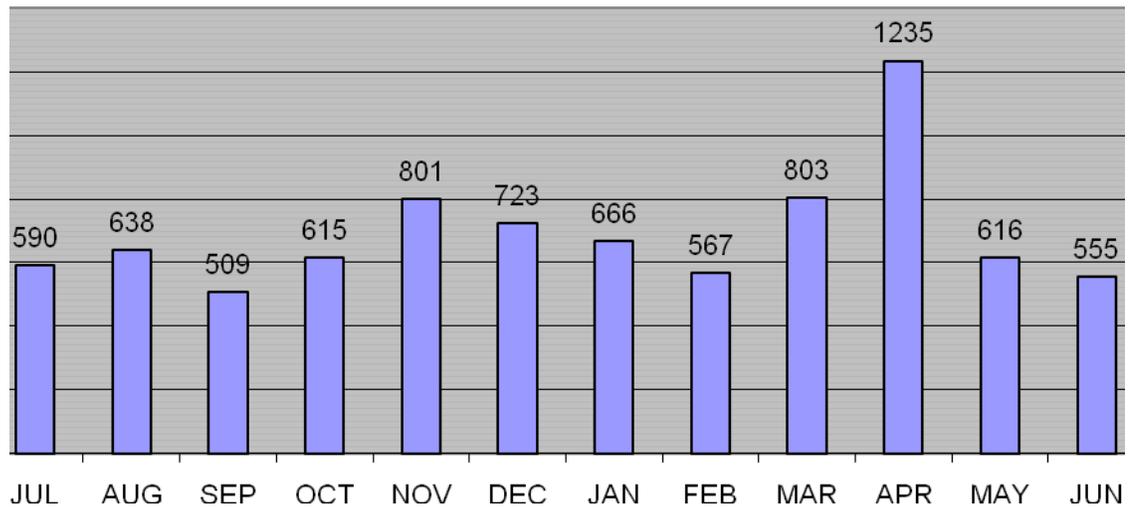


Note: Total number of structure fire causes represented above do NOT include all NFIRS incident codes for fire cause. The categories above were selected to reflect some of the most frequently occurring fire causes.

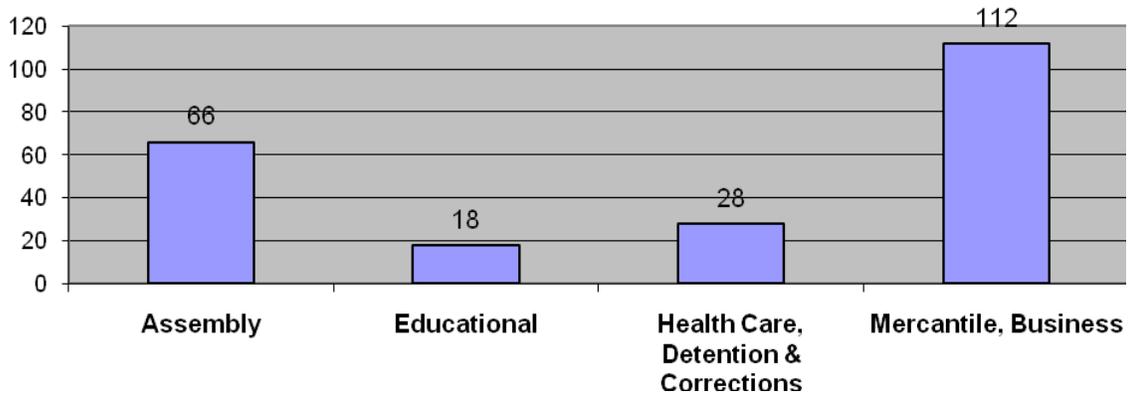
Fires by Hour of the Day FY 2010



Fires By Month FY 2010



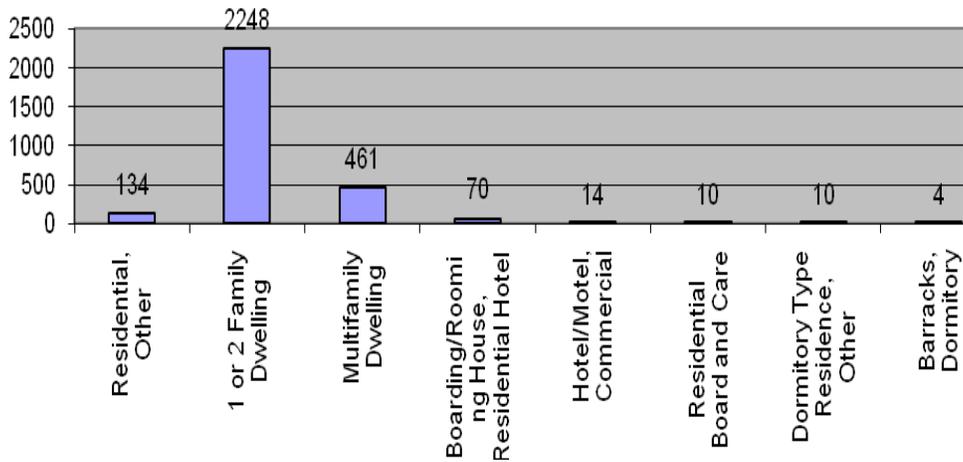
Public Property Structure Fires FY 2010



NOTE: Assembly occupancies include, but are not limited to, churches, restaurants, drinking establishments, auditoriums, nightclubs, courthouses and similar governmental buildings, museums, libraries, air and bus terminals, theaters, etc.

WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENTIAL FIRES FY 2010

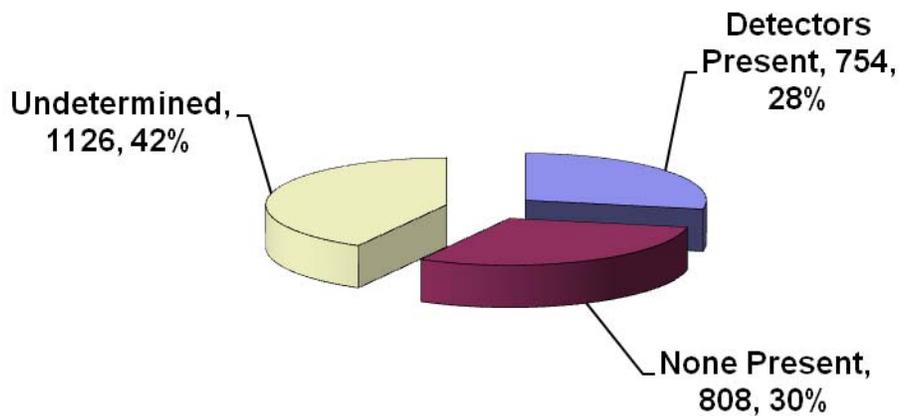
Residential Structure Fires FY 2010



Note ** The actual number of reported residential fires for this period is 2,951. The total of the smoke alarm presence numbers shown below, if added, shows 2,688. This discrepancy is due to the Structure Fire by Property Use report, which counts all the 100 series incident type codes and then sorts by Property Use, including Confined Fires. The Tally Reports for Smoke Alarm Presence and Operation would therefore exclude those confined fires (Incident type codes 113-118) since the Structure Fire Module is not typically completed for confined fires.

Smoke alarm data comprises a mandatory field in NFIRS 5.0.

Residential Smoke Alarm Presence FY 2010



Residential Smoke Alarm Operation FY 2010

