

# FLORIDA FIRES

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



JEFF ATWATER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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# FLORIDA FIRES



**Division of State Fire Marshal  
Florida Department of Financial Services**

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# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER & STATE FIRE MARSHAL JEFF ATWATER



## JEFF ATWATER Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal

### Dear Fellow Floridians:

As Florida’s Chief Financial Officer, I have the unique privilege of serving as your State Fire Marshal. Being both a father and a son of a firefighter, I have a deep appreciation for the hard work and courage exhibited by fire-service professionals. Throughout my tenure, I have been given the honor of serving alongside these brave individuals as they risk their lives and place service above self for their communities, and my respect and appreciation for them continues to grow.

These men and women are true heroes and it has been tremendously rewarding to witness the results of their outstanding and courageous work. Those of you who serve as fire and emergency professionals are aware of how unpredictable your field is – you never know when you will be called to perform your duty or the severity of the situation you will encounter.

Earlier this year, it was my honor to break ground for the Florida Fallen Firefighter Monument at the Capitol which will be a complement to the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Ocala and the Florida Fallen Wildland Firefighter Memorial in Withlacoochee. As I looked out on the families, friends, and fellow firefighters of the fallen heroes, I was both moved and

filled with the resolve that more must be done to enhance the safety of our firefighters. I fully support the Firefighter Safety and Health initiatives and strongly encourage every firefighter of all ranks to have the “Courage to be Safe” so that everyone does indeed go home.

In 2014, 49,107 fires were reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System – 14,076 of which were deemed accidental. Our office investigated 3,563 arson cases, resulting in 434 of arson-related arrests, including three high-profile arrests in which the suspects were convicted of first-degree murder and arson. With each arrest and conviction we make, one less arsonist is free to walk the streets of Florida. Arson accounted for nearly \$20 million in property damage last year. We will continue to fight these injustices through increased vigilance and education.

In 2014, we unfortunately saw the loss of three more Florida firefighters in the line of duty, Homer “J.R.” Harrell, Orange City Fire Department; Jeffrey B. Newland, North Port Fire Rescue; and Roger D. Tome, Kennedy Space Center Fire Rescue. As of the writing of this letter, there have been no Florida firefighter deaths in 2015. However, Florida saw 139 civilian fatalities and 1,834 fire-related injuries.



Once more we are proud to announce that the bureau received reaccreditation status from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Inc. (CFA), reaffirming our commitment to high standards of professionalism and confirming the dedication of every member of the Division of State Fire Marshal.

I am exceedingly honored to be a part of this agency as your State Fire Marshal and to have the opportunity to work side by side with such outstanding men and women. It is truly a privilege to witness how diligently you work to protect and serve the residents of Florida, and I am consistently impressed and encouraged by your efforts. From the bottom of my heart, I offer my deepest gratitude for your sacrifice and service and I thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Jeff Atwater  
Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal

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*“To reduce the loss of life and property to fire and other disasters statewide through internal and external leadership, standards and training, prevention and education, and fire and arson investigation.”*

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**STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
MISSION STATEMENT**

# DIVISION DIRECTOR JULIUS HALAS



**JULIUS HALAS**  
Division Director

The Florida Division of State Fire Marshal remains committed to providing excellent service to the State of Florida. Services provided by the Division are comprehensive and include: conducting fire and arson investigations or forensic analysis, assisting with information requests or safety code issues, working to maintain our four Bureau accreditations, and improving disaster response expertise. Year round, one of our primary goals is to serve this great State with honor and professionalism.

In a continued effort to maintain preparedness for disasters in the state of Florida, the Florida Division of Emergency Management conducts an annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise. In 2014, the annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise presented a scenario in which two major hurricanes were approaching the state just a few days apart. The first of the two, Hurricane Sasser (named in honor of our retiring ESF 4&9 lead Sherm Sasser), dumped heavy rain, and impacted the panhandle directly, while the second, Hurricane Gibson, caused widespread damage and flooding to the Peninsula. Multiple state, federal, and local agencies coordinated to work through this complex scenario and helped make us better prepared to respond in the real event of hurricanes or other natural disasters.

Earlier this year I, along with CFO Jeff Atwater, members of fallen firefighters' families and representatives from Florida's Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services Organizations,

had the honor and privilege of participating in breaking ground on the new Florida Firefighter Memorial Monument at the Capitol. This monument does not in any way replace the **Memorials at Ocala and Withlacoochee**, but serves as a daily reminder to our state leadership and all who have business at the Capitol of the tremendous risk and sacrifice our firefighters and their families make every day! It is a fitting tribute to the ultimate sacrifice that 181 of Florida's firefighters have paid in defense and service to the people of Florida. Our goal is to continue working with all of our partners and stakeholders in the Florida Fire and Emergency Services to strive toward never having to memorialize another name on the firefighter's monument, while we continue supporting the families of the fallen.

Under the leadership of Florida Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal, Jeff Atwater and his leadership team, we continue our mission to improve our service and performance to Florida's residents, visitors, businesses, and the fire service.

Sincerely,

Julius Halas  
Division Director



WE SUPPORT

OUR TROOPS

NORTH PORT

Pierce

81

# OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Division of State Fire Marshal continues to do our part at maintaining professional relationships with the fire service, law enforcement, and professional associations. These relationships are vital toward the sharing of information to enhance and maintain the successful operation of all four bureaus in the Division. Taking a proactive role in memberships such as serving on the Technical Committee for (NFPA 921). *The Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation* has allowed Florida to stay on the cutting edge of the industry and having a seat at the table for future editions. We would like to thank the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) for allowing Florida to represent IFMA on this technical committee as a principal member.

The Florida Fire Chiefs Association and the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association have provided the division with a great opportunity to work alongside similar professionals whose ultimate goal is the enhancement of all fire and emergency services. In addition to these two associations and many others, our fire service is very fortunate to have an abundance of forward-thinking members who strive each day to make Florida's Fire Service one of the best in the nation.

The level of professionalism and service within the division is a constantly evolving process one that would not be possible if not for the dedicated employees who come to work each day and make a positive difference. All four bureaus continue maintaining their accreditation while venturing out to design and increase productivity in order to meet the expectations of our public safety partners and above all, the citizens we serve.

As you go through the annual report, please take the time to read about each bureau in the division. We are very proud of the accomplishments made and in particular, the overwhelming amount of statistical data that is derived from the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS). This collection of data is extremely important to our fire services and is found to be a great importance to our citizens who seek to better educate themselves about their local fire rescue services.

To all division employees, your hard work and dedication



**MARK SAULS**  
Assistant Director

is very much appreciated. To our fire service and law enforcement partners, thank you for your support of the division and the collaboration that occurs throughout the year to address the needs of all first responders.





## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & RESPONSE

In **2014**, The Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) continued to be the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 4 (Firefighting) and for Emergency Support Function 9 (Search and Rescue or SAR). These are two of the 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) that are a part of the State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). It is the responsibility of the lead agency to provide coordination, staffing, and assistance for these ESFs, both at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in a large or major event, or away from the SEOC in a minor event.

Historically, the majority of these events and potential disasters are hurricanes or wildfires, but they can be the result of a wide range of issues such as plane crashes, building collapses, explosions, tornadoes, flooding, or issues surrounding hazmat.

Within the ESF and SEOC, the SFM is responsible for verifying requests for resources and information, ensuring that appropriate assistance is provided, ordering resources, tracking, and documenting resources, creating cost estimates, effecting logistical support, and establishing procedures. Outside of the SEOC, the personnel of the SFM perform operational duties including, but not limited to, security for teams and task forces performing firefighting or search and rescue for law enforcement.

Much of this coordination is accomplished through partnerships with other agencies and associations who provide operational responses and resources, technical assistance, and staffing. Some of the major partners are the Florida Forest Service (FFS), the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), the Florida Department of Health (DOH), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association



### SHERM SASSER

Sr. Management Analyst Supervisor

(FFCA). The FFS takes the lead in wildland firefighting; the DEM manages all emergency operations and the SEOC; the FWC assists with waterborne SAR and security; DOH supports health operations including life support; DEP takes the lead in hazardous materials; and FEMA coordinates Federal assets, in turn ESF 4 and 9 provides support, resources, and/or technical expertise to each of the partners listed above as well as numerous other stake holders.

Florida and ESFs 4 and 9 experienced a mild year during **2014**, with limited events requiring emergency response. We always hope that there will be no major events harming our state, but constantly work and train to be prepared when it does occur.



## DOMESTIC SECURITY GRANT PROGRAMS

The Domestic Security Grant Program works in conjunction with various federal, state, and local agencies, along with constituent groups, to support and enhance the specialized teams that provide Urban Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials response and mobile Mutual Aid Radio communications responses across the state.

Over the past twelve years the program helped to secure and administered the Fire Rescue allocations of the Federal Homeland Security Grant Funds to the eight Urban Search & Rescue (US&R), 29 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) capable Hazardous Materials teams (20 SHS Grant funded), nine Mutual Aid Radio Cache (MARC) units and local Light Technical Rescue Teams (LTRT). The Program continues to support the sustainment of equipment, advanced training, and exercises.

To accomplish this the program works in concert with the Florida State Fire College, Division of Emergency Management, Florida Forestry Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the regional Fire representatives, the Florida Fire Chiefs Association's subcommittees of Domestic Security Resource, Florida Association of Search & Rescue, and the Florida Hazardous Materials Response.

In June of 2014, the program made a significant shift in how the agreements are administered. Due to reduced grant funding the contract administration was transferred back to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The division maintained the day to day coordination with the teams and oversight of projects in cooperation with DEM.

In January of 2014, the program partnered with DEM, the FFCA, Palm Beach State College, and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue to conduct the South Florida US&R exercises in West Palm Beach. Participating teams included three US&R, eight Light Technical Rescue Teams, and one communications unit. Fifty five personnel participated in the two day event at two separate venues. Plans, procedures, and techniques were practiced and tested over the course of the two days to ensure and improve heavy rescue capabilities.



**JOHN KOHNKE**  
Domestic Security Coordinator

The Domestic Security Coordinator is supported by key staff from across the division and department.



# BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING



Florida's Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) at the Florida State Fire College is focused on understanding the needs of our customers and exceeding their expectations. Our mission is to develop and deliver exceptional training and academic opportunities for over 60,000 Florida firefighters, firesafety inspectors, arson investigators, and other stakeholders. Our mission is simple: to enable the success of Florida's Fire and Emergency Services Community. The bureau has been active this past year to fulfill our mission. We have remained fully engaged with our stakeholders by introducing new certification programs while also updating existing programs and courses. This has been achieved because of the dedication of our talented staff and collaboration of our fire service members and partners. Notably, this past year we also celebrated the contributions of Bureau Chief Barry Baker who retired after over 40 years of dedicated service to our industry.



**BILL WENTLANDT**  
Bureau Chief

The bureau is currently involved in a comprehensive firefighter job task analysis (JTA). The objective of the firefighter job task analysis is to determine the minimum standards of training for Florida firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Our goal is to update our training curriculum to match the knowledge and skills our firefighters believe are required to effectively complete their job.

This effort is only successful if Florida's fire service and our stakeholders are directly involved in this process. A critical part of this project is being able to gather information from Florida's firefighters and stakeholders. We seek input from thousands of firefighters across the state, from various size departments, which serve diverse communities.

The Division of State Fire Marshal will evaluate the findings and use this information to amend the curriculum for the minimum standards and volunteer firefighter training programs to match the training needs of a new firefighter.

We recently released the new Safety Officer Program. This is a voluntary advanced training program that provides training opportunities for firefighters who desire to perform the duties of a safety officer. Firefighters have the opportunity to learn contemporary concepts related to safety and health programs to reduce the incidents of firefighter injuries and fatalities. Program completers receive an Incident Safety Officer Certificate of Completion, Health and Safety Officer Certificate of Completion, or a Safety Officer Certificate of Competency issued by the Division.



Work is being finalized on the new Florida Urban Search and Rescue (FLUSAR) and Hazardous Materials designation in 2015. This anticipated program will include all USAR and Hazardous Materials disciplines and will align with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirements. The bureau is in the last phase of administrative rule making before adoption of this program.

All program development is managed through an open rulemaking process. Rulemaking may be initiated at request of our fire service stakeholders or by the bureau. The bureau serves as the facilitator of the process, receiving input from others to reach a consensus on language. Rulemaking typically includes two or more public workshops or hearings. A draft rule is the outcome of these meetings which is presented to the Director of the State Fire Marshal and the CFO for signature. The bureau strongly encourages participation by individuals and constituents to frame a consensus on the rule, as it is truly a democratic process inviting comments both pro and con. Consider subscribing to the Florida Administrative Weekly site at <https://www.flrules.org/> to receive notifications of any bureau rulemaking. Plan on participating with the bureau as we initiate rulemaking to review the fire investigator and firesafety inspector program in the near future.

The bureau is grateful to receive continued funding to update the fire college campus. Numerous projects have recently

been completed, including painting of the training tower, replacement of carpeting in classrooms, and installation of a new sound system in the fire college auditorium. Additional work has been done to install new campus lighting and an update to our security system. Significant building projects will be completed this coming year including the construction of a new burn building. The bureau acknowledges the continued investment of the fire college campus is the direct result of the support we receive.

Join us at the Florida State Fire College for your next class!

## STANDARDS SECTION

– **Mark Harper**  
Standards Supervisor

The Standards Section has eight full-time employees who manage the Florida Fire Service Certification Programs. The full time positions are supplemented with seven OPS personnel who assist with testing and inspections of certified training centers.

The Standards Section has the responsibility for the oversight and maintenance of the **Florida Fire Service Certification Programs** as defined in Florida Statute and Florida Administrative Code. In total, the Standards Section issued 5,099 certifications during 2014. This



includes issuance of certifications of two new professional designations of Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. The Standards Section, in collaboration with the Training Section, finalized development of the Safety Officer Certification Program which will be released in 2015.

The Firefighter and Volunteer Firefighter Certification Programs are the foundation of training for Florida’s firefighters. A Firefighter Certificate of Compliance is required to be employed as a firefighter and is awarded to applicants who complete the required training, achieve a passing score on a comprehensive examination, and meet all statutory requirements for certification. A Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of Completion is awarded to individuals who have completed the volunteer firefighter training. In order for a firefighter to retain her or his Firefighter Certificate of Compliance, every four years, he or she must:

- Be active as a firefighter,
- Maintain a current and valid fire service instructor certificate, instructing at least 40 hours during the four year period,
- Successfully complete a refresher course consisting of a minimum of 40 hours of training,
- Successfully retake and pass the Minimum Standards Course examination within six months before the four year period expires,
- Be employed full-time as a firesafety inspector or fire

investigator, regardless of her or his employment status as a firefighter,

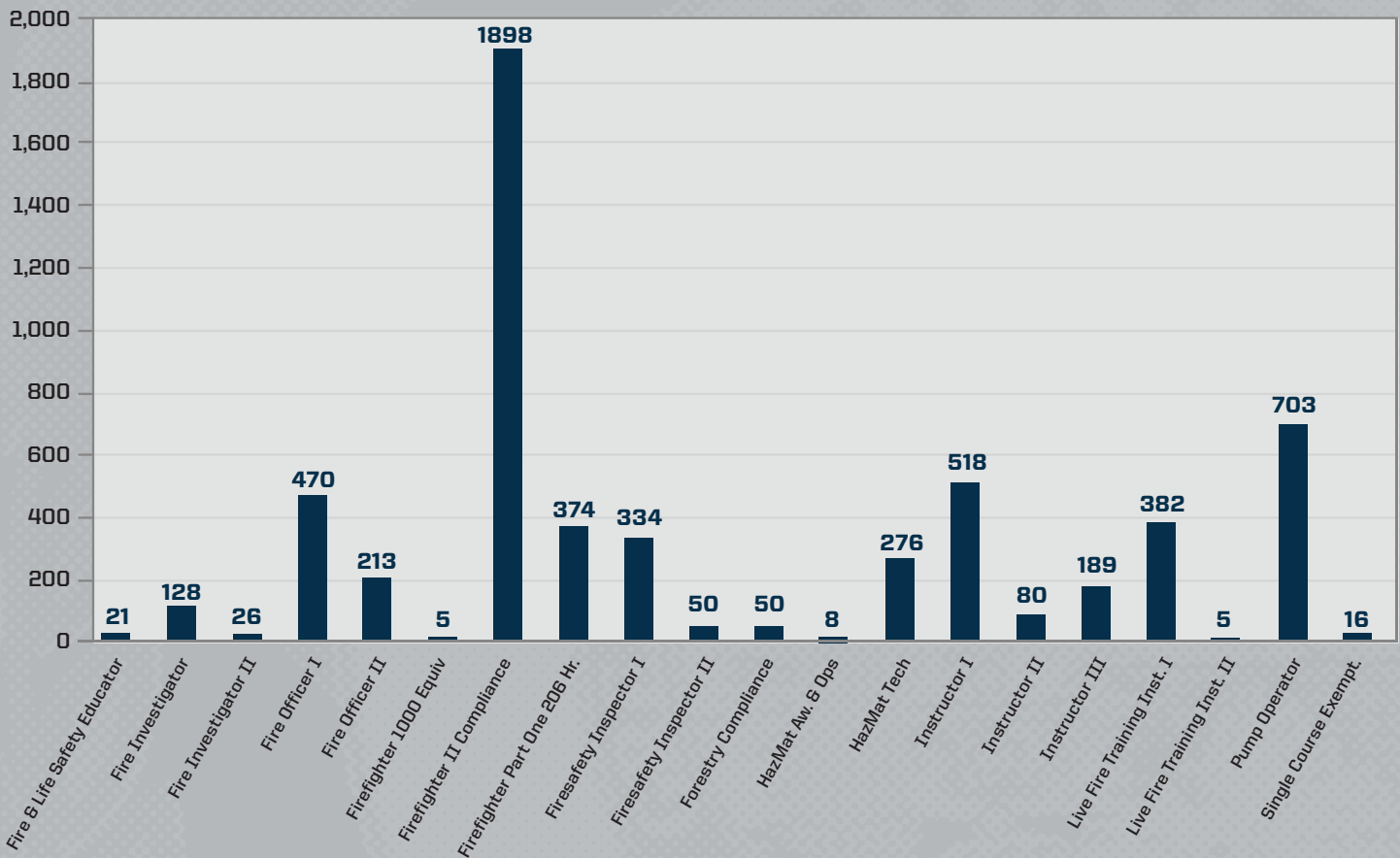
- **OR** provide service as a volunteer firefighter for a cumulative six months within a four year period.

The **Minimum Standards Written and Practical Retention Examination** evaluates an applicant’s ability to maintain currency with the education and skills required of a firefighter. On July 1, 2013, Florida State Statute 633 changed to require a written examination along with the practical examination for retention. The bureau administered 88 retention exams in 2014 which decreased from 171 applicants in 2013. Of the 88 applicants, 67 passed on their first attempt.

The Standards Section also conducted a comprehensive review of numerous certification exams to insure currency with applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards.

The Standards Section also manages the **Firefighter Supplemental Compensation Program**, which awards an education incentive to the fire department personnel with qualifying degrees. In 2014, the office processed a total of \$8,801,881.03 of disbursement to 10,722 participants in the program.

**NUMBER OF TESTS - CALENDAR YEAR 2014**



## TRAINING SECTION

– **Barbara Klingensmith**  
Training Supervisor

The Florida State Fire College delivers high quality, professional instruction to firefighters, inspectors, and other customers. We achieve this mission by using three full-time instructors along with part-time instructors in the classroom. Our full-time instructors also coordinate the review and development of all courses. Additionally, the fire college delivers instruction in various disciplines through a contract with Marion County Adult Education (CTAE). CTAE is assigned to teach firefighter minimum standards, pump operator, and Urban Search and Rescue (FLUSAR) courses.

The Training Section developed a Firefighter Accreditation Bridge Course that enables previously certified firefighters the opportunity to obtain national Pro Board accreditation based on the current National Fire Protection Association Standard. Recently, the fire college collaborated with CTAE in the development of a firefighter bridge course enabling our military veterans to qualify for firefighter certification. This program, named "Operation Dispatch," is a statewide initiative to assist military personnel returning to the workforce after providing service to their country.

The Training Section worked closely with the Safety Section to establish an option for volunteer firefighters possessing the former 160 hour training certificate to achieve the updated Volunteer Firefighter Certification. This was achieved through collaboration with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association - Volunteer Fire Officers Section, along with volunteer firefighter representatives throughout the state.

The Training Section also introduced the National Traffic Incident Management Train-the-Trainer programs to instructors. This program focuses on first responder safety for firefighters dispatched on roadways and highways.

The Section has continued to work with constituent groups to maintain the currency of curriculum. Updated syllabi have been placed on the bureau's website and Plans of Instruction have been developed for instructors teaching the curriculum. Firefighting Tactics I & II was updated during 2014. The Fire Chemistry course was updated in conjunction with the Bureau of Fire Arson Investigation and will be piloted in spring of 2015. A committee to review the Live Fire Training Instructor program was formed and the updated curriculum will be posted in 2015. A review committee has been assembled to evaluate the Fire Protection Systems I & II courses with a goal to complete this work during 2015.

The Training Section also continues to work with the Standards Section to ensure all certification exams are current with respective NFPA Standards. Subject Matter Experts are routinely involved to validate the state exams being offered for certification. Five of the test banks have been validated, with others being scheduled for 2015.

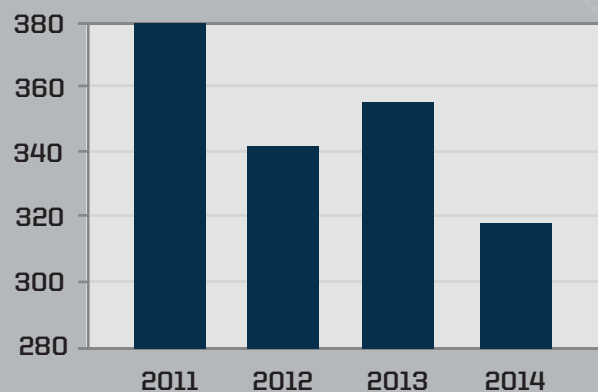
The section continues to evaluate and approve online courses leading to certification. The continued development of this alternate teaching methodology provides flexibility to the emergency services personnel. The section reviews the materials and delivery methodology to assure that each course meets learning outcomes, with the same level of academic rigor expected in a traditional classroom.

The Training Section continued to partner with our constituent groups to assist with the success of Fire Rescue East, Great Florida Fire School, FACAP, and the Northwest Volunteer Firefighter Weekend. The fire college also held its annual Instructor Professional Development Seminar to provide information on current techniques and technology and Volunteer Week where participants could obtain courses towards their Fire Officer Certification, or obtain their initial validation of skills competency for volunteer firefighter and participate in their required live fire training exercise.

The Florida State Fire College continues to offer courses in preparation for various certifications. The below charts compare the last four years of classes offered and number of students attending classes at Florida State Fire College. While the number of classes dropped from 352 to 315, the number of students attending those classes increased by 738 students.

The Training Section's goal is provide personnel with current information and provide tools to achieve training for all emergency services personnel through a variety of methodologies. The section is continuously focused on introducing new methods to meet the emerging needs of the fire service.

**NUMBER OF CLASSES**



## SAFETY SECTION

– **Susan Schell**  
Safety Programs Manager

Sections 633.502 – 633.536, Florida Statutes are collectively known as "Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act." The intent of the Florida Legislature, simply put, is to enhance the occupational safety and health of

Florida's firefighters. The process of making Florida's fire service a safer place is a complex process requiring a multi-pronged approach of developing and implementing policies, procedures, practices, rules, and standards. However, reducing the instances of firefighter accidents, occupational diseases, and fatalities goes far beyond simply making and enforcing more regulations. Making a real impact requires a cooperative and collaborative working relationship between the State Fire Marshal's Office, individual fire departments, and each firefighter. Safety isn't solely the responsibility of one single person or entity, it's a collaborative effort.

The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training's "Safety Section" is the State Fire Marshal's contribution to this cooperative and collaborative effort. This section accomplishes this through a variety of techniques which include a proactive outreach effort of providing guidance and resources, answering inquiries, providing compliance inspections, and if needed, conducting investigations. The Safety Section works to identify employers of firefighters having a high frequency or severity of work related injuries and then working with those employers to develop effective safety and health programs. A major focus of the section is to ensure firefighter employers have in place an effective "safety committee" or "safety coordinator" function.

Many employers (and firefighters) are not aware that the establishment and operation of either a safety committee or a safety coordinator's position is required by law. Whether a department utilizes the safety committee or a safety coordinator (this is not necessarily an incident safety officer) is determined by the number of personnel (volunteer or career) a department has on their respective rosters. Departments having more than 20 persons must have a safety committee, while departments having less than that number must have, at the very least, an assigned safety coordinator. A safety committee can be utilized in place of a safety coordinator, but not vice versa. Specific information as to safety committee / safety coordinator activities and responsibilities can be found by referring to FS 633.522(2) – 633.522(5).

#### **INQUIRES / INVESTIGATIONS**

In 2014, the reporting requirement for reporting firefighter injuries was simplified to reduce the confusion fire departments were experiencing. The previous reporting requirements focused on the certain number of injuries experienced at an event, which also included admission to the hospital. The new reporting requirement calls for fire departments to report an injury to the Safety Section when a firefighter has been hospitalized for 24 hours or more.

During this reporting period the staff of the Safety Section conducted inquiries into the injuries of 27 firefighters. In each of these 27 cases the injuries to firefighters were found to be minor and the individual fire departments

demonstrated to the Safety Section staff that the issues were being managed through their respective safety committees. No further action on the part of the Safety Section was required. In 2014, Safety Section staff conducted two (2) Bureau led investigations into firefighter injuries.

#### **INSPECTIONS**

The staff of the Safety Section is made up of six (6) personnel. This includes four (4) part-time field investigators regionally located throughout the state. In addition to inquiries and investigations, Safety Section staff conducted 25 compliance inspections of fire departments. The compliance inspection program is established in an effort to assist fire departments in achieving and maintaining compliance with Florida Statute 633 and Florida Administrative Code 69A-62. While statute does allow for the Safety Section staff to conduct mandatory compliance inspections, the majority of compliance inspections are conducted collaboratively with the fire departments. Any department desiring to have an inspection conducted of their individual department can make a request through the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

#### **OUTREACH**

As part of its outreach efforts, the staff of the Safety Section continued to actively support the annual Firefighter Safety and Health Conference held in December of each year. During this year's Safety Conference, staff conducted a presentation relative to voluntary compliance inspection to help agencies identify areas of improvement within their respective organizations. Additionally, the section made multiple presentations to various chief officer organizations and elected official groups to facilitate an understanding of their responsibilities relating to FFOSHA. These opportunities continue to support the development of relationship between the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training and multiple constituent groups.

The staff of the BFST Safety Section continues to seek opportunities to provide presentations to any safety committee, safety coordinator, chief officer staff, or governing body in an effort to help everyone understand their respective roles and responsibilities in keeping Florida's firefighters safe and healthy. The key message being presented to each of these groups is to intentionally engage their respective safety committees and use them as a force multiplier in making their departments safer.

## **USAR / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

– **Scott Chappell**  
Program Coordinator

Florida's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Teams, Light Technical Rescue Teams (LTRT), and Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Teams continue to train and prepare for large scale

or out of the ordinary events that may affect Florida and its citizens. These specially trained and equipped response teams are located throughout the State and are prepared to respond to both “no notice” events (like tornados or terrorism) and “noticed” events (such as hurricanes and large public gatherings). While Florida’s US&R and Haz Mat Teams are part of local fire departments around the state, these teams are coordinated by the State Fire Marshal’s office to help ensure a rapid and seamless response.

The year 2014 was an active year for our US&R, LTRT, and Haz Mat Teams. Two large scale exercises were coordinated by SFM. The first was the annual South Florida Exercise (SoFLEX) which exercises 13 US&R/Haz Mat teams simultaneously at two separate locations in Palm Beach County. The second was our sixth annual Operation Integration VI which exercised our interoperability with Florida National Guard and nine (9) of our US&R/LTRT/Haz Mat teams. Additionally, many of Florida’s US&R/LTRT/Haz Mat Teams conducted their own mobilization exercises, incorporating all aspects of an actual deployment.

Our annual self-assessment packages were sent to all of Florida’s US&R, LTRT, and Haz Mat Teams. These packages were used as tools for teams to evaluate and report their readiness and capabilities based on established team typing requirements. Additionally, this year the first round of site visits was completed for our US&R and Haz Mat Teams. Our

goal is to send assessors to all of our teams on a three to five year rotation. The team’s completed self-assessment documents are used as a tool for their site visit and this year’s site visits verified the strength of Florida’s US&R and Haz Mat capabilities.

The coordination of Florida’s US&R and Haz Mat Teams is accomplished through communication, partnerships, and teamwork between the various agencies as well as the Florida Association of Search and Rescue (FASAR), the Florida Association of Haz Mat Responders (FLAHR), the Florida State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), and the Florida National Guard (FLNG). These entities work together to establish equipment cache lists, response protocols, regional training solutions, mobilization exercises, and other necessary functions that come with maintaining a specialty response team. While hurricane season lasts from June through November, these teams prepare and stand ready all year long.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

– **Patrick Giacobbe**  
**Academic Instructor**

In addition to its standards, training, and safety functions, the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training continues to





provide educational leadership through its coordination of Fire Service Higher Education programs in the State. Through its relationships with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), the National Fire Academy, and in partnership with the Florida Fire Service / Higher Education Consortium (Florida public and private colleges and universities offering fire science degree programs), the bureau plays an integral role in the administration and coordination of college level fire and emergency services programs. These programs, supported by the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) structure, provides nationally recognized curricula which contains developed frameworks for college degrees at the associates, bachelors, and graduate degree levels.

Another important function of BFST's Higher Education Program is to provide counseling to students wishing to pursue an associates or bachelors degree in a fire service related degree program. Many of the courses taken in pursuit of Florida fire certifications can be applied to accredited degree programs; saving time and money for firefighters as they pursue higher education. The BFST Academic Instructor visits Florida State Fire College classrooms each week to offer students the opportunity for individual academic counseling.

Florida's present certification process for Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II allows supervisory fire officers to obtain

national certification and college credit for courses at the associates degree level. As part of our continuing effort to assist Florida's fire service with succession planning and developing the next generation of mid-level and administrative fire officers, the bureau has developed a Fire Code Administrator, Fire Officer III, and Fire Officer IV certifications. The courses associated with these certifications are at the bachelors degree level and will allow mid-management and administrative level fire officers to obtain national and international certification while earning college credits.

To assist with developing the leadership and critical thinking skills required of the supervisory and managing officer level, the bureau continues to offer the National Fire Academy Leadership Series of classes as well as the Shaping the Future course. These courses are prerequisites for attending the National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program. This program is comprised of a multiyear curriculum that introduces emerging fire and emergency services leaders to personal and professional skills in change management, risk reduction, and adaptive leadership.

Additionally, recognizing the need for higher level critical thinking, analytical skills, and executive leadership training for chief fire officers, the need for formalized senior executive development becomes paramount. The bureau is actively developing an executive level series of classes for fire chiefs



in partnership with the National Fire Academy. The program is envisioned as being a nationally recognized model, being delivered at the state level beginning at the Florida State Fire College. The bureau is proud of its position of developing and positioning itself to provide needed leadership skills within the national higher education framework for Florida's fire service.

## STUDENT SERVICES

– **Regina Saueracker**  
**Operations Manager**

The Bureau of Firefighter Standards and Training (BFST) Student Services Section at the Florida State Fire College reaches all members of fire and emergency service organizations throughout Florida. As the first line of communication for the BFST, we are proud to assist students through both telephone and internet support to answer questions related to fire certifications, registration, and dormitories. In addition, we provide guidance to all guests on campus.

Exceptional customer service is our main focus to ensure the learning experience at the Florida State Fire College exceeds the expectations of our students and their respective organizations. We encourage feedback from all of our

students through weekly online surveys. These surveys let us know if students were satisfied with their stay on campus as well as solicit information on areas we can improve. Improvements are made continuously to the dormitory and campus as funding permits. Upcoming improvements include a new burn building, new fire trucks, and enhanced lighting and security systems.

In addition to serving as registrar for the Florida State Fire College, the Student Services Section operates the Fire College Bookstore and coordinates dormitory reservations and facility availability for all on-campus providers and specialty groups utilizing the fire college for training. The section provides administrative support to all groups as needed and coordinates all events with our maintenance and housekeeping teams to ensure our on campus classes and training programs are always a positive experience. Our continuing goal is to exceed your expectations.

Let us know how we are doing at:  
[FSFC.comments@myfloridacfo.com](mailto:FSFC.comments@myfloridacfo.com)

In addition, please visit our website to find transcript request forms, book order forms, and the most recent training schedule at:

<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/>



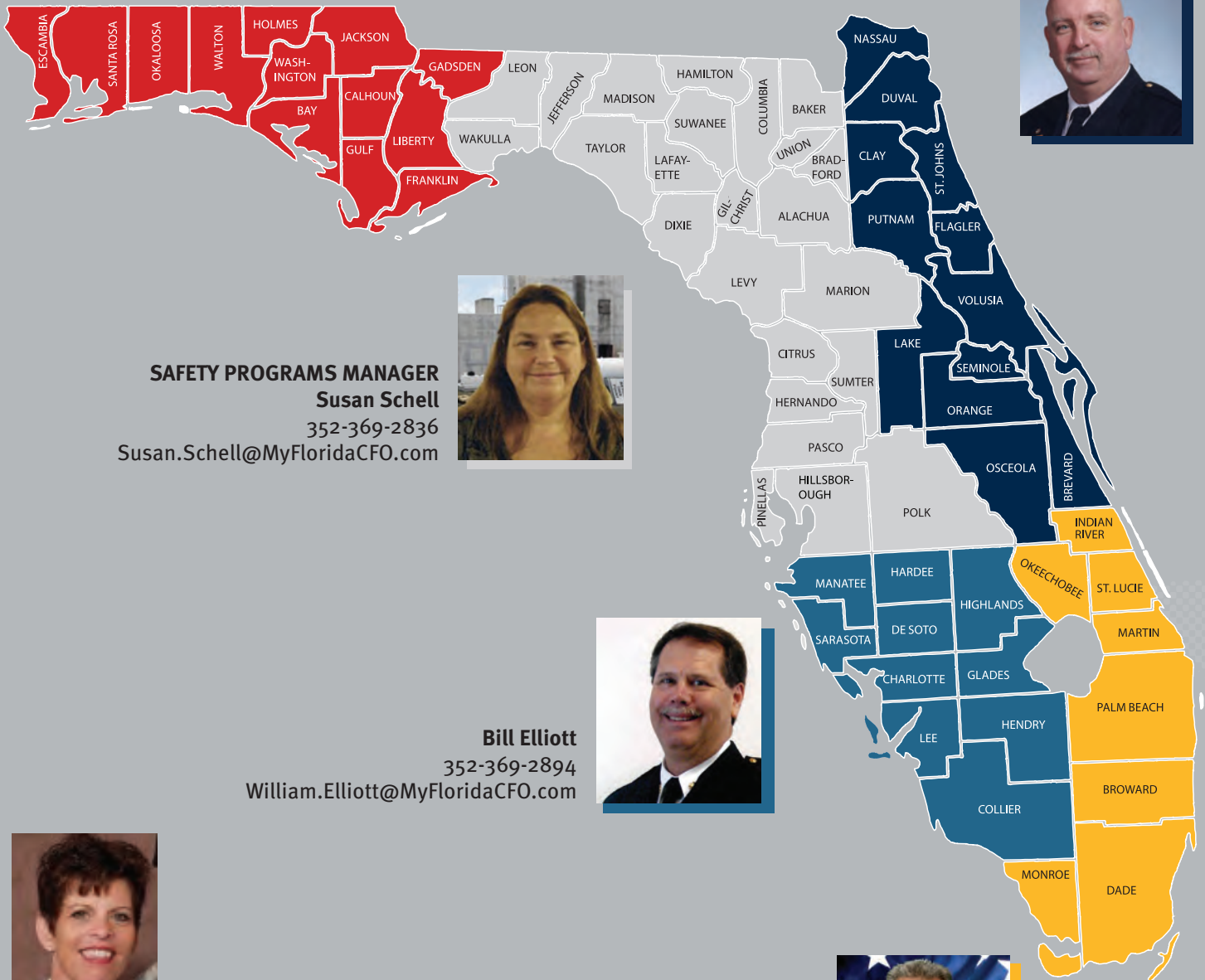


# SAFETY SECTION TEAM'S GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY



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# BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION



## BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

The Bureau of Fire Prevention focuses its core mission on the reduction of life loss and property damages due to fire. The bureau’s variety of compliance and enforcement programs including boiler inspections, licensure of fire related industries, explosives and fire code development are constantly updated to improve efficiency, ensure customer service and safety, and remain current with statutorily mandated changes. The bureau manages its programs through its four functional areas of plans review, inspections, regulatory licensing, and boiler safety.

## EFFICIENCY MEASURES

The bureau has continued its efforts to improve efficiency. Most prevalent among them is the effort to increase the mobility of its field inspectors through the use of mobile technology. The bureau now utilizes tablets in all its boiler and fire safety inspections. The boiler safety inspectors also utilize this technology for public outreach efforts with individual boiler owners.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

The bureau continues to seek avenues to expand our public safety education efforts. The bureau offers fire extinguisher training to state employees and members of the public and utilizes two digital trainers which will have expanded our delivery of this training significantly by allowing indoor training as well as outdoor. Bureau staff has also conducted public education in the areas of boiler safety as well. The bureau continues to deliver fire safety education to audiences and venues throughout the state including the Florida State Fair, Fire Prevention Week, and Campus Fire Safety Week.



**CASIA SINCO**  
Bureau Chief

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

State Fire Marshal - Compliance and Enforcement Bureau of Fire Prevention	FY 13/14
Number of boiler inspections completed by Department inspectors	1,812
Number of construction plans reviewed	567
Number of entity requests for licenses, permits, and certifications processed within statutorily mandated time frames	9,904
Number of recurring inspections completed	6,962
Number of high hazard inspections completed	7,469
Number of construction inspections completed	2,071
Number of regulatory inspections completed	1,206

The bureau’s professional and administrative staff continues to complete hundreds of hours of continuing education annually to maintain concurrency with the changing conditions in the regulated industries. The bureau has continued to support 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, as well as the Florida Building Commission. In conjunction with other division personnel, the bureau’s staff perform 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.

## BOILER SAFETY PROGRAM

– **Mike Burns,**  
Chief Boiler Inspector

The Boiler Safety Program (Program) is charged with the enforcement of the Boiler Safety Act (Act) as outlined in Chapter 554 of the Florida Statutes. The Department of Financial Services (Department) adopts by rule a State Boiler Code for the safe construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, and repair of boilers installed throughout this state. The program issues a certificate of competency to qualified applicants who work for licensed boiler insurance companies annually who are called special inspectors. Examinations are given on a quarterly basis to qualified individuals desiring to inspect boilers when requested.

Mike Burns, Chief Boiler Inspector, administers the state boiler inspection program. Boiler Safety Section staff consist of the chief, four deputy boiler inspectors, and two administrative support staff. Boiler insurance companies employ about 140 special inspectors who conduct inspections and submit inspection reports to the program.

### OPERATIONS

There are more than 14,000 registered boilers located in public assembly locations in active service. For the 2014 calendar year, the deputy boiler inspectors, program staff, and insurance company special inspectors conducted and/or recorded 9,945 boiler inspections; identified 4,473 violations, and closed 4,793 violations (See Chart).



Boiler Safety Program	Re-Inspections	External	Internal	Combination	1st Inspections	External	Internal	Combination	Follow-Up	External	Internal	Combination	Total Inspections	Violations Found	Violations Closed
Inspector Activity Report 2014															
SFM INSPECTORS TOTAL	888	821	60	6	184	179	5	0	740	546	190	4	1812	2072	1960
AGENCY INSPECTORS TOTAL	6449	5486	961	2	698	687	9	1	986	907	78	1	8133	2401	2833
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7337</b>	<b>6307</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1726</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9945</b>	<b>4473</b>	<b>4793</b>

Code violation letters are one method in which inspectors communicate identified deficiencies in boiler operation, maintenance, or installation to the boiler owner or the owner's designee. A violation rate greater than 12% (the national boiler violation rate) indicates to us a greater need for education and knowledge among boiler owners, operators, and installers. Realizing this need, the program has ramped up its public outreach activities and included metrics to perform them on deputy inspector evaluations. As a result 19, presentations were made by the deputy

inspectors with over 160 attendees (See chart below). The presentations range from 1 to 4 hours or more and are set up as PowerPoint presentations that cover statute, rule, codes adopted, photos, and videos. The presentations are customized to the specific groups attending to ensure material presented meets the specific needs. Depending on the location, a walkthrough of an operating boiler that is under the boiler owner's control can be included. Please contact the Boiler Safety Section if you would like a presentation made at your facility.

Deputy Boiler Inspector	Date Presented	Organization presented to	Number of Attendees
Kevin Burke	2/20/2014	Venice Health Park	4
	3/20/2014	University of South Florida	35
	4/10/2014	Venice Fire Dept.	10
	4/17/2014	Venice Fire Dept.	9
	4/24/2014	Venice Fire Dept.	9
	6/11/2014	Building Officials Assoc. of FL	6
Greg Frazier	6/4/2014	Daytona State College	7
	5/13/2014	East Central FL Fire Prevention Assoc.	12
	4/3/2014	Ofc of the Fire Marshal Orange Co.	15
	3/14/2014	Ofc of the Fire Marshal Orange Co.	13
	4/9/2014	West Palm Hospital	9
John Norman	5/20/2014	Tequesta Fire Rescue	6
	5/21/2014	Tequesta Fire Rescue	5
	5/22/2014	Tequesta Fire Rescue	5
	3/9/2014	Bureau of Fire Prevention Plantation Ofc	3
Rama Tumrukota	6/5/2014	Jackson South	7
	6/23/2014	Jackson North	3
	6/11/2014	Lower Keys Med Ctr Hospital	7
	6/2/2014	Broward Co. Schools	4
		<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>	<b>169</b>

## PLANS REVIEW SECTION

– Karl K. Thompson,  
Engineer IV

The goal of the plan review section is to incorporate into all construction projects effective fire protection and life safety systems that detect, extinguish, or control a fire event, improving the overall building safety. The primary focus is to protect human life from fire and products of combustion and reduce state government and taxpayers' potential losses from fire. Our primary responsibilities include the review of new construction and alteration projects, the coordination construction site inspections and acceptance testing, and commissioning of newly installed fire protection and life safety equipment.

Construction documents and specification reviews determine that the buildings conform to a fire and life safety plan that includes the means of egress and evacuation systems and the features of fire protection, detection, smoke management, and suppression systems. Both prescriptive and performance based codes are applied to enable the user the opportunity to meet their needs and not restrict the design professional's creativity. Alternative application to prescriptive codes requires sound engineering principles, equivalency concepts, and redundancy.

Plan review is a cost effective, value added engineering tool providing guidance while buildings are in the design phase for new construction or building renovation to ensure life and fire safety meet the expectations of the citizens and visitors of Florida. Identifying potential code problems early results in a reduction in construction cost and delays, that provides a direct benefit to the taxpayer.

The Plans Review Section of the Fire Prevention Bureau works with agencies, owners, designers, engineers, contractors, and other code enforcement officials to ensure all state-owned and state-leased buildings are compliant with the Florida Fire Prevention Code during construction, alterations, and renovations. The focus of examination for the occupants and structure is the preservation of safety, property, and function. Each year this section reviews hundreds of plans from simple office renovations to complex new construction projects that meets the needs of the state agencies providing services to the citizens and visitors of Florida.

## INSPECTIONS SECTION

– John Walker,  
Senior Management Analyst Supervisor

The Inspections Section is one of the largest of the four code compliance sections within the Bureau of Fire Prevention. It is 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 within six multi-

county regions. **The purpose of the inspections that are conducted is to identify, advise, and ensure correction of fire code violations and licensing renewal, in order to prevent or reduce the probability of fire through code compliance.** The section assists with the development of the Florida Administrative Code which includes regulations for occupancies classified by law as “uniform” buildings and structures. These occupancies include, but are not limited to, hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, public lodging establishments, and childcare facilities. The section’s personnel also respond to calls for code interpretation and assistance while other personnel continue to participate with the Florida Building Commission and the administration of the Department’s Loss Control and Safety Program.

The section’s mission is to 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 important part of our mission is preventing fires, not only through the inspection process to reduce fire losses, but through public education regarding fire safety and fire hazards.





Throughout the year, section personnel continued to be involved in numerous miscellaneous activities ranging from fire prevention presentations, assistance to local government officials and other state agencies, code development, complaint and regulatory licensing investigations to alarm assistance, disaster training, and mitigation duties.

### INSPECTIONS REQUIRED BY LAW

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

Properties inspected include, but are not limited to, all state office buildings, universities, prisons, hospitals, and various public and charter schools. All state-owned properties that are classified by statute as High-Hazard Occupancies are required to be inspected annually. By working in conjunction with other state agencies, we are able to ensure that as space requirements change, we are not leaving uninspected spaces and thus providing the best fire safety possible for the workers and consumers 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 consumer complaints. The section also conducts follow-up inspections of fire incidents to identify associated damage from fires which may have been caused or impacted by fire safety code violations.



# REGULATORY LICENSING SECTION

– **Keith McCarthy,**  
Safety Program Manager

The Regulatory Licensing Section is responsible for 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 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's main focus within the year was the implementation of an online internet-based, updated licensing system that will enable all licensing functions to be completed by applicants and regulated entities online. The web-based system was initiated within the RLS in August 2014. Additional features of the new system will include an expansion of the ability for the public to search for licensed fire equipment dealers and fire protection system contractors on the division's website.

## CONSTRUCTION MINING AND EXPLOSIVES INDUSTRIES

The Regulatory Licensing Section is responsible for the issuance of permits to firms engaged in the mining of road base material for the building of roads statewide, as well as 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 30th annually and are subject to annual inspection of records and explosive storage facilities.

License/Permit Type	2014
Manufacturer-Distributor of Explosives	27
Dealer of Explosives	5
User of Explosives	188
Blaster Permits	283
Construction Mining Permits Issued	91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>594</b>

## FIRE EQUIPMENT DEALERS AND FIRE PREVENTION CONTRACTORS INDUSTRIES

The Regulatory Licensing Section is the first point of contact for individuals who wish to gain the certification necessary to service and maintain portable fire extinguishers, pre-engineered fire systems, and engineered fire sprinkler systems, and maintains the database of all current licensed entities, including **1,010** Fire Protection System Contractors and **667** Fire Equipment Dealers. The staff is also responsible for producing photo identification cards for **1,779** fire equipment permittees, **752** pre-engineered system permittees, and **686** water-based inspectors employed by certified Fire Protection System Contractors I and II.

License/Permit Type	2014
Class A Fire Equipment Dealer:	137
Class B Fire Equipment Dealer:	49
Class C Fire Equipment Dealer:	212
Class D Fire Equipment Dealer:	269
Portable Extinguisher Permits:	1,779
Pre-engineered System Permits:	752
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,198</b>
Fire Protection System Contractor I	199
Fire Protection System Contractor II	417
Fire Protection System Contractor III	32
Fire Protection System Contractor IV	4
Fire Protection System Contractor V	358
Inactive Contractors	
Water-Based Protection System Inspectors	686
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,696</b>

The section additionally receives and processes continuing education courses for the Fire Equipment Industry and the Fire Protection System Industry while tracking course approvals of those courses attended by industry members and provides 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 2014, the board reviewed and approved **95** continuing education courses. Continuing education coursework for both industries is available by mail or via the division's website at [www.myfloridacfo.com](http://www.myfloridacfo.com).

**SPARKLER INDUSTRY**

The section issues registrations for individuals or companies wishing to sell sparklers at retail to the general public. These registrations expire annually on January 31st.

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 jointly documents and maintains a database of the products submitted, review chemical analysis reports, weigh, and perform a functional test on each item to ensure compliance with Chapter 791, Florida Statutes. **Eighty-four** new products were approved during the 2014 product testing. The approved list was updated and is comprised of **2,039** approved products and is available on the division’s website at [www.myfloridacfo.com](http://www.myfloridacfo.com).



Registration Type	2014
Manufacturer of Sparklers	2
Distributor of Sparklers	8
Wholesaler of Sparklers	69
Seasonal Retailer of Sparklers	546
Retail of Sparklers	390
Retail Location of Sparklers	3,401
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,416</b>

Product Submission	2014
Sparkler Products Submitted:	165

**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, including the construction materials and mining activities in their area. The staff is responsible for fielding the phone calls, noting all relevant information, and passing the complaints to the appropriate Inspection Section personnel for review and inspection. This section also continues its ongoing role in developing and monitoring the Florida Administrative Code related to the industries regulated and works jointly with the Inspection Section personnel to ensure the proper inspection and regulation of the licensed entities.

# BUREAU OF FORENSIC FIRE & EXPLOSIVES



## OUR MISSION

The Bureau's Mission is, **"To provide the highest quality of relevant forensic services with the resources available."**

It seems far too often that there is a news story about the failure of a forensic scientist or laboratory to do their job properly. Our mission, accreditation, and audit processes seek to ensure that we avoid any issue like the ones we see reported. Public agencies, the courts, and the people demand that forensic laboratories provide quality analyses that can be relied on to assist with investigations and layout a foundation for their proper resolution.

In the forensic discipline of fire debris analysis, the results of our analyses are often used, after the criminal investigations are closed, by insurance providers to investigate and determine fraudulent claims. The prosecution and conviction of criminals removes them from society and makes our citizens and visitors safer. Helping to reveal instances of insurance fraud helps to reduce the costs for insurance paid by the citizens and businesses of the State. The bureau has a commitment to providing credible high quality services for our customers. At the same time we recognize that the citizens and visitors to our State are also our customers. As such, we are obligated to ensure our customers that our findings and reports are accurate and that we have exercised due diligence.

The bureau is located on the grounds of the Florida Institute for Public Safety, off of Route 90 West between Midway and Quincy, Florida. The State Fire Marshal of Florida is one of only three State Fire Marshal offices in the United States to have their own dedicated forensic laboratory analyzing evidence from fires or explosions.

## OUR SERVICES – CHEMICAL ANALYSES

The Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis (BFFEA) is the Fire Marshal of Florida's forensic laboratory. 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. The presence of ignitable liquids may be an indicator that they were used to



**CARL CHASTEEN**  
Bureau Chief

commit arson. Their presence may also be as a result of an accident or in some cases as an artifact of the manufacture of certain products. The bureau cannot determine the reason that an ignitable liquid was found or how long it had been there. The bureau does not determine the quantity of the amount of ignitable liquid found, as the amount on a sample of evidence cannot be extrapolated to indicate the total amount that may have been placed in the fire scene. Fire debris analysis is conducted by the bureau's three Senior Crime Laboratory Analysts, Reggie Hurchins, Carl Lugviel, and Mike Koussiafes. In 2014, one long time analyst, Ryan Bennett, left to join the Indian River (FL) Regional Laboratory. His replacement, who will begin in 2015, is Dee Ann Turner, PhD, who has received her Doctorate in Chemistry from Purdue University where her dissertation was on the microbial degradation of ignitable liquids.

The bureau also analyzes evidence collected from explosions, incendiary events, and situations where a potentially hazardous chemical has been found. Almost all of these analyses are conducted by Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst Mike Koussiafes. In the past few years the bureau has seen an increase in submissions for identification of potentially hazardous chemicals collected from suspected clandestine methamphetamine laboratories.

The identification of these chemicals may be used to show that an illegal drug manufacturing activity was occurring. The potential for fires, explosions, or other hazardous situations for first responders should they encounter these chemicals is the motivation for the bureau to provide these analyses.

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, three Senior Crime Laboratory Analysts, two Crime Laboratory Analysts, two Forensic Technologists, one Maintenance Mechanic, and two support personnel.

Evidence from fire and explosions can be some of the most difficult forensic evidence to examine. This is due to the fact that we are attempting to extract and identify a post-burn or post-explosion mixture of chemical residues from a background substrate (carpet, soil, cloth, etc.) after it has been burned or has been affected by an explosion. The background substrate often contains a mixture of similar compounds that can be 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 be able to characterize ignitable liquids or explosive residues.

The key tool in performing all of our analyses is the expertise of our laboratory personnel. All Analysts in the chemistry section have a minimum of bachelors degrees in chemistry or other natural sciences, with a heavy emphasis on chemistry. Most have completed additional graduate level studies and 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; American Academy of Forensic Science; the National Fire Academy and others.

Various analytical instruments are required for the variety of chemical tests we need to perform. Our key instrument for fire debris analysis is the gas chromatograph with mass spectrometric detector (GC/MS). For explosives and unknown chemical analysis, rarely will only one analytical test tell the whole story. While we may use the GC/MS on some items we will need to perform testing using our other instruments such as our 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.

In 2014, the bureau analyzed 2,011 chemical cases with 3,632 fire debris sample analyses and 1,926 explosives/ unidentified chemical analyses. To ensure quality



Senior Analyst Carl Lugviel examining a can of evidence prior to processing



Senior Analyst Reggie Hurchins checking vials loaded into an autosampler

assurance an additional 3,384 quality control samples were also analyzed. These test the efficiency and quality of the laboratory's extraction, analysis, and interpretation procedures.

When a fire debris or explosives sample was submitted to the bureau, the average turnaround time to complete the analysis in 2014 was seven days. All laboratory services are provided to all law enforcement, fire department, or public investigative agencies without charge. Analysts provided expert testimony at deposition or trial a total of 23 times in 2014. This number seems low as often our report will be stipulated by all parties or sometimes will be used in plea negotiations and the matter is resolved without trial.

## OUR SERVICES – IMAGING

The bureau's imaging section has three main purposes. First, it is the central archive of digital images of crime scene investigations conducted by the Fire Marshal's Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI). The bureau stores images collected since 1992 when it was the film processing laboratory for BFAI. This archive allows for the retrieval of images and photographs from cases even if the detective who conducted the investigation is no longer with BFAI. When digital cameras were first issued to BFAI in 1998, the bureau transitioned into working with and archiving digital images.

Second, the bureau is often requested to provide copies of images or laboratory case files as part of a public records request or subpoena. These may be used to assist with n additional investigations or in the presentation of evidence at trial. These special reproduction requests are performed by Forensic Technologist Ann Walker.

Third, and last, the bureau has operated a section where forensic video processing may be performed. As video surveillance and recordings have become commonplace, the occasions where video has captured some aspect of a crime has also increased. These videos are often of poor quality or are presented in a confusing multi-camera or multiplexed format. With the assistance of Detective Brock Dietz from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigation and Crime Laboratory Analyst Melissa Stephens from BFFEA, 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 BFAI server and archived on the secure BFFEA server dedicated to that purpose. The dedicated server is also backed up regularly so that data can be recovered should the main server experience a malfunction. We can also scan conventionally developed photographs into a digital format for archival and processing purposes. The

imaging section processed 2,843 cases in the calendar year 2014 containing over 200,000 separate images. In 2014, 32 videos were processed by Detective Dietz.



Gas Chromatograph with Mass Detector



Ion Chromatographs with Mass Detector

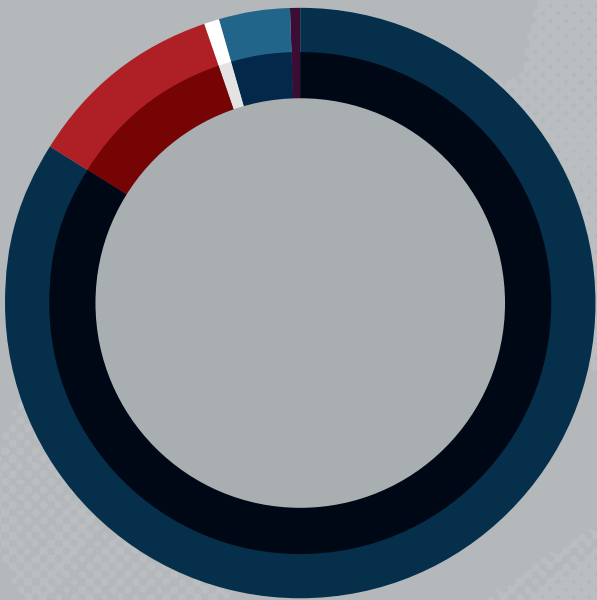


Forensic Technologist Ann Walker processing records requests

## OUR CUSTOMERS

Our customer satisfaction survey was conducted of those who submitted evidence during the period of January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014 and during the period of July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. This instrument provides statistics on who submitted samples to the bureau during the survey period. Most evidence requiring chemical analysis was submitted by the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations. The bureau additionally received evidence for chemical analysis from Police Departments, Fire Departments, Sheriff's Offices, other State of Florida Agencies, and one federal agency. Please see the break-outs for the period below:

### PERCENT OF SUBMISSIONS January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014



**84.1%** Total BFAI (73 Submitters)

**10.8%** Total Fire (43 Submitters)

**0.7%** Total Police (8 Submitters)

**4.1%** Total Sheriff (20 Submitters)

**0.4%** Total Other State Agency  
(8 Submitters)

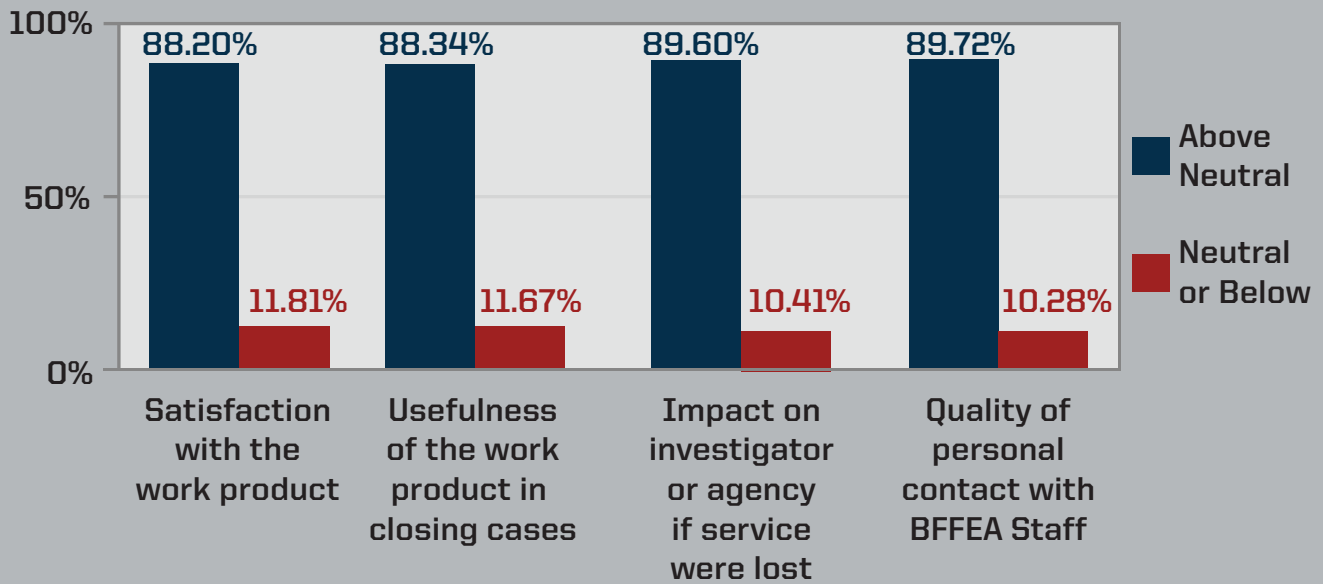
The submissions from Sheriff's Offices are almost exclusively for the identification of hazardous chemicals seized during investigations of clandestine drug (methamphetamine) laboratories. The bureau will not accept either controlled or over the counter drugs to perform drug identifications, but will use its expertise and instrumentation to identify the hazardous, flammable, and potentially energetic materials found in clandestine laboratories. Often the identification of these chemicals is as important in obtaining a conviction as finding the drugs themselves.

Results from our survey of customers who submitted samples for analysis or processing from January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014 is reported below. The survey instrument was sent to 142 customers. A total of 106 (73.10%) responded to portions of the survey relevant to the services they used. A review of the survey responses has been posted to the bureau's portion of the State Fire Marshal website. The responses were very positive and the results of the survey where all of the bureau's services were combined are reproduced below:

All Services Merged	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Ranking	V. High	High	Neutral	Low	V. Low
Satisfaction with the work product	61.31%	26.89%	11.48%	0.33%	0.00%
Usefulness of the work product in closing cases	67.67%	20.67%	10.00%	1.67%	0.00%
Impact on investigator or agency if service were lost	67.45%	22.15%	10.07%	0.34%	0.00%
Quality of personal contact with BFFEA Staff	68.44%	21.28%	10.28%	0.00%	0.00%

Condensing the results to comparing only the responses that ranked “High” and “Very High” against all that ranked “Neutral” or lower shows clearly that the bureau is meeting the needs of its customers and is providing them with a valuable and useful resource:

### ALL SERVICES COMBINED CUSTOMER RATINGS July 2014 to December 2014



## SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Forensic evidence must be submitted to the bureau either by hand delivery or via a certified courier (United States Postal Service – registered/certified mail only, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, etc.). The best way to submit samples is to use our submission form available through our portion of the State Fire Marshal’s website, [http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM/lab/BFEA\\_index.htm](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM/lab/BFEA_index.htm). Please be aware that there are federal as well as courier specific restrictions regarding the shipment of materials. Specifically, you must also be aware that certain items must be listed as “dangerous goods” and thus have special labeling

requirements or may even be prohibited from being shipped. Other items may have an “excepted quantities” variation. The bureau has a guide on its website that provides more details on the submission of samples to the bureau.

BFFEA will not store evidence after the samples are tested and a report is mailed or emailed. After dissemination of the report the evidence will be returned to the submitting agency. Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations evidence will be transferred to a BFAI representative for secure storage. If BFAI evidence is needed for court, the BFAI representative, Ashton Fallis or Lt. Chris Welch, should be contacted.





## TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Bureau staff is 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 instrumentation required. These internships also help us by providing additional workers at no cost to the State to assist in many projects at the bureau while they are here. While many of our former interns 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. We have hosted students from:

- Florida State University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- University of Central Florida
- Eastern Kentucky University
- University of Wisconsin at Platteville

In 2014, we also provided training in fire debris analysis to Detectives from the chemistry section of the Royal Bahamas Police Department Crime Laboratory.

Our employees are also involved with professional associations. Often we have been chosen for leadership positions in them. These include:

- The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)
- The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
- The Technical Working Group on Fire and Explosions (TWGFEX)
- The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC)

## ACCREDITATION

The bureau received its initial accreditation in 2010 from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Director's Laboratory Accrediting Board International (ASCLD/LAB-*International*). In 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 we were assessed by a surveillance visit from the accrediting body as well. Our accreditation under the *ASCLD/LAB-International standard*, as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard for Testing Laboratories #17025 in the forensic sub-disciplines of fire debris analysis, explosives analysis, and analysis of unknowns. The bureau will undergo a full re-accreditation in April 2015. The process to maintain accreditation is detailed and time consuming as it requires continual observance and review of all laboratory quality documents: quality manual, standard operating procedures, test methods, compliance manual, training programs, forms, etc. In addition, the bureau regularly completes an internal audit of one to two laboratory sections or processes each month. Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst Perry Michael Koussiafes has been trained and is designated as a "qualified ASCLD/LAB-*International assessor*" until such time as he has participated in an actual assessment. In 2013 and 2014, Chief Chasteen was selected as a "Certified ASCLD/LAB-*International Technical Assessor*" by participating in the assessment of a major city police crime laboratory and another state laboratory system. Either of them may be called upon by *ASCLD/LAB-International* to be on teams that inspect and audit other *ASCLD/LAB-International* accredited laboratories.



**AN ASCLD/LAB-International ACCREDITED TESTING LABORATORY**

(SINCE July 20, 2010 in the sub-disciplines of Explosives, Analysis of Unknowns and Fire Debris)



# BUREAU OF FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATIONS



The Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) is the law enforcement branch of the Division of State Fire Marshal. The core mission of the bureau is: ***“To effectively prevent, discourage, investigate, and prosecute arson and arson-related crimes for the protection of Florida citizens and their property.”***

The Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations has taken an active role in targeting arson for profit rings in the State of Florida. As a result of reporting a fire loss that was of their own creation, perpetrators of these elaborate crimes receive payouts from insurance companies who serve Florida citizens. During 2014, Detectives with our bureau conducted an extensive investigation into one such crime ring and dubbed the investigation “Operation Flames and Floods.” In February of 2014, this investigation resulted in the arrest of 22 suspects who had defrauded insurance companies out of \$7.6 million dollars. This investigation is ongoing and is expected to net additional arrests.

During calendar year 2014, the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations received 3,563 new requests for investigative assistance from fire departments, law enforcement agencies, federal and state agencies, individuals, and insurance companies. This year, the bureau conducted investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of nearly \$676 million. Of this estimated property loss, nearly \$20 million was attributed to the crime of *arson*. Detectives made arrests in 350 investigative cases in 2014 and 237 of these investigations were classified as “Incendiary” fires. As a result, 434 defendants were arrested for the crime of *arson*. Holding arsonists accountable for their actions is our goal and this mission is driven by our highly trained Detectives who are experts in the field of arson investigation. 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. We continue to not only meet our mission, but we annually exceed the national average in case clearances. During 2014, our arrest clearance rate for incendiary fires was 31%, which is well above the reported national arrest percentages of 16 to 18 percent. This is the result of a perfect combination of experience and conscientious attention to duty driven by the desire to reduce victimization and arson incidents in Florida.

While our Detectives are always striving to bring criminals to justice, they’re not the only ones working toward that goal. Because of her hard work and dedication to the Bureau



**JOSEPH STEADMAN**  
Bureau Chief

of Fire and Arson Investigations, Crime Intelligence Analyst Jeanne Parker received two awards in 2014. She received the “Mary Fields Fire Investigations Support Achievement Award” sponsored by the Florida Fire Investigators Association at the annual Arson Seminar. She also received the “Fire Investigator of the Year” award by the Lee County Arson Task Force. These awards were given for her work on a high profile arson-for-profit case as well as her daily hard work assisting our Detectives and other investigators in local agencies. It’s great to see the hard work of our staff recognized by others in the field of fire investigation.

*The Bureau is staffed statewide by 122 members, including: one Chief, two Majors, six Regional Captains, one Special Operations Captain, 17 Lieutenants, 75 Detectives, seven Crime Intelligence Analysts and 13 civilian support personnel. The Bureau is under the direction of Chief Joseph Steadman.*



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECTION

The Special Operations Section supports field operations and coordinates the following specialty teams:

- 4 Hazardous Device/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams (EOD)
- 6 Accelerant Detection K-9 Teams (ADC)
- 1 Explosive Detection K-9 Team (EDC)
- 1 Forensic Investigative Support Team (FIST)
- 10 Computer Voice Stress Analysis Operators (CVSA)
- 1 State Fire Marshal Honor Guard

In addition, the Special Operations Section is responsible for man-made and natural disaster Emergency Support Functions 4 (Firefighting), 9 (Search and Rescue), and 16 (Law Enforcement); the BFAI Training Section; the Crime Intelligence Analyst Unit; regional domestic security funding; wireless communications, logistics, public information, equipment tracking, and the monitoring of budget activities.

### TRAINING SECTION

The bureau's sworn law enforcement members are highly trained and qualified in the field of arson detection. Detectives regularly complete investigative processing of fire scenes, determine the origin, and cause of fires and explosions, conduct latent investigations, make arrests, execute searches, complete seizures, and provide expert testimony in judicial proceedings. The Training Section is dedicated to developing the skills, knowledge, and service of sworn members. In-service training programs are provided to members to enhance investigative abilities and high liability law enforcement training is provided to ensure safety in these interactions.



Mission Sustainment Vehicle



CPR Training



Firearms Training



Vehicle Fire Training

**COMPUTERIZED VOICE STRESS ANALYSIS UNIT**

The Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA) with a specially-trained operator is thought to be one of the most acceptable, less intimidating, and less intrusive means to verify truthfulness. These units are utilized as a tool to assist with determining truthfulness in criminal investigations performed by the bureau. The bureau has 10 CVSA units and certified operators.

**FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TEAM AND STATEWIDE ARSON TASK FORCES**

Since the early years of the bureau, the task force concept has been considered the most efficient and effective method of investigating large or complex fire or explosion scenes. In the past, a task force was comprised of available investigators who worked in close proximity to the fire scene. In 2001, the bureau recognized the need to develop and train a specialized team to provide a complete and thorough investigation of large or complex fire and explosion scenes and established the Forensic Investigative Support Team (FIST). The primary objective of FIST is to reduce incendiary fires by effective investigation and prosecution of those who commit arson. The FIST also provides the necessary personnel to conduct the preliminary investigation to determine the origin, cause, and circumstances of a fire so the resources of the local bureau offices are not significantly burdened. This is done by providing an immediate and sustained statewide response team to large or complex fires and explosions, where state-of-the-art equipment and the most qualified personnel are used to assist the citizens of Florida at the city, county or state level.

**HAZARDOUS DEVICE/EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL UNIT**

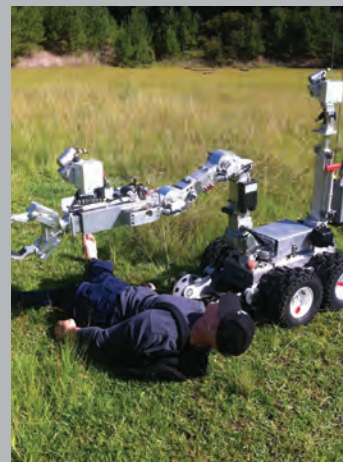
The Florida State Fire Marshal's Bomb Squad is comprised of four teams throughout the State of Florida, which provide rapid response to hazardous incidents. During 2014, the teams responded to 96 calls for service that included render safe operations of suspicious items, disposal of hazardous materials, and integrated SWAT responses. SWAT integration with an EOD component has become an increasingly valuable asset as SWAT teams continue to rely heavily on specialized robotic and surveillance equipment provided by our Bomb Squad along with EOD specialists to provide real time intelligence and surveillance in support of ongoing SWAT operations to enhance officer safety. In 2014, the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office responded to nearly 20 SWAT calls in support of numerous SWAT teams located throughout Florida. 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 protection at massive spectator venues including NASCAR races, Air Shows, Grand Prix Races, and other heavily attended events. Community outreach and education are also important missions for the teams statewide. Last year they provided numerous classes to public safety agencies such as Post-Blast Investigations, Explosives Awareness, and Improvised Explosives Device recognition. Additionally, the team hosts



Training Post Blast Investigations



Bomb Squad Training Exercise



Robot Suicide Bomber Training



Bomb Squad Explosives Demo

educational courses to private sector businesses in the area of bomb threat management and protection. The bureau also works closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and their “Easy As One” initiative for the disposal of flares, fireworks, and ammunition, utilizing the bureau’s thermal destruction units. This year, for the first time, the team was honored to be represented at the Joint Program Office for Countering Improvised Explosive Devices, Raven’s Challenge in Washington where we participated in setting up realistic bomb scenarios for regional interagency training in preparation for bringing the challenge to Florida at Camp Blanding in 2015. The event is an annual, interagency exercise with scenarios focused on interoperability capabilities between public safety bomb squads and

military explosive ordnance disposal units in operational environments. The exercise is funded by the U.S. Army and explosives specialists from all over the world attend this exclusive training to hone their skills and ensure seamless integration from various teams in real-world type events. During 2014, the Florida State Fire Marshal’s Office Bomb Squad conducted 3700 hours of EOD activities across the state. Our teams perform all of these functions in addition to continuing to work their primary job of fire and arson investigations. Team members receive specialized training annually to keep up with emerging crime trends and ever changing technologies, as well as continue to work closely with local, state, and federal partners in the safe resolution of hazardous devices for the citizens of this state.

## BUREAU OF FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATIONS K-9 UNIT

### ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINE UNIT (K-9)

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 all 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 one of these chemicals, they will signal to their handlers, who will remove a sample to send to a lab for analysis. Arson dogs have been 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 a year.



South-Plantation  
K-9 Ember  
Handler-Captain Ross Holt  
Canine Commander



North Central-Daytona Beach  
K-9 Penzy  
Handler-Detective Amelia Hitchcock



Northeast-Jacksonville  
K-9 Fresca  
Handler-Detective David Young



South Central-Lake Wales  
K-9 Booker  
Handler-Detective Jeff Batz



Northwest-Panama City  
K-9 Brandon  
Handler-Detective Jayson Deese



Northwest-Pensacola  
K-9 Bailey  
Handler-Detective Travis Kincaid



K-9 Misty - Retired  
Detective Mike Douglas



Explosives Detection  
K-9 Bella  
Detective Monty Taylor

### FAREWELL TO K-9 MISTY

After seven years of loyal service to the State Fire Marshal's Office, K-9 Misty retired from service on September 11, 2014. She now resides as part of the family with her handler, Detective Mike Douglas. When she entered service with the Florida State Fire Marshal's Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations in September 2007, Misty worked 34 fires in her first four months. Since that time, she averaged over 100 fire investigations per year and investigated more than 1,000 fires over the course of her career. She was involved in 12 homicide cases and in one of those cases, she was instrumental in identifying from where the homicide victim was dragged. She also alerted on the clothing of the three suspects involved in that arson case. Even though Misty was one of the busiest accelerant detection canines in North America, she always found time for children. She averaged three to four school visits each year and was seen by 11,000 students during her career. While Misty worked for seven years as an accelerant detection K-9, she never lost her love for the work or for the children she visited. Misty will be missed at the State Fire Marshal's Office.

## CRIME INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS UNIT

The Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations formed the Crime Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) in 1994, 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 CIAU provides two types of analysis: Intelligence Analysis – The study of criminal organizations and enterprises to support investigation and prosecution and Investigative Analysis – Crime scene, psychological and forensic analysis

used in arson cases. Three levels of Analysis are also provided on a daily basis 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 and the benefits are realized over the longer term. It is usually aimed at managers and policy-makers rather than individual detectives.

The CIAU 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 financing of the crime of arson.

The CIAU is currently comprised of seven (7) certified crime intelligence analysts. These analysts are located statewide with one (1) analyst serving in each of the six regions and one (1) analyst assigned to Headquarters in Tallahassee. The crime intelligence analyst works towards gaining an understanding of who is doing what with whom by their focus on the relationship between persons and organizations involved in illegal and conspiratorial activities. They have the ability to efficiently analyze crime data using state of the art information systems.

The CIAU analysts are carefully screened and selected for their education, skills, and ability to work as a team. Possessing the necessary skills from the start, combined with ongoing training and professional development, ensures that they remain at the highest level of competence.

## CASES OF INTEREST

### NORTH REGION

#### TRAGEDY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

On January 1, 2014, detectives were requested by Marianna Fire and Rescue to assist in investigating a residential structure fire. Upon arrival of the fire department, they discovered the structure fully involved. Occupants reported that there were multiple persons still trapped inside. The fire department extinguished the fire and four deceased victims were located during the overhaul. The fire occurred to a 1930's single story wood frame dwelling which consisted of four bedrooms with one bathroom. It was reported that thirteen occupants resided in the home at the time of the fire and the investigation revealed that the area of origin was located in the hallway area. Examination of the electrical wiring in the home revealed that each bedroom had only one working electrical plug and multiple extension cords and

multiple power strips were being utilized throughout the home. The fire was classified as accidental with no foul play being suspected.



#### STAGED VEHICLE CRASH AND FIRE IN 2013 LEADS TO ARREST IN 2014

On September 23, 2013, detectives began to investigate a reported staged vehicle accident that resulted in a vehicle fire. Detectives from both the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Division of Insurance Fraud worked the case jointly and discovered that both of the owners were behind on payments and had outstanding balances still owed on their vehicle. Their plan was to stage a vehicle accident and then burn the vehicles for insurance purposes. Detectives learned that the reported vehicle accident occurred on Melvin New Grade Road in western Calhoun County, Florida. Detectives, working along with GEICO Insurance Company and RIMKUS Consulting Group, were able to reconstruct the scene and analyze the evidence and sworn statements collected by the insurance company. In June, 2014, six defendants were arrested and charged with crimes stemming from Insurance Fraud, Organized Scheme to Defraud, Grand Theft, and Arson.





### FIRST RESPONDERS TARGETED

On November 22, 2014, the Tallahassee Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire in Tallahassee, Florida. Leon County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Smith was patrolling the area and also responded to the scene, arriving first. Once on scene, Deputy Smith began taking gun fire from the owner of the residence that was on fire. A gun battle ensued lasting approximately 15 minutes while fire department personnel were still arriving to extinguish the flames. Deputy Smith was killed during the gun fire exchange and one additional sheriff's deputy was wounded. The perpetrator was shot and killed by an off duty Tallahassee Police Officer who was alerted to the "shots fired" by his children who were playing outside in the neighborhood. State Fire Marshal Detectives responded to the scene and determined that the fire was incendiary in nature. It was believed that the perpetrator set the fire to lure first responders to the area in an attempt to kill them. Our deepest sympathy and warmest regards go to his family and colleagues.



### NORTHWEST REGION

#### LANDMARK CHURCH GOES UP IN FLAMES

Mount Carmel United Methodist Church Fire in North Santa Rosa County

On May 14, 2014, the State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations detectives were requested to investigate a church fire located in the community of Jay in North Santa Rosa County, Florida. This fire scene involved a 5800 square foot single story church which was considered one of several landmarks in the community. The fire damaged approximately 80 to 90% of the church which had an estimated value over \$500,000.00. After conducting an extensive and thorough investigation, Bureau of Fire and Arson Detectives, along with ATF determined the fire to be accidental in nature.



#### TRAGIC LOSS AT THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY JAIL

On April 30, 2014, State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations detectives were requested to investigate an explosion at the Escambia County Jail, Central Booking and Detention Facility (CBD), located at 1200 West Leonard Street in Pensacola. This scene involved an approximately 125,000 square foot building which was used to house inmates. This explosion occurred during a time of flooding throughout the area due to an enormous amount of rainfall over an extended period of time. Numerous inmates

and detention personnel were injured as a result of this explosion. Two inmates lost their lives during the explosion. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) assisted with this large scale investigation. Based on surveillance videos from within the jail, the basement of the CBD was completely flooded and as four large gas dryers were pushed away from the wall by rising flood waters, gas began to leak into the basement. During this time numerous witnesses report smelling natural gas, which is supplied to the building through the basement. At approximately 10:15 PM, a spark from an unknown ignition source ignited the natural gas and caused an explosion. Because the main electrical power feed traveled through the basement, numerous possible ignition sources were identified within the basement of this facility. Due to the amount of structural damage to the building an exact ignition source was unable to be identified.

**APARTMENT COMPLEX DESTROYED BY FIRE**

On July, 23, 2014, the State Fire Marshal’s Office, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations detectives were requested to investigate a structure fire at the Terra Mar Apartment Complex located at 93 Dune Lake Circle in the Santa Rosa Beach community of South Walton County. This fire scene involved a 35,000 square foot three story apartment building which was under construction and estimated at 70% complete. The large size of this scene required additional Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigation units along with heavy equipment to assist with excavation of the scene. Despite a valiant effort by investigators with the Bureau of Fire and Arson and the South Walton Fire District, due to the extreme damage around the suspected area of origin an exact cause of the fire could not be determined. The loss was estimated at \$2.75 million.



State Fire Marshal Detectives and F.I.S.T. Team members along with ATF Agents who worked the Escambia County Jail Fire

## NORTHEAST REGION

### ARSON AND MURDER ARREST IN JACKSONVILLE

On December 1, 2013, the Jacksonville Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at Graybeard's Tavern located at 3382 Commonwealth Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida. Upon arrival, they found smoke coming from an upstairs apartment. During the extinguishment procedures, they discovered a white female deceased in the bedroom. The investigation revealed that the defendant, Randal William Wagoner, killed the victim and set the fire to cover up the crime. An arrest warrant was obtained for Murder and Arson. On March 6, 2014, Wagoner was located in a bar in Starke, Florida and arrested without incident. The defendant was extradited back to Duval County and booked into the Duval County Jail to stand trial.



was present for two of the four fires and transported Beare and the juvenile suspect to those scenes with her vehicle. As a result, Cron was located, arrested, and subsequently charged with two counts of Arson and two counts of Burglary.



## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

### MULTI-REGION ARREST IN BIG RIG FIRE

On July 16, 2014, the Clermont Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire located at 190 N. US 27 in Clermont, FL 34711, a Circle-K. Upon arrival fire crews discovered a fully engulfed 1999 Peterbuilt Tractor truck parked alongside the store. The fire was extinguished without incident and the investigative services of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office were requested.

Detective R. Harvey responded and conducted an investigation which led him to believe the fire was intentional. An investigation was conducted and a surveillance video inside the store, which had recorded the incident, was located. It was determined a suspect who was known to the victim had traveled from Miami to Central Florida to start the fire. After obtaining a warrant for the suspect the SFM Plantation Field office was contacted and arrested him without incident.

### MULTIPLE ARSONS AND ARRESTS IN OCALA

On June 08, 2014, the Marion County Fire Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office requested the State Fire Marshal's Office to assist in the investigation of a vacant singlewide mobile home fire at 16920 NE 40th Terrace, Citra, Florida. Upon arrival, the State Fire Marshal's Office was notified of three additional fires in that same neighborhood. A total of four vacant mobile home fires occurred in the neighborhood between 0200 and 0400 hours. All four fires were determined to be incendiary in nature. The joint investigation, along with video surveillance, identified possible suspects in this case, including Kenneth Beare, a convicted arsonist and a juvenile suspect. The juvenile was located and transported to the Marion County Sheriff's Office where he admitted to his involvement in all four fires along with Beare. Beare and the juvenile were arrested and transported to Marion County Jail. Later, the driver of the vehicle used in the arson/burglaries was identified as Ketrina Cron. Results of the investigation revealed that Cron



**MARIJUANA GROW HOUSE**

On December 03, 2014, at approximately 1306 hours, the Deltona Fire Department (DFD) requested the investigative assistance of the State Fire Marshal's Office, Bureau of Fire & Arson Investigations at a residential structure fire located at 519 West Kingway Drive. Detective Jeff Ruland responded and during his investigation he discovered that several rooms were being used to grow marijuana plants. The Volusia County Sheriff's Office narcotics unit was notified and they responded and seized approximately 40 marijuana plants along with 20 mason jars of packaged marijuana product. The fire investigation revealed that the fire was accidental and was the result of the occupant (Francisco L. Quintana Jr.) leaving food cooking on the stovetop while he went to the store. The fire caused approximately \$80,000 in damage. Even though this fire was determined to be accidental, the homeowner (Quintana) was arrested at the scene for several narcotics charges.



**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**

**FT. MYERS  
SERIAL ARSONIST CAUGHT**

On November 16, 2014, State Fire Marshal Detectives conducted an origin and cause investigation of a structure and a vehicle fire that occurred at the Heron Park Apartment Complex in Naples. These fires were determined to be arson. Prior to these fires, this apartment complex had over 14 fires that occurred over a two year period, also consisting of vehicle and structure fires. Every detective in the Ft. Myers Field Office had worked at least one of these fires and detectives conducted surveillance within the complex in conjunction with the Collier County Sheriff's Office on many occasions. Cameras were set up throughout the complex in an effort to capture video evidence of a possible suspect. During the investigation, Kimberly Roseman was identified as a suspect in the November 16th fires. Roseman, who lived at the apartment complex, had been interviewed on several occasions before in regards to the previous fires. She was subsequently arrested and charged with arson for the November 16th fires. Since her arrest, the frequency of fires that occurred at Heron Park Apartments has ceased.

**LAKE WALES  
KNOWN SERIAL ARSONIST STRIKES AGAIN IN POLK COUNTY**

On January 26, 2014, at 10:25 P.M., Lake Wales Fire Rescue responded to a commercial structure fire at Gate Fuel Station located at 2950 Ridge Way, Lake Wales, Florida. Responding crews found the fire had been extinguished by store personnel. Detective Jeff Batz of the Lake Wales Field Office responded to assist the Lake Wales Fire Department and confirmed an incendiary fire had occurred to an interior bathroom garbage can. The store video was reviewed and a known convicted serial arsonist, identified as David Giles, was seen entering the store's bathroom and leaving about a minute later. The fire was noticed by store personnel and customers shortly after his exit. Mr. Giles was arrested on January 28, 2014, after a consultation with the 10th Judicial District State Attorney and was already serving a five year probation stemming from three arson convictions from multiple arrests in 2010. On November 17, 2014, David Giles' guilty plea was accepted by the court and he was sentenced to an additional three years probation for the Gate Fuel Station fire.



**TAMPA****MURDER/SUICIDE – HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

On May 7, 2014, at approximately 5:29 AM, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue responded to a two story dwelling fire at 16233 Sierra De Avila, Tampa, Florida. When first responding fire units arrived on the scene they observed 50% of the north side of the dwelling heavily involved with flames through the roof. During search and rescue operations firefighters discovered three victims in the dwelling with trauma to their heads. Later on, a fourth victim was discovered in the area of where the northeast upstairs bedroom had collapsed onto the first floor area. After a search warrant was obtained by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the origin and cause investigation began. During this process, several gasoline containers and packages of fireworks were found throughout the dwelling. Based on scene investigation and physical evidence observed, the fire was determined to be incendiary. It was also determined that all four victims had gun shots to the head and were deceased prior to the fire and smoke reaching where all the victims were located throughout the dwelling. Further investigation determined that this was a murder/suicide. For reasons still unknown, the adult male victim killed his wife and two teenage children prior to setting the fire and then killed himself.

**SOUTH REGION****\$4.7 MILLION MANSION DESTROYED IN TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

On November 03, 2014, the Town of Palm Beach Fire Department responded to a structure fire located in the Town of Palm Beach. They arrived on scene and discovered a 4.7 million dollar residential structure with fire through the roof. They requested the State Fire Marshal's assistance in determining the origin and cause of the fire. Detective Mozealous responded to the scene, where he was advised that the owner was in the garage and heard a popping noise in the area of the electrical and phone wiring. The owner turned to use his cell phone when a small explosion and flash occurred injuring him. The fire was extinguished by Town of Palm Beach Fire Department, Palm Beach County Fire Department, and West Palm Beach Fire Department. During his time on scene, Detective Mozealous was advised a Fire Fighter from Palm Beach County Fire Department incurred a knee injury and was transported to the hospital. The State Fire Marshal's Office and Town of Palm Beach Fire Department were on scene two days conducting the origin and cause investigation with other State Fire Marshal's Office detectives along with the New Holland front end loader. The fire was determined to be caused by a gas line explosion.



**\$1.1 MILLION LOSS IN INDIAN RIVER HARBOR SHORES**

On March 26, 2014, the Indian River Shores Police/Fire Department responded to a structure fire in Vero Beach. Upon arrival, units found smoke and flames coming out of the roof above the garage. The structure involved was a two story wood frame single family residence and was unoccupied at the time of the fire. The fire was eventually extinguished without incident or injuries, but not before it spread to a large portion of the residence and a vehicle which was parked on the driveway next to the garage. Detective Marinas responded and conducted an origin and cause investigation. The fire was determined to have been accidentally started when the battery charger from a golf cart malfunctioned. The fire loss was estimated at \$1.1 million dollars.



PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION



Members of the Daytona Beach Field Office participate in a Career Fair at a local high school in Volusia County.



Lt. Eric Saccasyn at Lake St. George Elementary following an EOD demonstration.



Detectives Jason Deese and Matt Streichert at Panama City National Night Out



Detective David Young and K9 Fresca pose with Governor, Cabinet members, and State Fire Marshal leaders.



On July 2, 2014 the State Fire Marshal's Office, South Region, along with the Broward County Sheriff's Office, and Fire Department conducted a dramatic demonstration for 4th of July Fireworks Safety



Detectives with the Tallahassee Field Office during a community outreach event

## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Crime Intelligence Analyst Jeanne Parker received two awards in 2014. She received the “Mary Fields Fire Investigations Support Achievement Award” sponsored by the Florida Fire Investigators Association at the annual Arson Seminar. She also received the “Fire Investigator of the Year” award by the Lee County Arson Task Force. These awards were given for her work on a high profile arson-for-profit case as well as her daily hard work assisting our Detectives and other investigators in local agencies.

Crime Intelligence Analyst Jeanne Parker receiving The Mary E. Fields-Fire Investigations Support Achievement Award in 2014



Requests for investigative assistance can be made 24 hours a day through the following State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) Communications Centers:

### Dispatch Centers

Tallahassee (800) 459-6861  
 Jacksonville (800) 387-1290  
 Tampa (866) 369-4613  
 Orlando (800) 226-5350  
 Miami (305) 470-2500  
 Ft. Myers (866) 833-2715  
 Lake Worth (561) 357-4000

### BFAI Region(s)

Northwest and North  
 Northeast and North  
 South Central  
 North Central  
 South  
 South and South Central  
 South







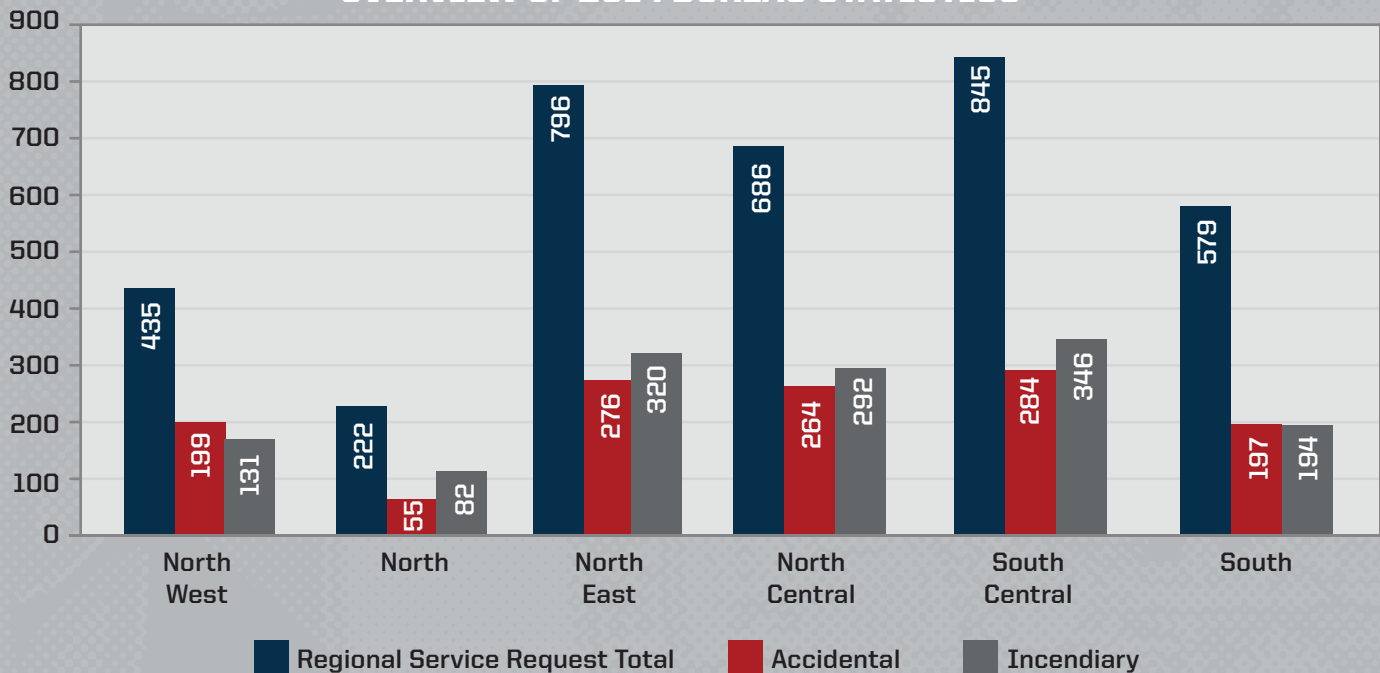
## BUREAU STATISTICS

During the calendar year 2014, the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations received 3,563 new requests for investigative assistance from fire departments, law enforcement agencies, federal, and state agencies, individuals, and insurance companies.

Investigative responses are classified according to type of incident:

Attempted Fire	16	Miscellaneous – EOD	101	Explosion	31
Miscellaneous – Other	184	Fire	3,206	Attempted Explosions	25

### OVERVIEW OF 2014 BUREAU STATISTICS



This year, the bureau conducted investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of around \$676 million (\$675,903,830.06). Of this estimated property loss, approximately \$20 million (\$19,879,652.00) 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.

### 2014 INVESTIGATIONS- CAUSES REPORTED



**36%** Accidental

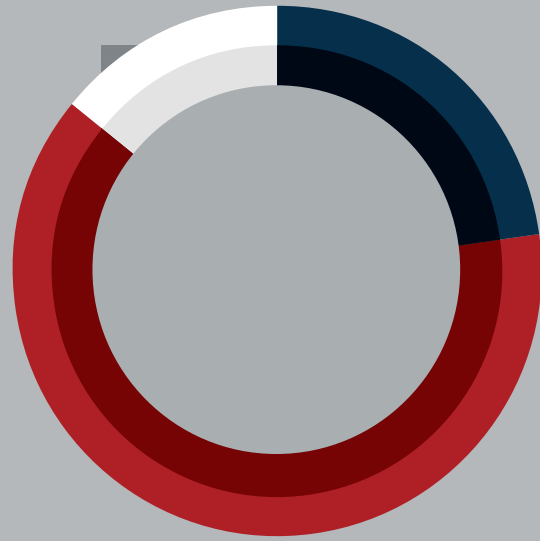
**38%** Incendiary

**14%** Undetermined

**3%** Under Investigation

**9%** Not Applicable

### 2014 TYPES OF INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED



**23%** Vehicle

**63%** Structure

**14%** Other



## ARSON PENALTIES

Arson is a devastating crime and the penalties associated with arson reflect Florida’s commitment to punish offenders. In Florida, the crime of arson is punishable by imprisonment, fine, and restitution. Currently under Florida law, anyone who willfully starts a fire which damages a dwelling, a structure occupied by a person, or any structure where persons are normally present is guilty of a first-degree felony punishable by up to 30 years in prison. In cases where a juvenile is convicted of arson, state courts can order restitution to be paid by the parents of the juvenile arsonists. Florida law permits juvenile arsonists as young as 14 years of age to be prosecuted as adults.

# BUREAU OF FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATIONS FIELD OPERATIONS

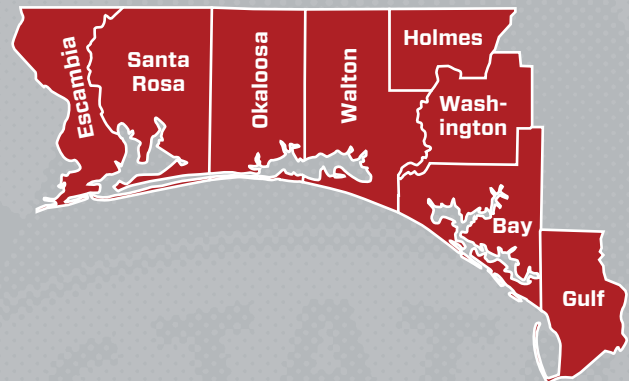


## DISTRICT 1

Major Mark Trammel is the Commander of Field Operations for District One, which is comprised of three geographic regions (Northwest, North, and Northeast). Major Trammel is headquartered in Tallahassee and can be contacted by phone at (850) 413-3669.

### NORTHWEST REGION

The Northwest Region is under the command of Captain Kevin Fiedor. The region has two field offices that service the eight westernmost Florida counties, totaling 6,064 square miles. Lt. David O'Dell supervises the Pensacola office. He and five Law Enforcement Detectives cover calls for service in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and North Walton Counties. Lt. Thomas Barron 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. The region is supported by an Administrative Secretary and a Crime Intelligence Analyst located in Pensacola.



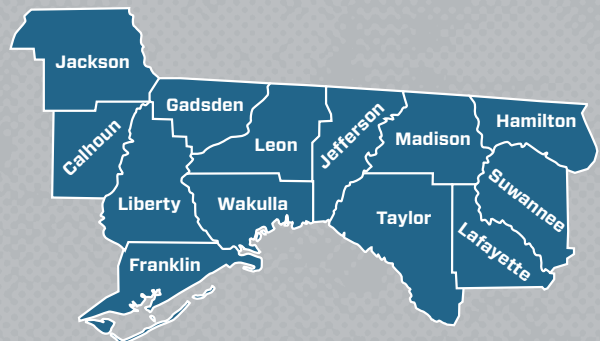
Pensacola Office: (850) 453-7803  
Panama City Office: (850) 747-5888

Counties of Assignment: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Holmes, Washington, and Gulf.

Specialized Units: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD), Accelerant Detection Canine Team (ADC), Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), Crime Intelligence Analyst (CIA), Forensic Investigative Support Team (FIST)

### NORTH REGION

The North Region is under the command of Captain Thomas Bosco. The region is comprised of thirteen counties covering 9,719 square miles. The field operations of the region's six detectives are coordinated by Lieutenant Jason Roberts. The region has one Administrative Secretary and one Crime Intelligence Analyst.



Tallahassee Field Office: (850) 413-3900

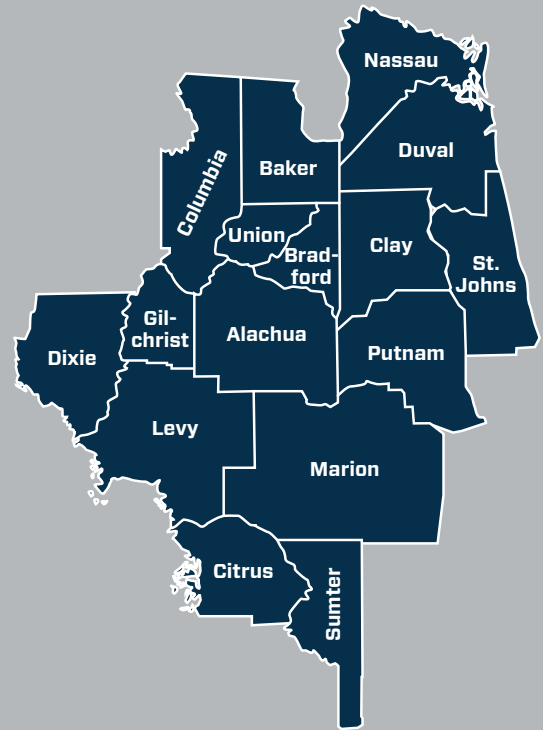
Counties of Assignment: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Wakulla

Specialized Units: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD), Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), Crime Intelligence Analyst, Forensic Investigative Support Team (FIST)

## NORTHEAST REGION

The Northeast Region is under the command of Captain Phil Roman and consists of sixteen counties in the Northeast Florida area. Captain Roman is also the commander of the Forensic Investigative Support Team. 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. The Jacksonville Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Robby Stephens and serves seven counties. There are ten Law Enforcement Detectives assigned to the Jacksonville Field Office. The Ocala Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Matt Legler and serves nine counties. There are five Law Enforcement Detectives assigned to the Ocala Field Office.



**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:** Forensic Investigative Support Team (FIST), Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Team, Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), Crime Intelligence Analyst

## DISTRICT 2

Major Brandon Ball is the Commander of Field Operations for District Two, which is comprised of three geographic regions (North Central, South Central, and South). Major Ball 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 Jason Herrman and consists of seven counties. Lieutenant Cindy Campina leads the Orlando Field Office and Lieutenant Paul Paterson leads the Daytona Beach Field Office. Both field offices are supported by Administrative Secretaries. The Orlando Field Office covers a three county territory and is supported by seven Law Enforcement Detectives. The Daytona Beach Field Office covers a four county area and is supported by five Law Enforcement Detectives.

**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, Forensic Investigative Support Team (FIST)



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

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

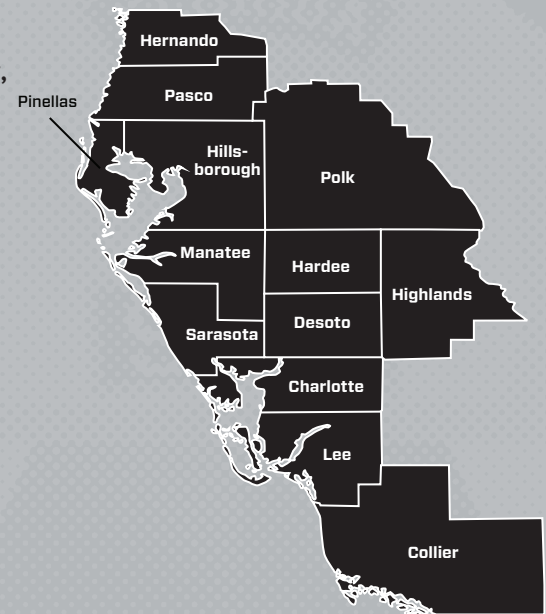
The Tampa Field Office is under the supervision of Lt. Eric Saccasyn and is supported by seven Law Enforcement Detectives, an Administrative Secretary, and a Crime Intelligence Analyst Supervisor, with a service area of six counties. The Lake Wales Field Office is supervised by Lt. Stacy McIntyre and is supported by seven Law Enforcement Detectives, with a coverage area of four counties. The Ft. Myers Field Office is supervised by Lt. Joseph Minervini and is supported by six Law Enforcement Detectives, an Administrative Secretary, and a Crime Intelligence Analyst, with a coverage area of three counties.

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 Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD), Accelerant Detection Canine Team (ADC), Explosives Ordnance Disposal Canine Team (EODC) a Criminal Intelligence Analyst Supervisor (CIAS), Criminal Intelligence Analyst (CIA)



## SOUTH REGION

The South Region is under the command of Captain Ross Holt and consists of ten counties, with offices located in West Palm Beach, Miami, and Plantation. Captain Holt also serves as the commander of the Canine Unit.

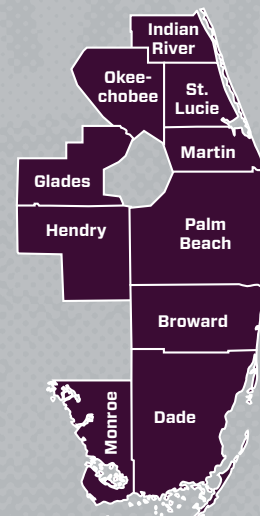
The Plantation Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Gregory Gilkey and consists of six Law Enforcement Detectives responsible for providing service to Broward County. The West Palm Beach Office has three Law Enforcement Detectives under the direction of Lieutenant Anthony Stafford, who are responsible for providing service to seven counties. The Miami Office has five Law Enforcement Detectives under the control of Lieutenant Adam Rivero, who are responsible for providing service to two counties.

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.



# FLORIDA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM



The Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) is charged with establishing and maintaining an electronic communication system; receiving fire and emergency incident information from fire departments; preparing and disseminating annual reports to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, fire protection agencies, and the public. Established under Florida Statute 633.136 within the Division of State Fire Marshal, the section also provides state and federal agencies with fire and emergency data, establishes procedures and a format for each fire protection agency, and establishes an electronic information database to protect the citizens of the State of Florida.

The Division of State Fire Marshal manages FFIRS in conjunction with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The National Fire Information Council (NFIC) is committed to enhancing public safety through the collection and dissemination of timely, accurate, and useable fire-related emergency response information. Their vision is to be the leading subject matter experts for NFIRS and their goal is to encourage every fire service organization to institute the NFIRS program.

The information presented in this report is based primarily on data submitted from each bureau within the Division of State Fire Marshal. Professional and dedicated firefighters in the State of Florida are the original sources of the 2.7 million individual fire and EMS incident reports, submitted by local fire departments throughout Florida in 2014. The Division of State Fire Marshal also uses classified information obtained from the Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Florida Department of Health (DOH). Their data provides FFIRS a collection of Florida county wildfire statistics and civilian fire related deaths.

Although FFIRS is solely voluntary, the section has maintained a 94% reporting percentage over the last five years, thanks to the support and efforts of the Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM), 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 administration of FFIRS. In making appointments, the State Fire Marshal considers geography, population, and other factors to give representation to the state at large rather than to any particular area. Out of the 15 required members, one comes from DOH, one comes



**MATT HINSON**  
Statistician II

from FFS, and 13 come from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. Their combined information is available for use in directing efforts in reducing the state's fire problem and helps make Florida a safer place.

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.nfirs.fema.gov/webtools](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/webtools). 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](mailto:ffirs@myfloridacfo.com).



# 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 **102** civilian fire deaths.

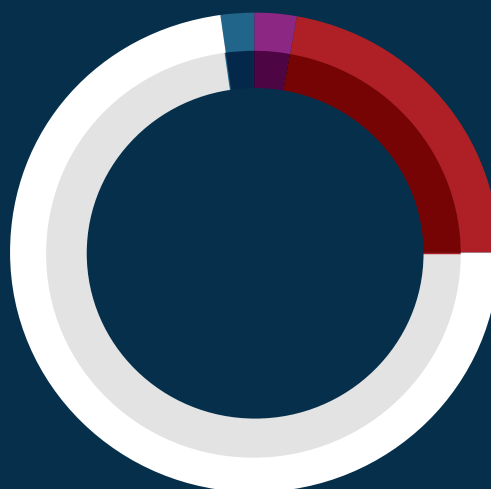
Deaths due to homicides (X97) and suicides (X76) involving smoke, fire or flames, pathological fire-setting (F63.1), discharge of fireworks (W39), and exposures to smoke, fire

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 **113** (an additional **73.3 %**).

Excluded from NFPA, CPSC, Tri-Data, and USFA analyses are fire deaths in vehicles, which would increase the civilian fire deaths in 2014 to **138** (an additional **17.9%**). 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 **139** (a further increase of **1.0%**).

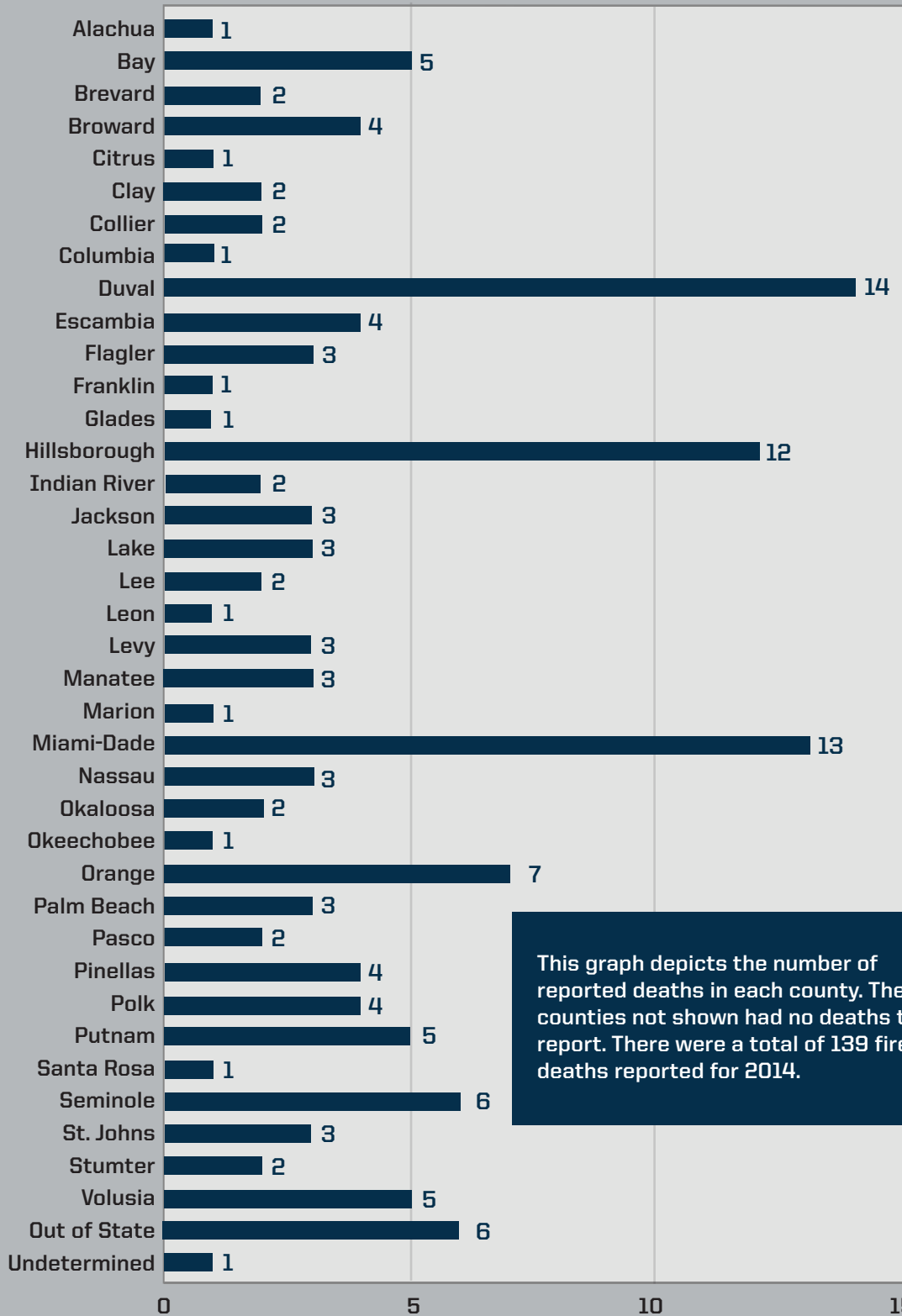
# CIVILIAN DEATHS FROM FIRES BY PROPERTY USE

*The following graph depicts **139** civilians that died from fire related incidents based on data received from the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section. This represents a **10.8%** increase in total fire related deaths compared to 2013.*



- 3%** Industrial
- 0%** Mercantile
- 22%** Outside/Other
- 0%** Public
- 73%** Residential
- 2%** Undetermined/None

# CIVILIAN DEATHS BY COUNTY

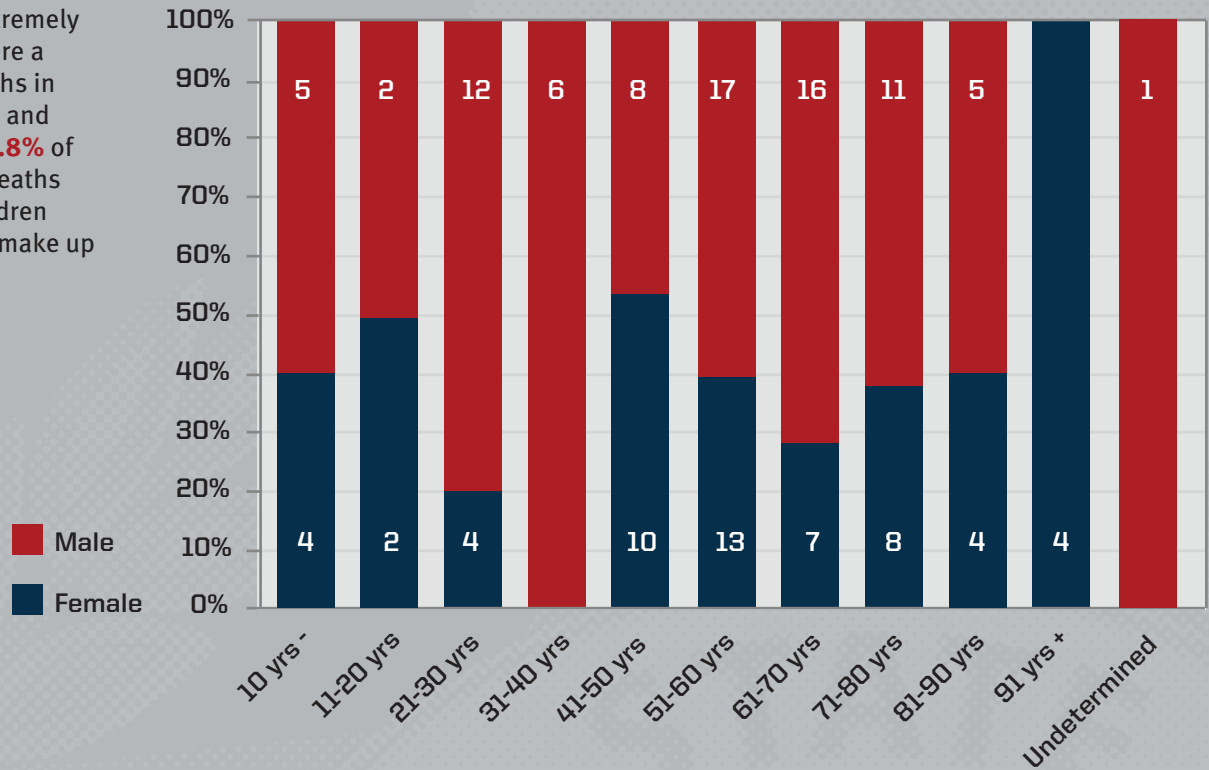




# CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX

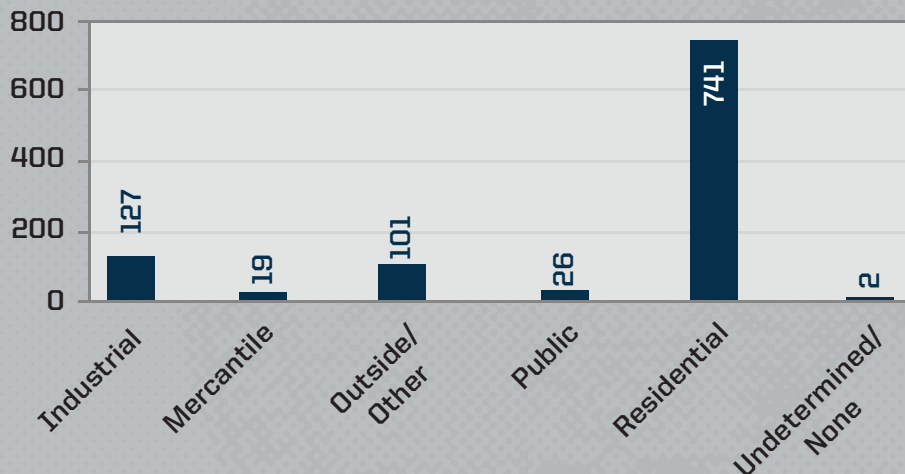


Fire education is extremely important. There were a total of 139 fire deaths in 2014. People age 41 and older account for **74.8%** of Florida's reported deaths from fire. Small children under the age of 10 make up over **6.4%**.



# CIVILIAN INJURIES FROM FIRES BY PROPERTY USE

During 2014, **1,016** civilians were injured based on data received from fire departments. 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 **73%** of residential property fires originating in the kitchen.





# FLORIDA COUNTIES FIRE

Counties	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	Exposures	Total Fires	Rescue EMS	Other Calls	False Alarms
Alachua	232	115	342	0	689	22,040	5,439	1,911
Baker	40	26	44	0	110	1,404	400	36
Bay	246	90	291	0	627	12,787	5,231	1,740
Bradford	39	13	71	0	123	1,598	546	89
Brevard	334	233	738	27	1,332	92,982	14,504	3,130
Broward	1,405	794	1,242	14	3,455	193,175	55,144	18,432
Calhoun	11	8	30	0	49	290	202	11
Charlotte	97	61	266	3	427	22,040	7,048	716
Citrus	103	65	154	5	327	6,024	2,967	440
Clay	99	63	155	9	326	15,116	3,267	476
Collier	178	132	377	25	712	23,481	7,529	2,973
Columbia	80	55	157	3	295	3,168	1,050	209
Desoto	22	24	142	0	188	3,038	470	149
Dixie	35	28	67	0	130	1,141	320	27
Duval	613	456	888	10	1,967	88,416	29,502	5,649
Escambia	325	188	802	16	1,331	10,812	5,926	2,296
Flagler	78	52	153	0	283	15,433	6,604	780
Franklin	3	0	5	0	8	53	42	1
Gadsden	99	55	150	1	305	528	2,207	216
Gilchrist	23	10	56	0	89	1,386	553	21
Glades	12	6	41	0	59	224	90	4
Gulf	18	7	35	1	61	158	87	22
Hamilton	29	28	79	2	138	274	326	20
Hardee	35	21	113	0	169	3,573	778	137
Hendry	89	39	198	0	326	3,888	4,442	276
Hernando	141	75	168	7	391	23,958	5,571	1,016
Highlands	93	59	176	8	336	4,205	1,296	313
Hillsborough	1,256	645	1,429	49	3,379	121,269	22,646	7,989
Holmes	26	9	30	0	65	80	114	11
Indian River	90	59	253	3	405	21,511	1,671	1,121
Jackson	103	46	154	1	304	6,455	323	162
Jefferson	15	22	42	3	82	172	254	56
Lafayette	3	1	1	0	5	0	7	1
Lake	238	144	424	2	808	31,655	9,168	1,995
Lee	460	280	1,141	9	1,890	68,951	19,041	5,391
Leon	463	130	407	33	1,033	12,272	5,537	2,071
Levy	31	29	152	0	212	1,517	629	79
Liberty	3	4	6	0	13	7	4	0

# & NON-FIRE TOTALS



Total Incidents	Add Mutual Aid Given	Total Responses	Total Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
30,079	1,413	31,492	\$6,772,179.00	5	1
1,950	258	2,208	\$796,919.00	0	2
20,385	730	21,115	\$4,697,407.00	8	4
2,356	516	2,872	\$361,500.00	0	0
111,948	1,628	113,576	\$13,070,444.00	23	19
270,206	6,289	276,495	\$21,432,889.00	103	162
552	39	591	\$499,700.00	0	0
30,231	133	30,364	\$1,101,926.00	11	2
9,758	651	10,409	\$4,987,361.00	10	0
19,185	1,075	20,260	\$2,414,122.00	5	1
34,695	1,963	36,658	\$6,758,651.00	8	11
4,722	12	4,734	\$2,941,416.00	0	1
3,845	5	3,850	\$372,100.00	0	2
1,618	121	1,739	\$1,335,950.00	1	0
125,534	29	125,563	\$24,181,500.00	42	13
20,365	174	20,539	\$10,674,118.00	13	4
23,100	948	24,048	\$2,026,207.00	3	1
104	0	104	\$0.00	0	0
3,256	142	3,398	\$2,834,248.00	0	0
2,049	299	2,348	\$375,750.00	0	0
377	49	426	\$534,000.00	0	0
328	42	370	\$114,440.00	0	1
758	257	1,015	\$721,025.00	2	0
4,657	23	4,680	\$534,097.00	1	2
8,932	144	9,076	\$993,200.00	1	2
30,936	310	31,246	\$5,355,405.00	20	4
6,150	277	6,427	\$1,866,573.00	2	1
155,283	594	155,877	\$32,852,015.00	78	36
270	63	333	\$756,750.00	0	0
24,708	9	24,717	\$3,901,622.00	0	0
7,244	381	7,625	\$5,575,650.00	1	2
564	129	693	\$761,450.00	0	0
13	1	14	\$70,000.00	0	0
43,626	2,801	46,427	\$4,921,827.00	8	13
95,273	3,817	99,090	\$13,711,775.00	26	37
20,913	1,249	22,162	\$9,749,568.00	22	6
2,437	1,585	4,022	\$490,352.00	2	2
24	10	34	\$246,500.00	0	0



# FLORIDA COUNTIES FIRE

Counties	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	Exposures	Total Fires	Rescue EMS	Other Calls	False Alarms
Madison	42	28	64	0	134	474	340	81
Manatee	233	161	401	15	810	18,143	3,282	2,649
Marion	318	214	432	0	964	68,306	7,432	1,716
Martin	61	77	219	8	365	17,594	3,575	1,100
Miami-Dade	1,958	1,176	1,933	94	5,161	245,190	26,630	21,914
Monroe	72	42	214	0	328	7,110	2,260	1,051
Nassau	80	55	149	5	289	7,966	817	359
Okaloosa	214	79	189	14	496	14,968	4,655	1,369
Okeechobee	30	20	138	0	188	6,997	994	103
Orange	1,152	619	1,380	3	3,154	136,211	22,238	14,321
Osceola	281	157	352	5	795	28,639	6,573	2,452
Palm Beach	911	502	1,083	12	2,508	152,236	31,150	12,940
Pasco	326	199	303	41	869	54,681	10,234	2,340
Pinellas	860	311	924	38	2,133	144,945	21,491	7,244
Polk	648	307	808	19	1,782	49,768	14,089	2,463
Putnam	95	63	151	0	309	13,100	2,087	252
Santa Rosa	169	67	299	1	536	8,951	3,073	712
Sarasota	311	144	688	8	1,151	56,285	4,376	3,277
Seminole	256	154	348	15	773	34,570	8,690	2,781
St. Johns	206	76	259	10	551	19,039	4,169	1,498
St. Lucie	127	128	384	0	639	27,398	1,705	1,850
Sumter	106	97	140	5	348	11,545	7,312	584
Suwannee	52	49	136	0	237	5,743	649	99
Taylor	34	25	70	0	129	207	929	46
Union	5	5	9	0	19	13	19	3
Volusia	452	285	710	17	1,464	56,045	22,081	3,349
Wakulla	27	17	57	0	101	734	383	67
Walton	97	52	224	0	373	7,868	1,495	676
Washington	18	6	28	0	52	16	68	17
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>16,308</b>	<b>9,187</b>	<b>23,071</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>49,107</b>	<b>2,009,823</b>	<b>433,731</b>	<b>147,279</b>
<b>Mutual Aid</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,485</b>	<b>7,933</b>	<b>8,446</b>	<b>3,666</b>
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>19,529</b>	<b>9,685</b>	<b>24,837</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>54,592</b>	<b>2,017,756</b>	<b>442,177</b>	<b>150,945</b>

\*No Data Received

The above statistics are based on the data submitted by 531 fire departments\* that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) in 2014. There are approximately 577 paid, volunteer, and combination fire departments in the State of Florida. A list of the reporting fire departments for this year is located on pages 87-90.

# & NON-FIRE TOTALS

(Continued)



Total Incidents	Add Mutual Aid Given	Total Responses	Total Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
1,029	122	1,151	\$754,265.00	0	1
24,884	518	25,402	\$4,038,808.00	10	5
78,418	377	78,795	\$7,402,495.00	5	2
22,634	777	23,411	\$2,703,580.00	11	2
298,895	288	299,183	\$38,780,940.00	185	659
10,749	415	11,164	\$2,297,352.00	3	0
9,431	231	9,662	\$956,274.00	2	0
21,488	3,281	24,769	\$4,970,684.00	12	18
8,282	81	8,363	\$694,820.00	1	0
175,924	3,880	179,804	\$42,430,564.00	18	175
38,459	1,523	39,982	\$9,756,380.00	13	100
198,834	2,890	201,724	\$15,911,721.00	76	213
68,124	185	68,309	\$9,466,934.00	29	11
175,813	8,747	184,560	\$20,331,367.00	131	169
68,102	1,650	69,752	\$78,506,032.00	26	15
15,748	110	15,858	\$1,106,200.00	0	18
13,272	986	14,258	\$3,535,968.00	9	2
65,089	736	65,825	\$7,582,145.00	13	7
46,814	11,934	58,748	\$6,565,966.00	25	56
25,257	363	25,620	\$2,976,749.00	6	2
31,592	8	31,600	\$3,387,625.00	0	0
19,789	831	20,620	\$4,635,400.00	7	10
6,728	127	6,855	\$2,138,460.00	2	1
1,311	61	1,372	\$2,330,548.00	0	0
54	58	112	\$93,500.00	0	0
82,939	5,301	88,240	\$9,567,715.00	35	33
1,285	302	1,587	\$855,750.00	2	3
10,412	782	11,194	\$4,065,683.00	0	2
153	35	188	\$73,700.00	0	1
2,639,940					
	74,765				
2,639,940		2,714,705	\$478,708,261.00	1,016	1,834

\*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.



# 2014 FLORIDA WILDFIRES

County	Total Fires		0.1 - 0.2 Acres		0.3 - 9 Acres	
	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres
All Counties	1,979	88,628.40	425	46.7	1,187	2,665.40
Alachua	16	102.30	4	0.3	7	12
Baker	16	20.70	5	0.6	11	20.1
Bay	26	1,108.50	6	0.7	13	26.8
Bradford	12	52.40	3	0.3	7	25.1
Brevard	43	1,730.00	6	0.6	22	47.9
Broward	25	47,258.30	0	0	8	10.3
Calhoun	12	67.40	2	0.2	8	30.3
Charlotte	53	431.10	11	1.4	31	87.3
Citrus	19	88.70	2	0.2	14	34.5
Clay	16	112.10	4	0.5	9	15.5
Collier	78	1,703.60	14	1.3	43	90.9
Columbia	32	64.60	11	1.3	20	44
DeSoto	7	26.00	0	0	7	26
Dixie	42	178.70	23	2.4	16	34.1
Duval	16	41.00	1	0.1	14	29.9
Escambia	36	220.20	2	0.2	27	55.5
Flagler	20	73.40	3	0.5	15	45.7
Franklin	14	8.30	5	0.6	9	7.7
Gadsden	20	86.90	2	0.2	15	37.7
Gilchrist	10	32.60	2	0.3	6	7.3
Glades	43	7,237.60	7	0.7	20	68.2
Gulf	16	330.40	3	0.3	10	30.1
Hamilton	31	181.50	13	1.4	15	37.1
Hardee	11	73.50	2	0.2	7	13.3
Hendry	28	385.70	7	0.4	11	16.3
Hernando	13	98.30	2	0.2	8	16.1
Highlands	85	1,100.70	28	3.2	50	84.8
Hillsborough	21	430.40	0	0	12	33.6
Holmes	16	54.10	2	0.2	12	21.9
Indian River	14	63.60	1	0.1	9	15.5
Jackson	45	161.60	9	1.1	33	77.5
Jefferson	11	87.30	1	0.2	8	20
Lafayette	33	44.30	14	1.9	18	20.5
Lake	19	337.50	1	0	15	42.4

# BY COUNTY & ACRES BURNED



10 - 99 Acres		100 - 299 Acres		300 - 999 Acres		1,000 - 4,999 Acres		5,000 Acres & Up	
# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres
309	8,444.10	35	5,833.90	13	5,942.30	6	13,696.00	4	52,000.00
5	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	95	4	626	1	360	0	0	0	0
2	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	231.5	3	450	0	0	1	1,000.00	0	0
6	258	5	640	1	350	2	4,000.00	3	42,000.00
2	36.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	342.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	96.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	533.4	4	778	1	300	0	0	0	0
1	19.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	142.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	164.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	27.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	385.4	3	552.6	3	1,610.70	1	4,620.00	0	0
2	55	1	245	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	369	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	187.7	0	0	1	825	0	0	0	0
8	296.8	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	67.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	21.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	74.8	1	220.3	0	0	0	0	0	0



# 2014 FLORIDA WILDFIRES

County	Total Fires		0.1 - 0.2 Acres		0.3 - 9 Acres	
	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres
Lee	84	544.70	9	0.9	60	135.8
Leon	5	4.00	2	0.3	3	3.7
Levy	43	144.70	11	1.3	28	71.4
Liberty	7	14.80	3	0.3	3	1.6
Madison	44	115.80	18	1.9	22	36.9
Manatee	21	60.10	1	0.2	19	47.9
Marion	20	65.40	1	0.1	17	27.8
Martin	24	408.10	0	0	16	38.3
Miami-Dade	70	2,862.60	14	1.3	38	112.3
Monroe	7	1.60	5	0.6	2	1
Nassau	26	83.60	4	0.5	21	37.1
Okaloosa	21	56.00	3	0.4	17	39.6
Okeechobee	56	2,069.60	12	1.3	27	57.1
Orange	41	953.80	6	0.6	27	48.2
Osceola	19	170.70	0	0	14	40.2
Palm Beach	11	10,231.60	1	0.1	5	10.5
Pasco	29	459.20	3	0.3	16	50.9
Pinellas	3	61.50	0	0	1	2.5
Polk	71	722.30	10	0.8	50	114.5
Putnam	45	99.60	11	1	31	63.6
Santa Rosa	82	3,533.50	9	1	48	138.8
Sarasota	34	171.00	14	1.5	16	28
Seminole	11	75.50	0	0	6	11.5
St. Johns	31	107.70	8	0.8	21	46.9
St. Lucie	22	376.40	2	0.3	14	33.6
Sumter	5	15.30	2	0.2	2	5.1
Suwannee	57	196.50	14	1.7	36	55.8
Taylor	51	164.60	26	3.1	19	54.5
Union	17	38.10	7	0.7	9	7.4
Volusia	74	626.30	20	2.4	42	92.5
Wakulla	9	19.60	3	0.4	5	8.2
Walton	26	118.40	8	0.9	13	41.5
Washington	14	62.50	2	0.2	9	14.8





# 2014 SUMMARY STATISTICS



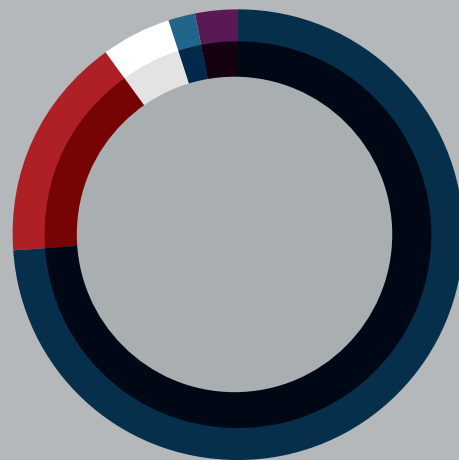
In 2014, fire departments responded to a total of 2,639,940 incidents. When mutual aid calls were added, the total number of reported responses increased to 2,714,705, which generated more requests for fire department services than in 2013. Total fire response incidents decreased by **1.08%** and total dollar loss increased by **14.7%**. The number of fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) was **534**, which is a decrease of **1.2%** from the previous year.

## 2014 State Incident Summary

Structure Fires	16,308
Vehicle Fires	9,187
Other Fires	23,071
Exposures Fires	541
<b>Total Fire Incidents</b>	<b>49,107</b>
Rescue/EMS	2,009,823
Other Emergencies	433,731
False Alarms	147,279
<b>Total Non Fire Incidents</b>	<b>2,590,833</b>
Mutual Aid Given	<b>74,765</b>

\*Total Incidents plus Mutual Aid Given 2,714,705

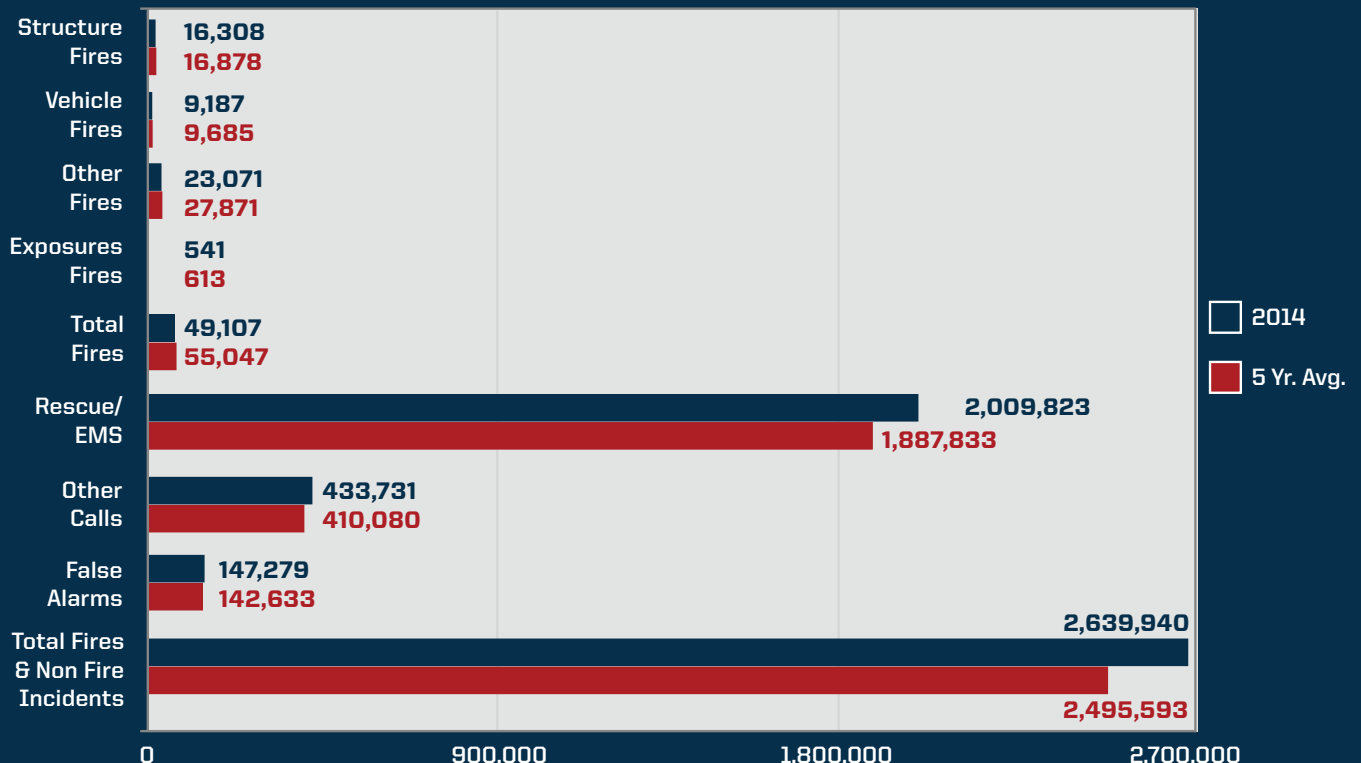
## SUMMARY STATISTICS 2014



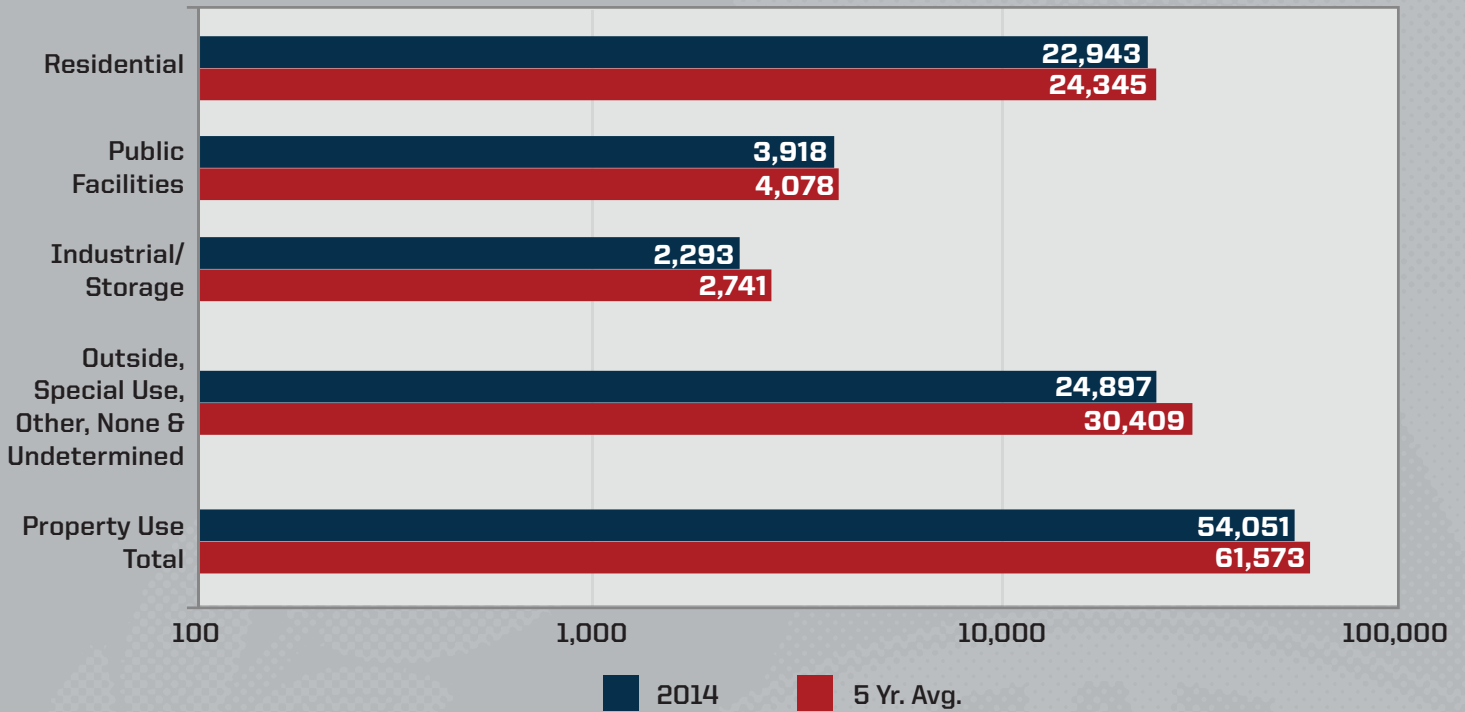
- 74%** Rescue/EMS
- 16%** Other Emergencies
- 5%** False Alarms
- 2%** Total Fires
- 3%** Mutual Aid

## 2014 STATE INCIDENT SUMMARY COMPARED TO (2010-2014) 5 YR. AVG.

### 2014 FIRES & NON-FIRE-RELATED INCIDENTS



# TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF FIRES BY PROPERTY USE



## TOTAL VALUE OF PROPERTY LOSS

**REPORTED VALUE OF PROPERTY LOSS FOR 2014: \$478,708,261.00**



**49%** Residential  
\$233,631,934.00

**8%** Public Facilities  
\$36,916,744.00

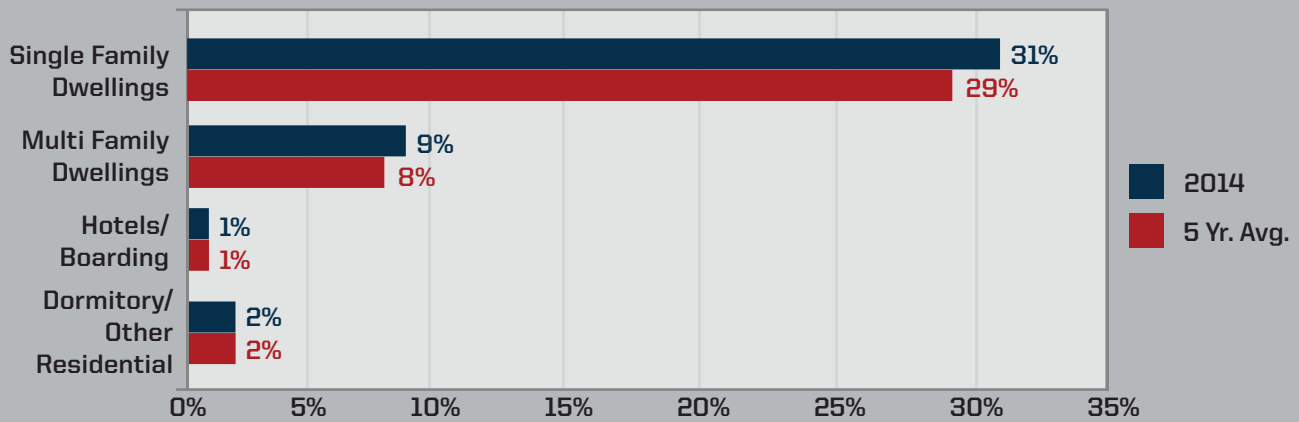
**23%** Industrial/Storage  
\$110,738,283.00

**20%** Outside, Special Use, Other, None and Undetermined  
\$97,421,300.00

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

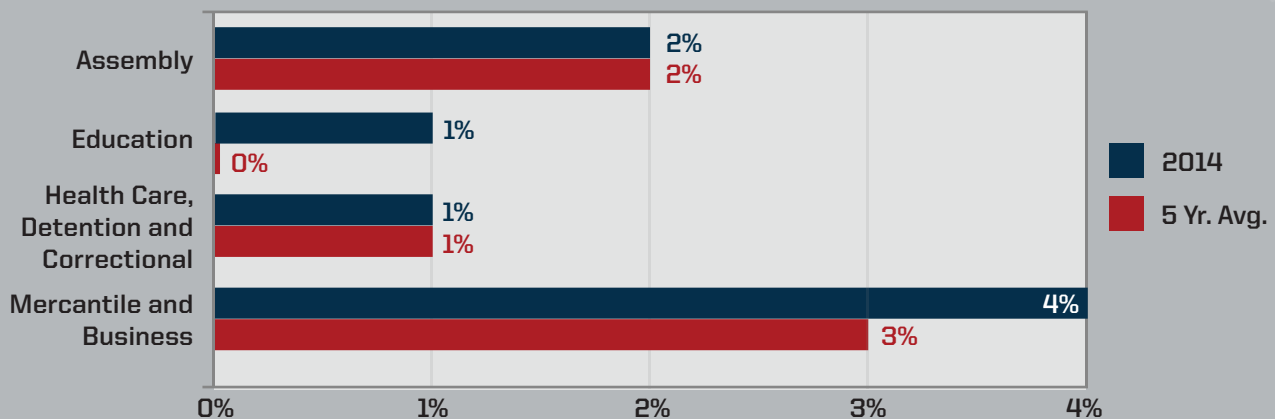


## RESIDENTIAL



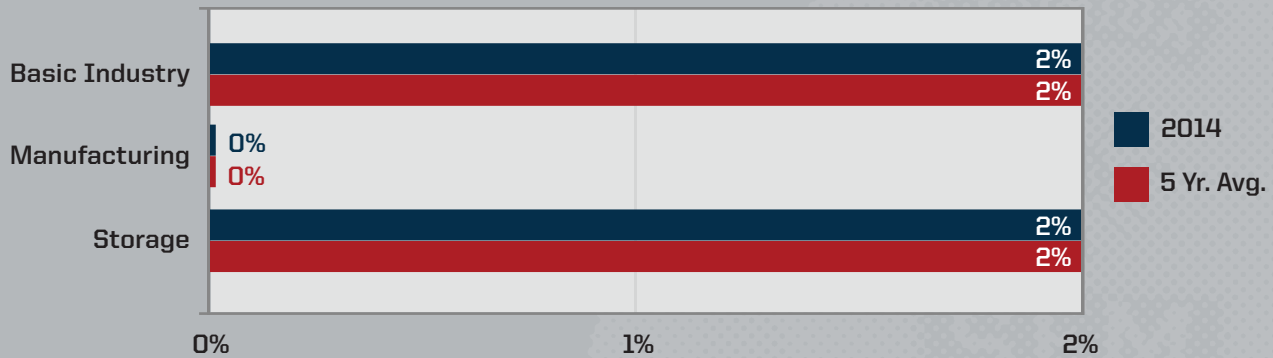
Residential Property Type	2014 # of Incidents	5 Yr. Avg. # Incidents	2014 Total Dollar Loss	5 Yr. Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Single Family Dwellings	16,843	18,049	\$183,891,208.00	\$199,010,972.40
Multi Family Dwellings	4,672	4,789	\$39,684,575.00	\$42,330,374.40
Hotels/Boarding	426	432	\$2,861,700.00	\$4,576,750.60
Dormitory/Other Residential	1,002	1,076	\$7,194,451.00	\$7,939,802.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,943</b>	<b>24,346</b>	<b>\$233,631,934.00</b>	<b>\$253,857,899.60</b>

## PUBLIC FACILITIES



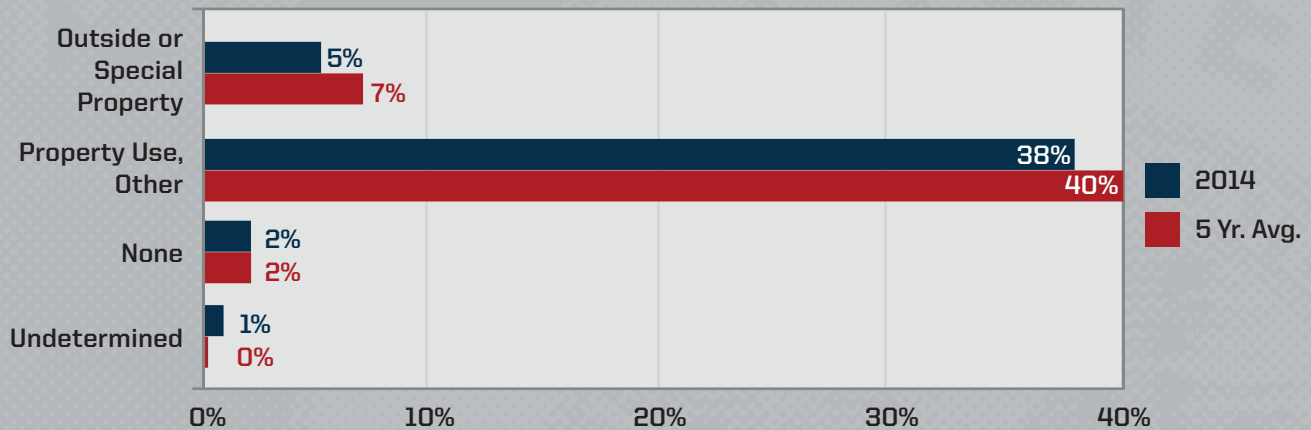
Public Facilities Property Type	2014 # of Incidents	5 Yr. Avg. # Incidents	2014 Total Dollar Loss	5 Yr. Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Assembly	1,311	1,373	\$14,737,599.00	\$16,212,353.20
Education	277	309	\$1,310,355.00	\$1,610,289.20
Health Care, Detention, and Correctional	350	378	\$1,591,366.00	\$2,858,908.20
Mercantile and Business	1,980	2,018	\$19,277,424.00	\$35,158,937.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,918</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>\$36,916,744.00</b>	<b>\$55,840,488.40</b>

### INDUSTRIAL/STORAGE



Industrial Property Type	2014 # of Incidents	5 Yr. Avg. # Incidents	2014 Total Dollar Loss	5 Yr. Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Basic Industry	1,009	1,377	\$79,082,642.00	\$71,060,954.00
Manufacturing	153	184	\$6,151,660.00	\$8,801,380.00
Storage	1,131	1,180	\$25,503,981.00	\$32,746,666.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>\$110,738,283.00</b>	<b>\$112,609,000.80</b>

### OUTSIDE, SPECIAL USE, OTHER, NONE & UNDETERMINED

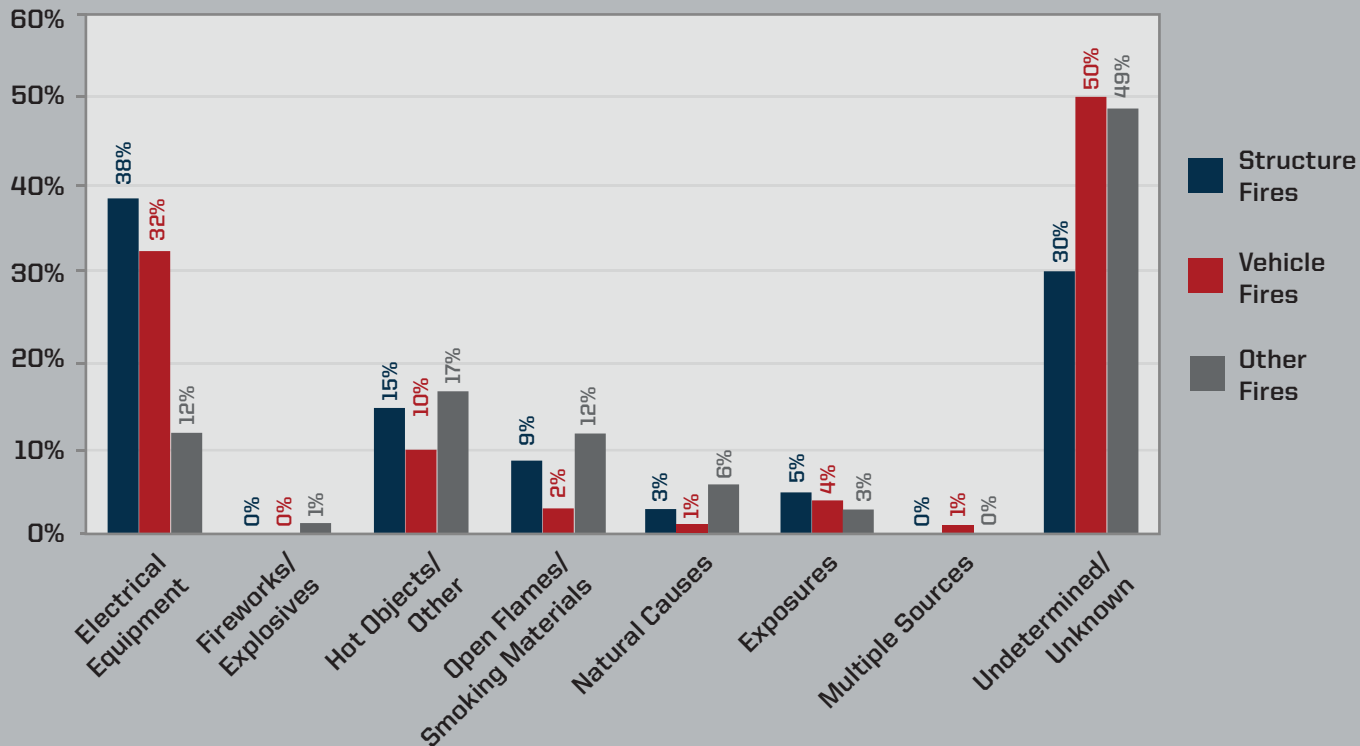


Outside, Special Use, Other, None, and Undetermined Property Type	2014 # of Incidents	5 Yr. Avg. # Incidents	2014 Total Dollar Loss	5 Yr. Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Outside or Special Property	2,977	4,136	\$2,157,021.00	\$2,709,957.00
Property Use, Other	20,792	24,704	\$91,213,244.00	\$471,248,528.80
None	878	1,149	\$3,597,410.00	\$3,022,501.20
Undetermined	250	420	\$453,625.00	\$911,137.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,897</b>	<b>30,409</b>	<b>\$97,421,300.00</b>	<b>\$477,892,124.80</b>

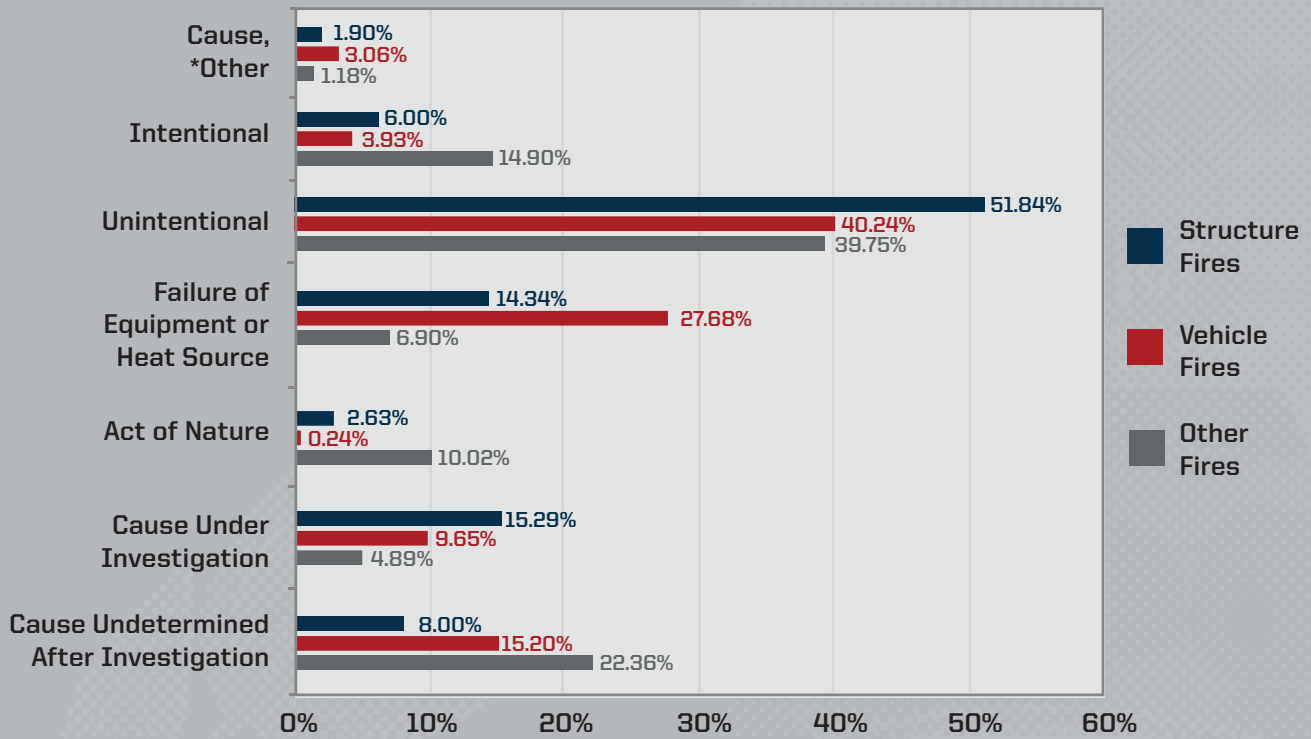
# 2014 HEAT SOURCE & CAUSE OF IGNITION PERCENTAGES



**STRUCTURE, VEHICLE, & OTHER FIRES HEAT SOURCE**



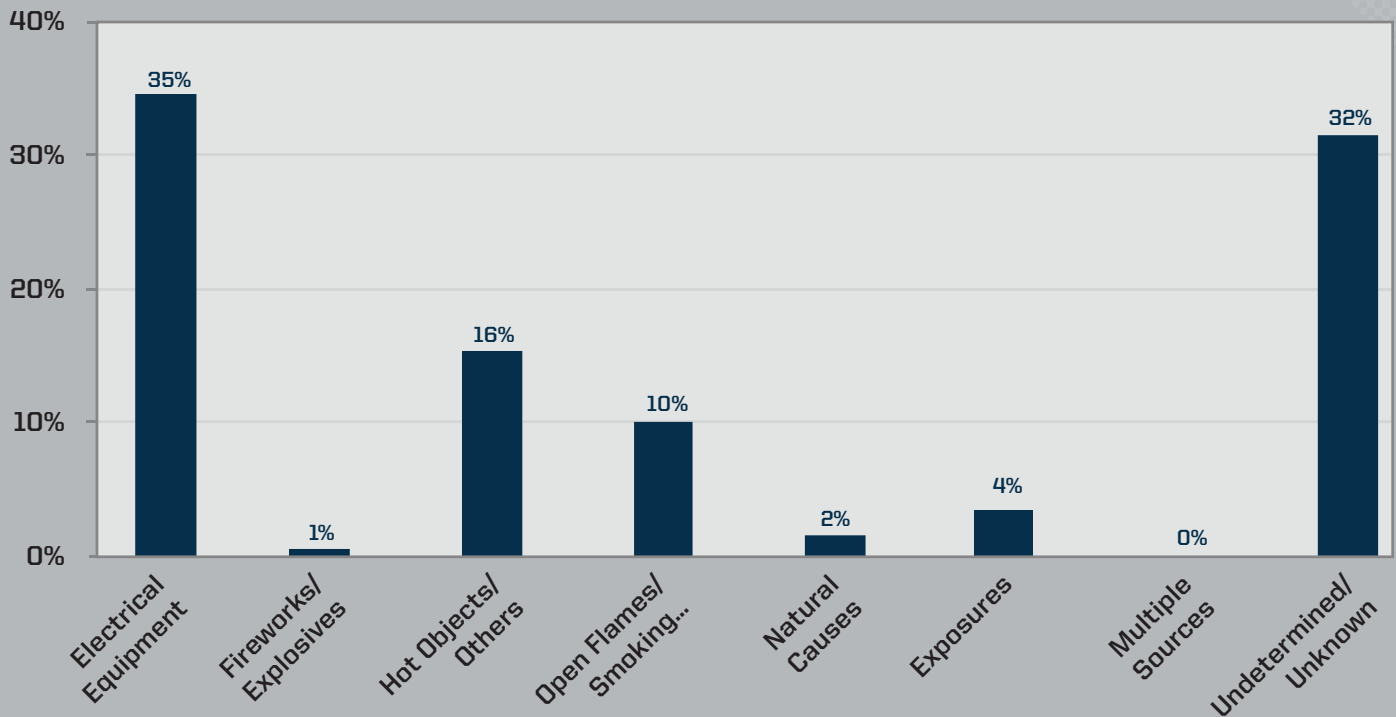
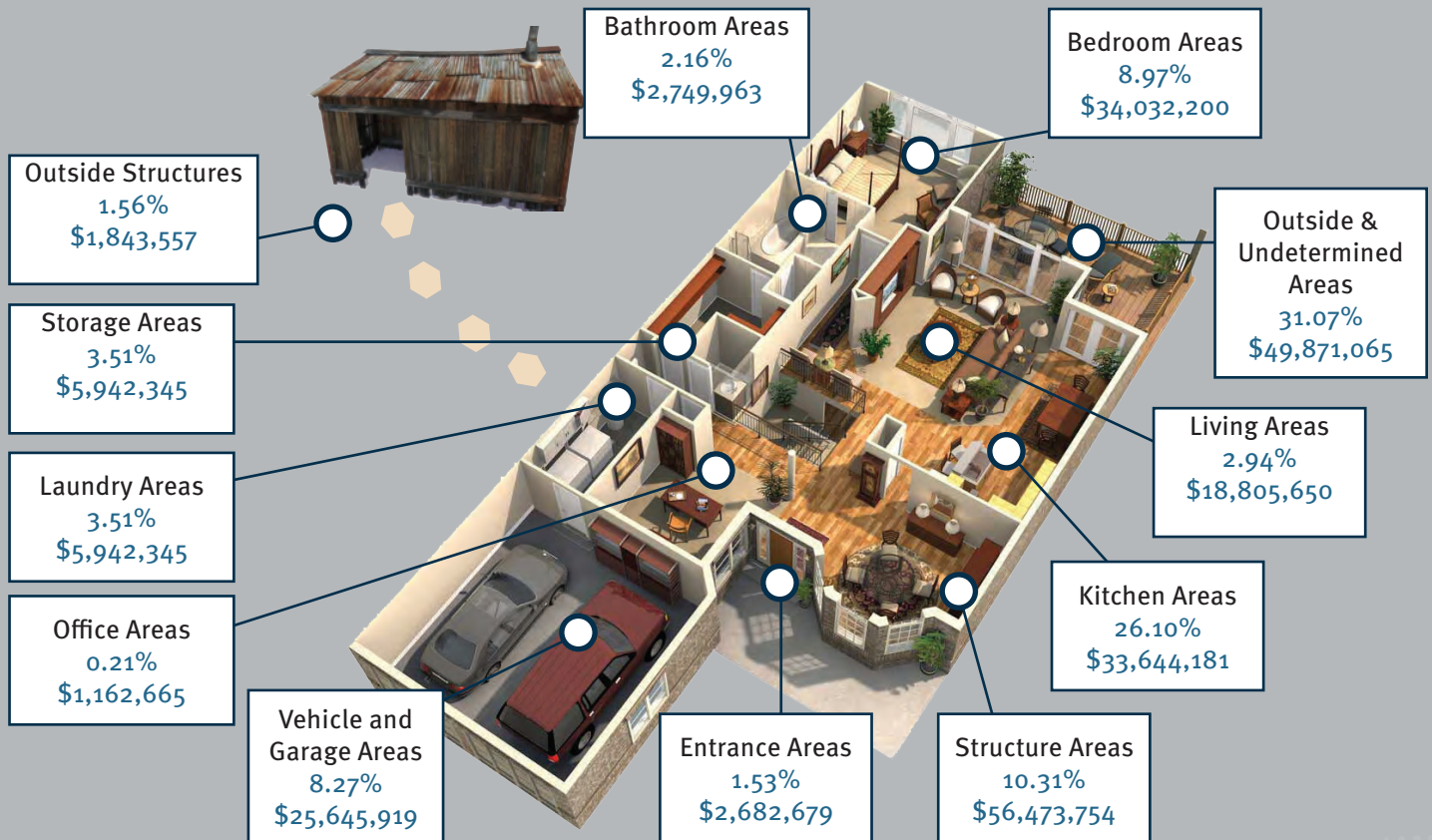
### STRUCTURE, VEHICLE, & OTHER FIRES BY CAUSE OF IGNITION



\* Other Fires include: Natural Vegetation, Trash and Rubbish, Outside Special Property, Vegetation, and Crop.



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



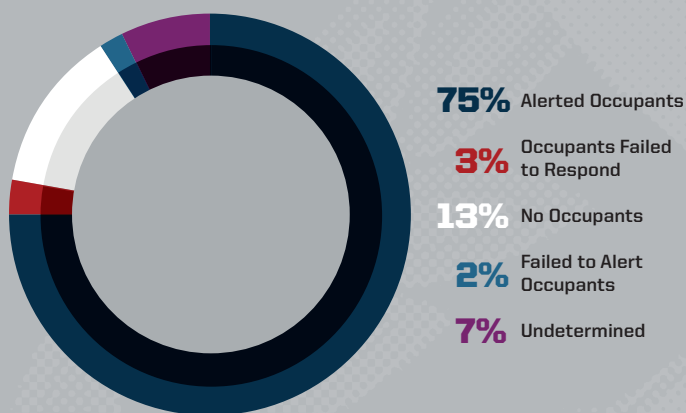


# SMOKE DETECTOR USE DATA

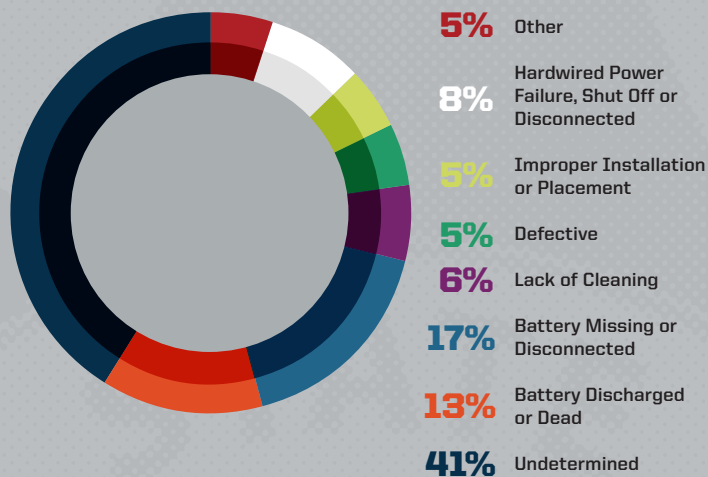


Smoke detectors were present in **42** percent of reported structure fires, in which the presence or absence of detectors were reported, with **56** percent of those operational. **Twenty-two** percent were reported as undetermined and **11** percent did not operate due to a variety of reasons such as no batteries, lack of maintenance, etc. In **13** percent, the fire was too small for the detector to operate. Unfortunately, **36** percent of the structures did not have smoke detectors and **22** percent of the structures reported as undetermined.

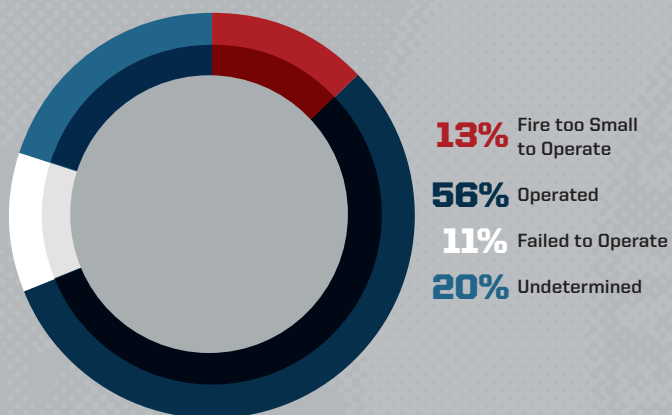
## DETECTOR EFFECTIVENESS



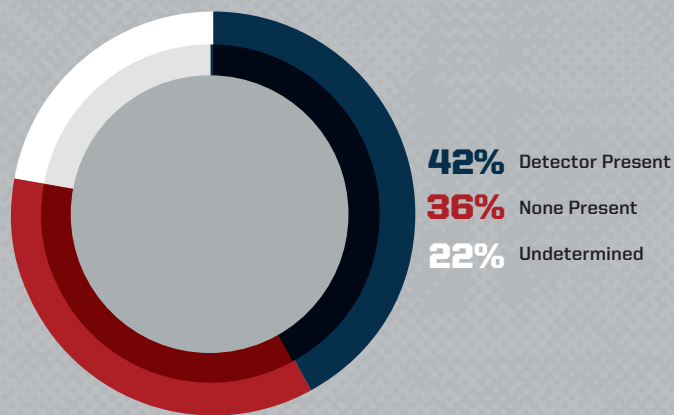
## SMOKE DETECTOR FAILURE



## DETECTOR OPERATION



## DETECTOR PRESENCE

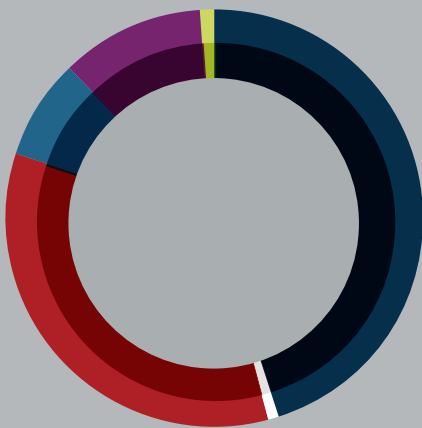


# FIRE SPRINKLER USE DATA



Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) were present in **8** percent of reported structure fires with **45** percent of those operational. **Six** percent were reported as undetermined and **1** percent did not operate due to a variety of reasons, such as manual intervention, agent discharged but did not reach the fire, etc. In **40** percent of structure fires, the fire was not in the vicinity of the AES for it to be effective. Unfortunately, in **86** percent of the structure fires there was not an AES present and **6** percent were reported as undetermined.

## AES OPERATION



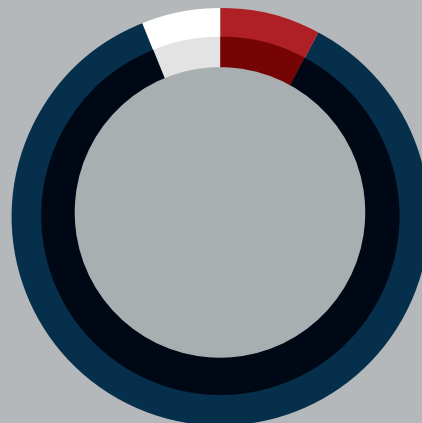
- 45%** Operated & Effective
- 1%** Operated & Not Effective
- 34%** Fire too Small to Operate
- 8%** Failed to Operate
- 11%** Undetermined
- 1%** Operation of AES, Other

## AES FAILURE



- 17%** Reason System Not Effective, Other
- 6%** System Shut Off
- 3%** Not Enough Agents to Control the Fire
- 2%** Agent Discharged, but did Not Reach the Fire
- 1%** Inappropriate System for the Type of Fire
- 40%** Fire Not in Area Protected by the System
- 0%** System Components Damaged
- 0%** Lack of Maintenance Including Corrosion or Heads Painted
- 1%** Manual Intervention Defeated the System
- 30%** Undetermined

## AES PRESENCE



- 8%** Present
- 0%** Partial System Present
- 86%** None Present
- 6%** Undetermined

# AVERAGE RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

Reported by Florida Fire Departments



ONE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS EVERY **20** SECONDS

ONE STRUCTURE FIRE OCCURS EVERY **32** MINUTES AND **2** SECONDS





ONE FIRE  
OCCURS EVERY  
**10** MINUTES

ONE VEHICLE  
FIRE OCCURS  
EVERY **57**  
MINUTES



ONE OUTSIDE /  
OTHER FIRE  
OCCURS EVERY  
**22** MINUTES

ONE OTHER  
EMERGENCY  
CALL OCCURS  
EVERY 1 MINUTE



ONE EMS /  
RESCUE CALL  
OCCURS EVERY  
26 SECONDS

ONE FALSE  
ALARM  
OCCURS  
EVERY 3  
MINUTES



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

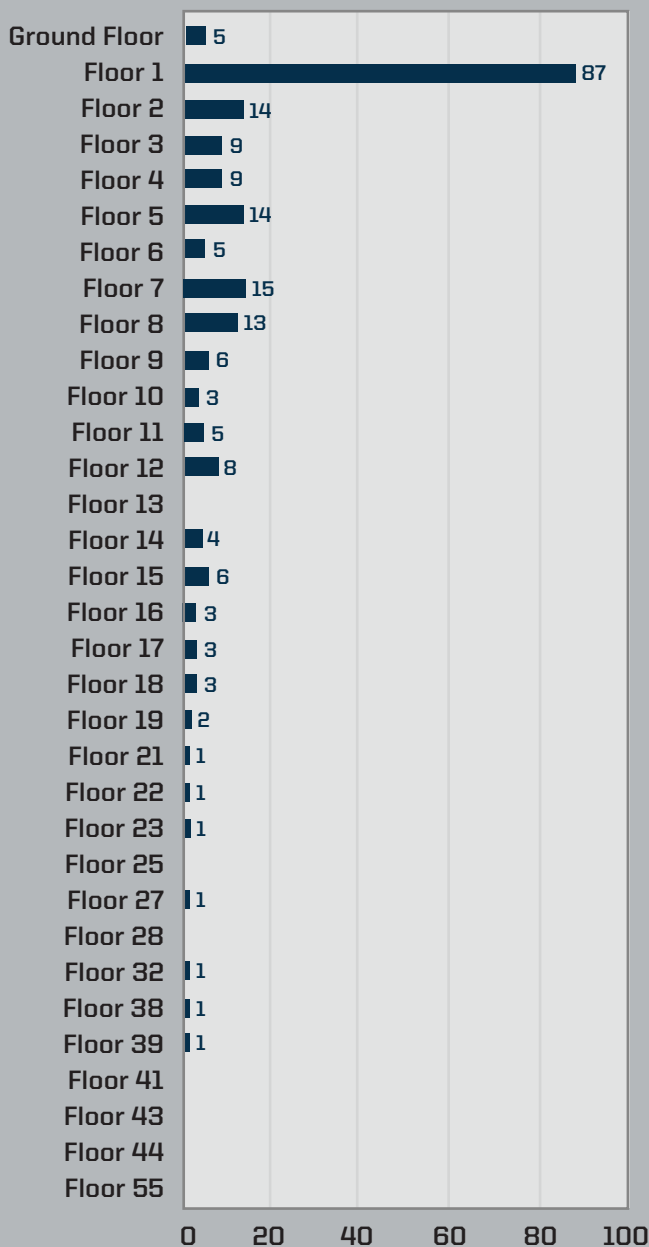
# FREQUENCY & NUMBER OF CIVILIAN & FIRE SERVICE INJURIES IN HIGH RISE STRUCTURE FIRES



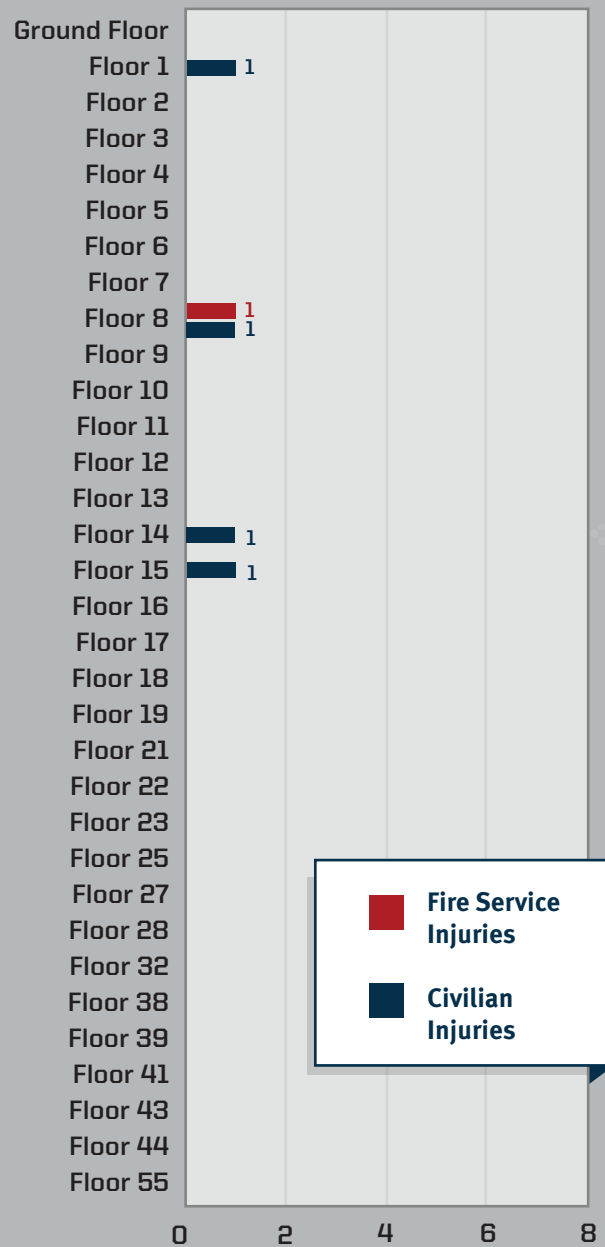
The National Fire Protection Association reports there are more than 13,000 structure fires in high rise buildings each year in the United States.

The State of Florida had a total of **221** structure fire incidents in high rise structures with **1** fire service injury and **4** civilian injuries in 2014.

**HIGH-RISE STRUCTURE FIRE INCIDENTS BY FREQUENCY**



**CIVILIAN & FIRE SERVICE INJURIES IN HIGH-RISE STRUCTURE FIRES**





# 2014 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. Florida Firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2014 are Lieutenant Jeffrey B. Newland, Lieutenant Homer “J.R.” Harrell, and Assistant Fire Chief Roger D. Tome.



On February 10, 2014, Assistant Fire Chief Roger D. Tome, 71, of Kennedy Space Center Fire and Rescue died in the line of duty. Tome passed away from an apparent heart attack several hours after completing his shift which included department mandated physical training. Roger was an Assistant Fire Chief at NASA/Kennedy Space Center where he served since December 1971. Roger began his career at the Orlando Fire Department in 1961. Tome was one of the few people to have worked at the Space Center during the entire Shuttle Transport System history. Roger bravely served on the first Astronaut Emergency Rescue team and served as its team leader for the shuttle program. Additional achievements include serving on Apollo, Space Lab, and all shuttle missions by heading emergency rescue operations at contingency landing sites in North Africa.



On February 24, 2014, Lieutenant Homer “J.R.” Harrell, 46, of Orange City Fire Department died in the line of duty. Lieutenant Harrell passed away from a reported heart attack shortly after coming off his assigned shift which included one or more emergency responses. An instrumental employee to the Fire Department, J.R. started working as a paramedic in 1992 and joined the Orange City Fire Department in 2003. He laid the groundwork for developing the Advanced Life Support (ALS) capabilities of the department. He taught many medical classes including Paramedic, EMT, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and CPR. The students he taught will continue to save lives for many years to come.



On April 30, 2014, Lieutenant Jeffrey B. Newland, 50, of North Port Fire Rescue died in the line of duty. He experienced a cardiac event while off duty, within a few hours of completing his last emergency call. Newland began his career as a firefighter/paramedic at North Port Fire Rescue in January of 2000. He was promoted to lieutenant in February of 2008 and was most recently the “A” Shift station officer at Station 82 on North Port Boulevard. He was a skilled officer and paramedic who enjoyed an excellent reputation for both his customer service and his leadership in the field.



Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Ocala, 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).

### Florida Wildland Firefighter Memorial in Withlacoochee, Florida



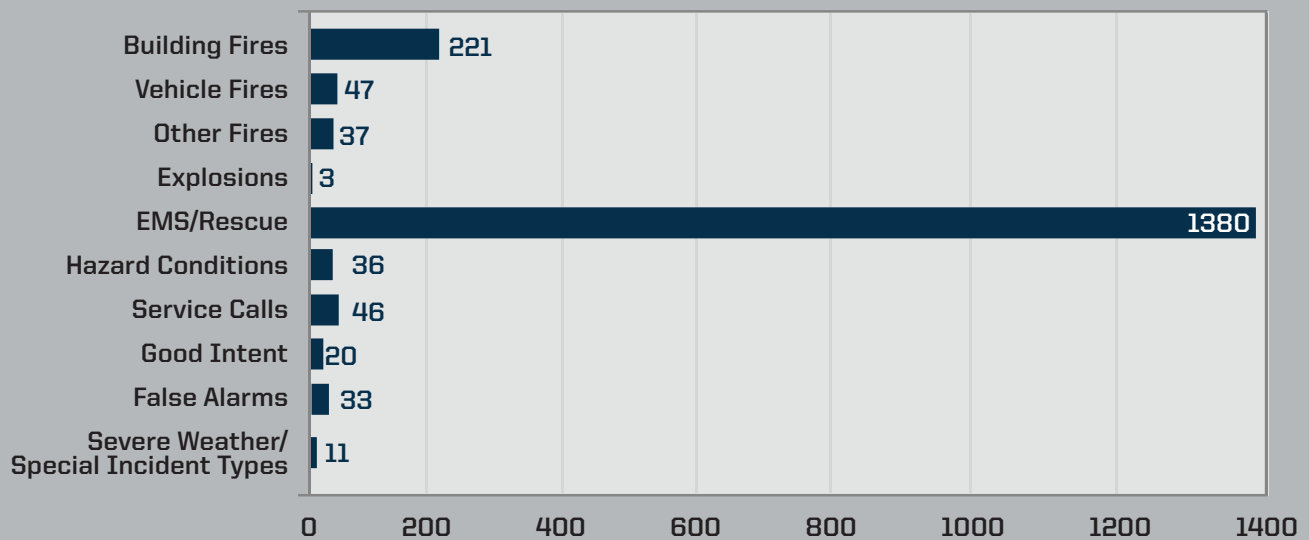
Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Monument at the State Capital (See picture of Phase 1 under construction)

# FIREFIGHTER INJURIES VS NUMBER OF FIRE INCIDENTS

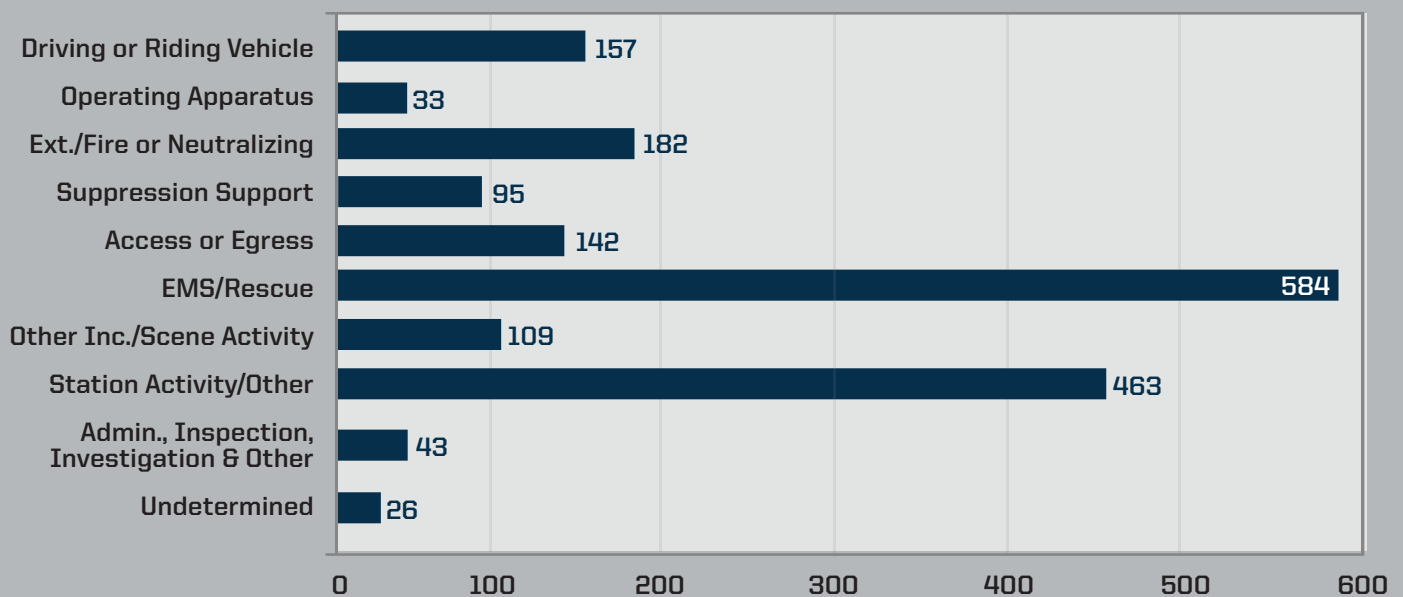


Firefighters throughout Florida deal with a variety of hazards while performing their duties. These hazards include, but are not limited to, smoke inhalation, burns, straining of body parts, exposure to chemicals, and tremendous stress. In 2014, there were **305** fire related injuries to firefighters.

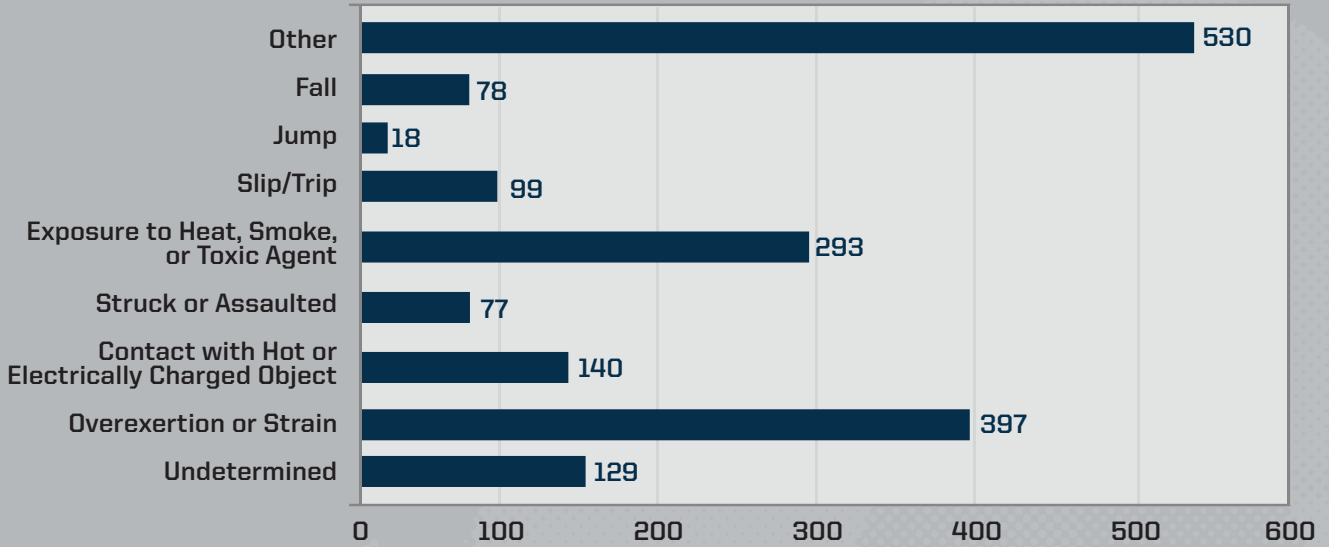
## INCIDENT TYPES RESULTING IN INJURIES



## ACTIVITY AT TIME OF INJURY



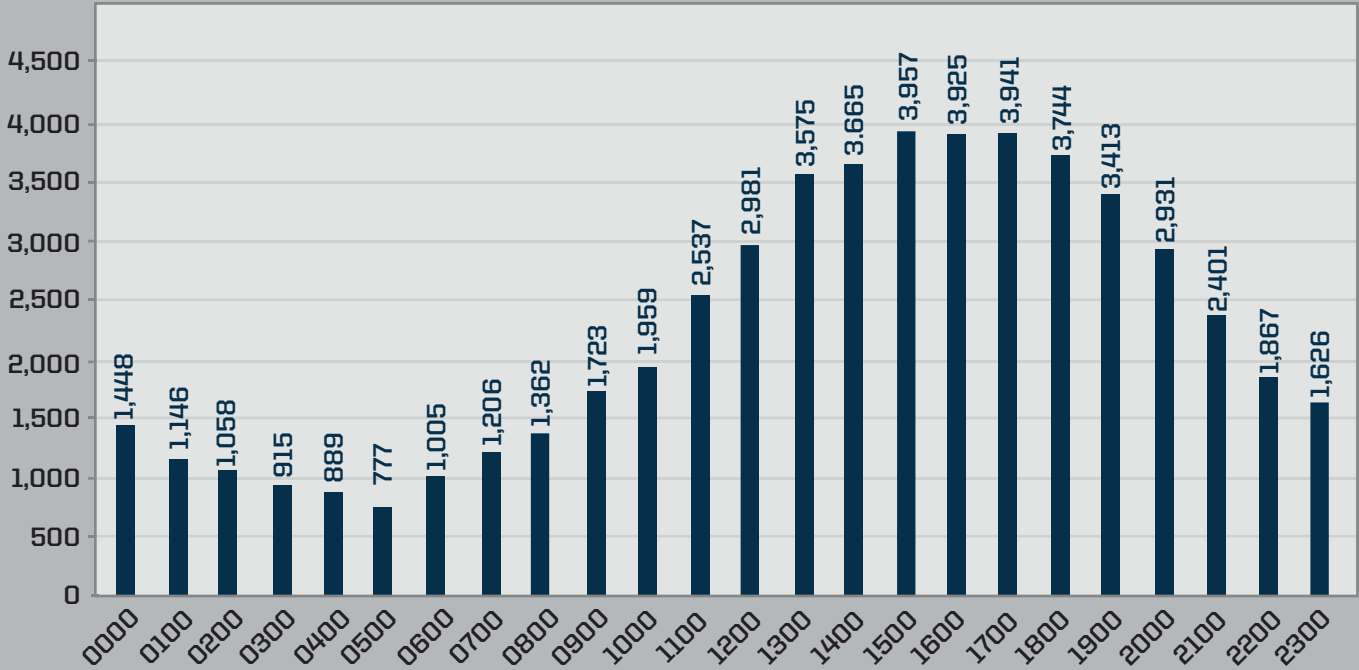
CAUSE OF FIRE RELATED INJURY



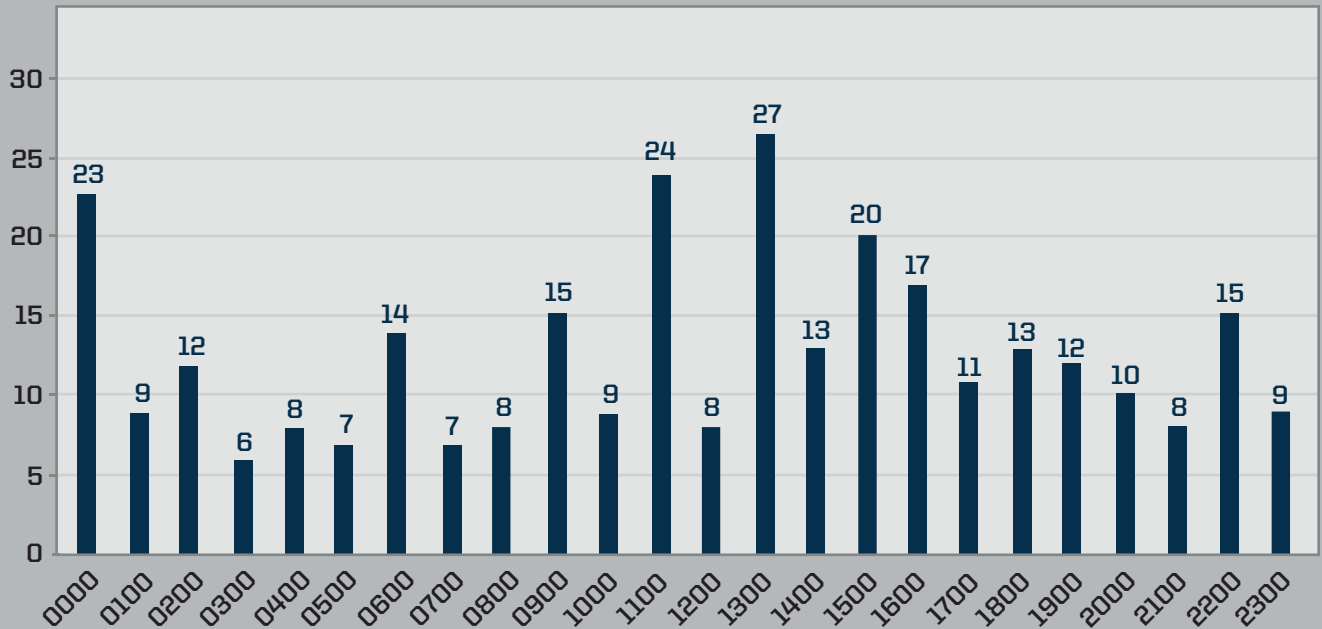
# FIRE INCIDENTS & FIREFIGHTER FIRE RELATED INJURIES BY PEAK HOUR AND DAY OF THE WEEK



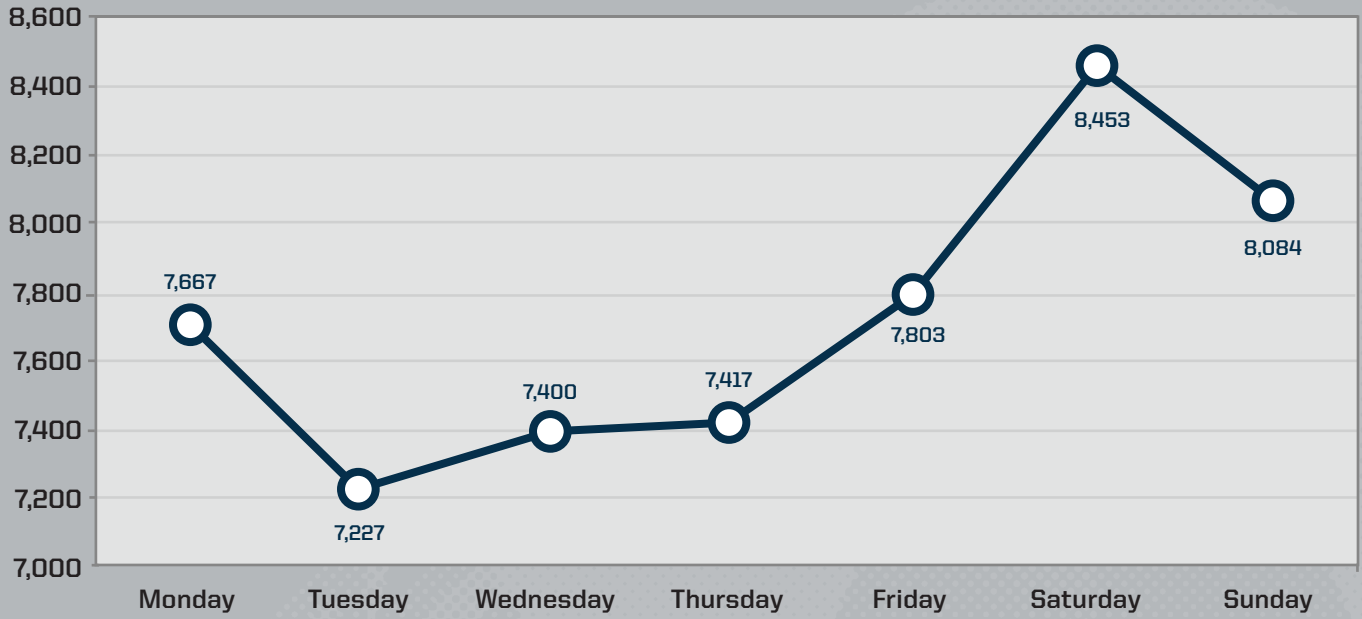
**FIRE INCIDENTS BY HOUR OF THE DAY**



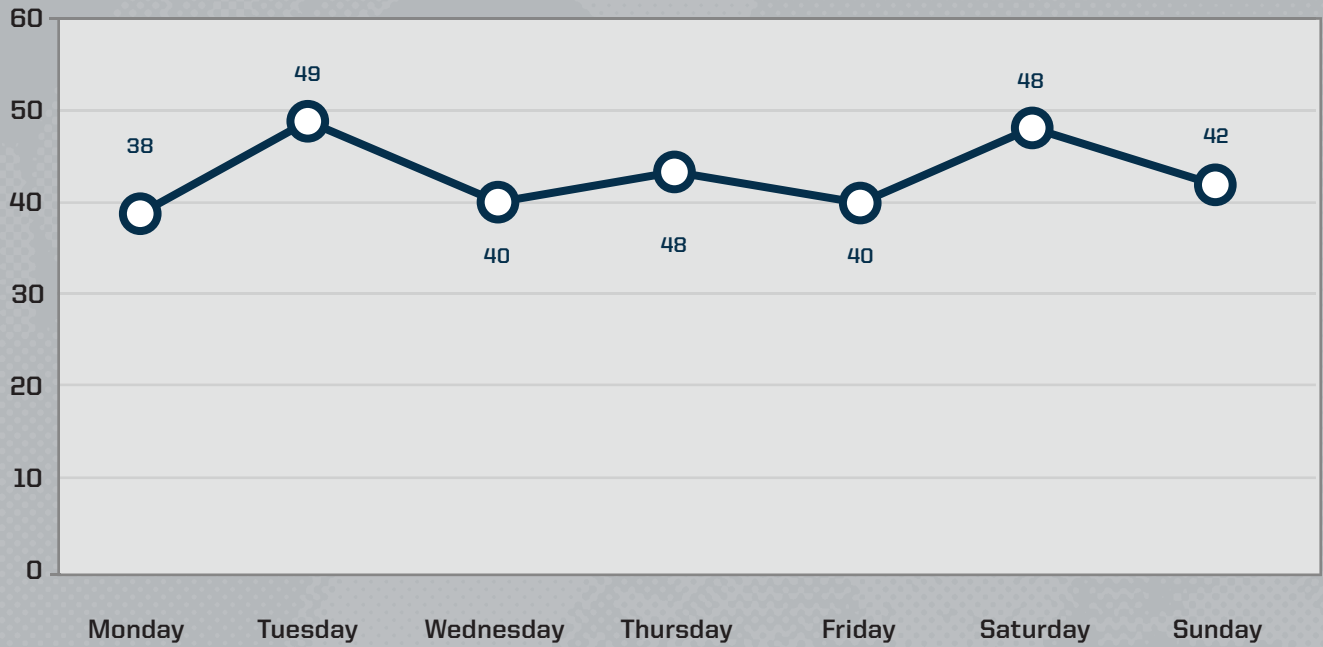
**FIRE INJURIES BY HOUR OF THE DAY**



### FIRE BY DAY OF THE WEEK



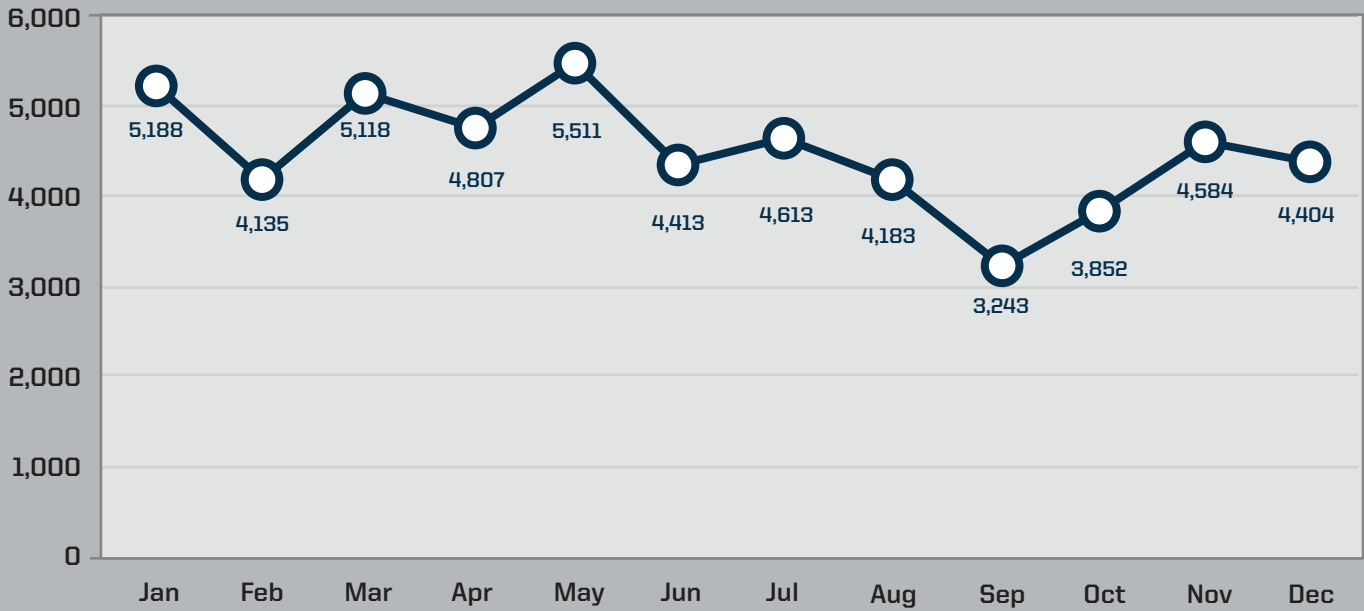
### INJURIES BY DAY OF THE WEEK



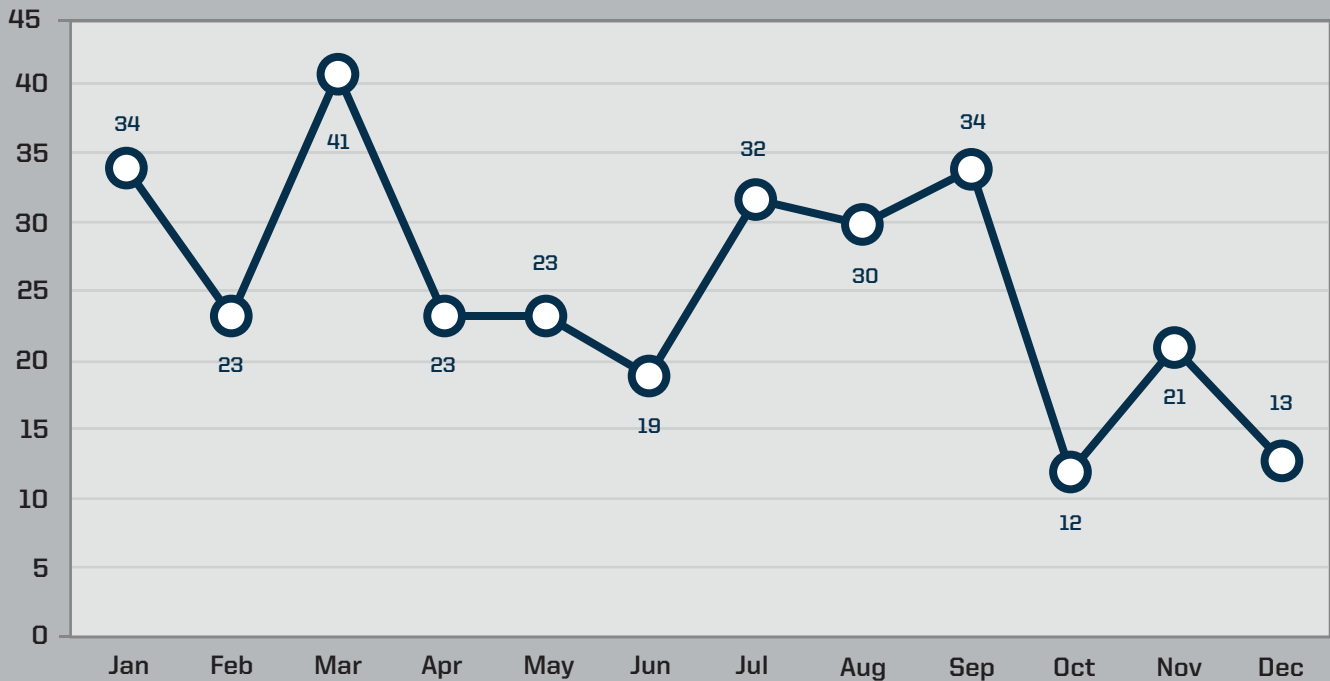
# FIRE INCIDENTS AND FIREFIGHTER FIRE RELATED INJURIES BY MONTH AND QUARTER OF THE YEAR



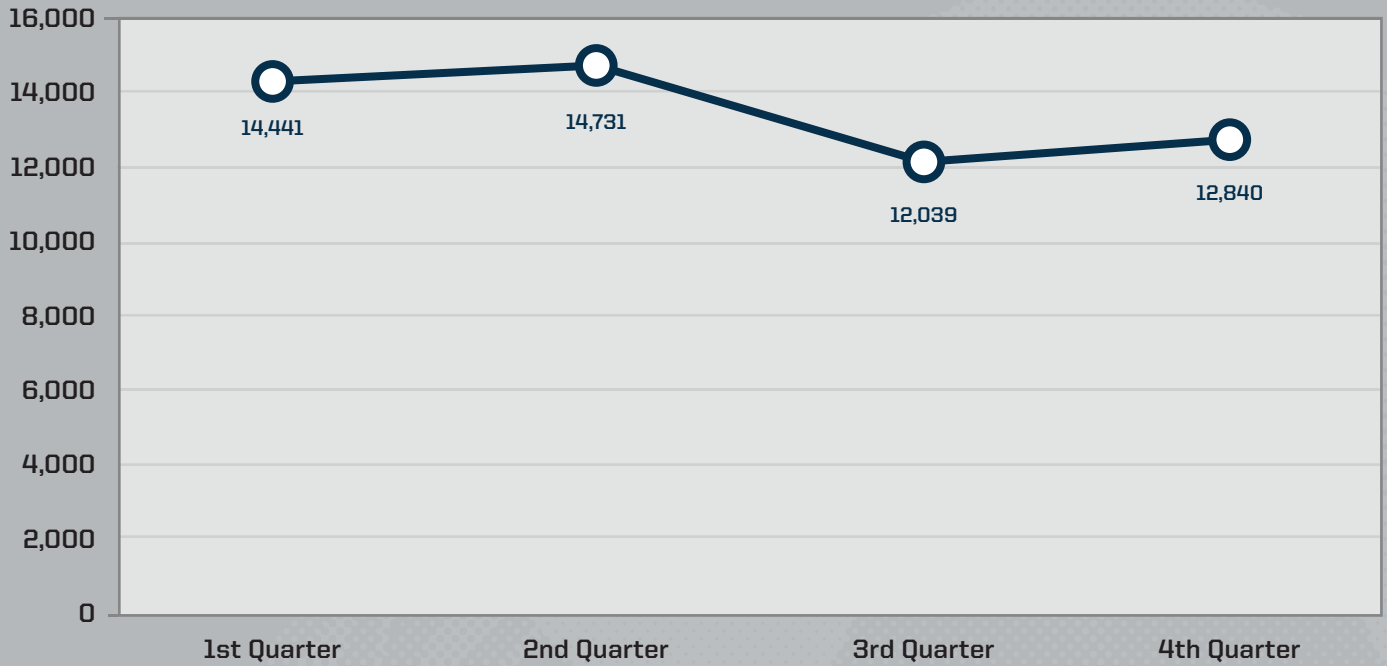
**FIRES BY MONTH OF THE YEAR**



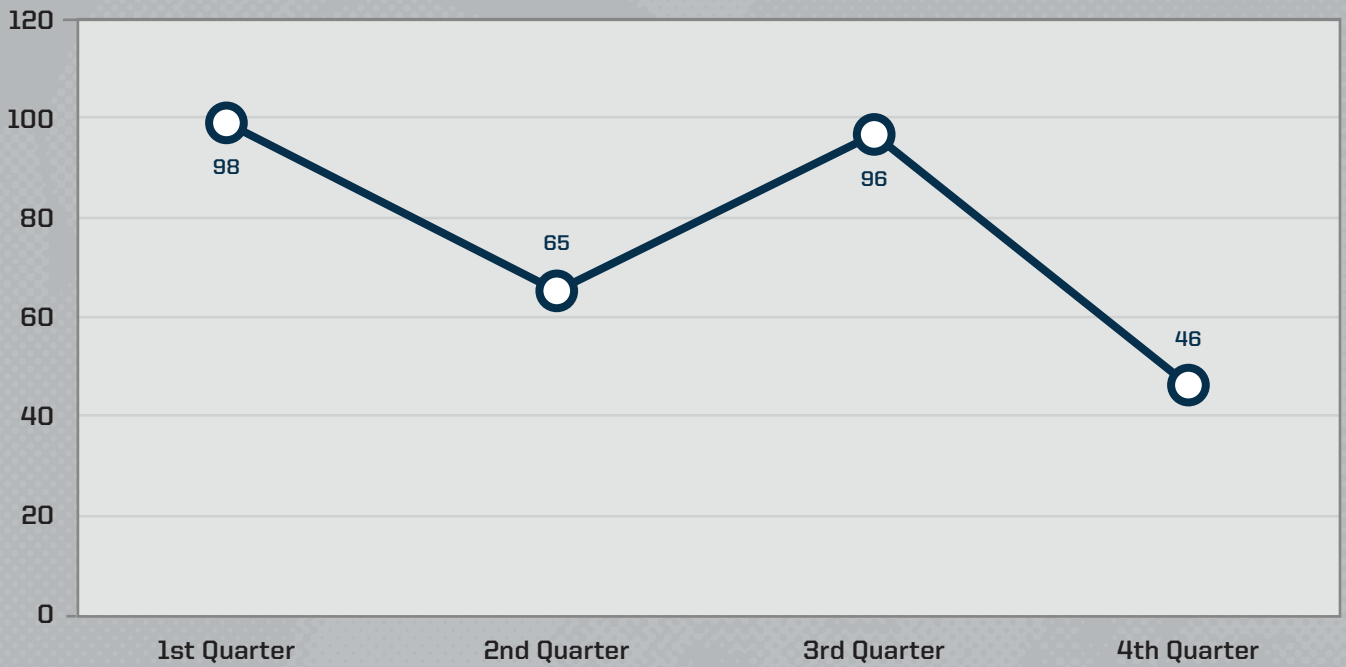
**INJURIES BY MONTH OF THE YEAR**



### FIRES BY QUARTER OF THE YEAR



### INJURIES BY QUARTER OF THE YEAR



# 2014 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT AWARDS



The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has reported that the following departments received Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Awards for 2014. 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 closeout their grants until they demonstrate that they are complying with this requirement. Failure to closeout your previous years’ grants may affect the consideration for future awards. This requirement is included in the 2014 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 2014 recipients may be reviewed by entering the following link into your web browser: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/AFG2014.shtm>.

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

A total of **531** fire departments throughout the state of Florida reported incidents to FFIRS for 2014 and of those departments, **13** received grants.

Award Date	FDID #	Organization	City	Program	Activity Level
4/24/2015	19071	Four Communities Fire Department, Inc.	Cocoa	Operations and Safety	PPE (\$27,100)
4/24/2015	43052	Mary Esther Fire Department	Mary Esther	Operations and Safety	PPE (\$321,938)
5/1/2015	26022	City of St. Cloud Fire Rescue Department	St. Cloud	Operations and Safety	WFP (\$30,000)
5/1/2015	08042	Edgewater Fire Rescue Service	Edgewater	Operations and Safety	PPE (\$169,800)
5/1/2015	04112	St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue	Saint Petersburg	Operations and Safety	MF (\$464,700) PPE (\$62,000)
5/8/2015	01032	Miami-Dade Fire Rescue	Miami	Operations and Safety	E (\$1,976,000) T (\$85,000)
5/22/2015	16012	Englewood Area Fire Control District	Englewood	Operations and Safety	PPE (\$141,474)
5/29/2015	11062	Alachua County Fire Rescue	Gainesville	Operations and Safety	WFP (\$132,350)
5/29/2015	46022	Jefferson County Fire Rescue	Monticello	Vehicle Acquisition	VA (\$235,000)
5/29/2015	08012	Ormond Beach Fire Department	Ormond Beach	Operations and Safety	MF (\$21,000) E (\$1,300) PPEE (\$10,350)
6/12/2015	10132	City of North Lauderdale	North Lauderdale	Operations and Safety	WFP (\$81,250)
6/12/2015	07252	Orange County Fire Rescue Department	Orlando	Operations and Safety	N/A
6/12/2015	06272	West Palm Beach Fire Rescue	West Palm Beach	Operations and Safety	N/A

PPE Personal Protective Equipment

WFP Wellness Fitness Program

MF Modify Facility

E Equipment

VA Vehicle Acquisition



# THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT REPORTED TO THE FLORIDA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (FFIRS) SECTION DURING 2014



## 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}  
High Springs 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}  
Baker County VFD {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}  
Springfield Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Callaway Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Bay County Fire Rescue {5.0}

## BRADFORD COUNTY

Starke Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Brooker VFD {5.0}  
Heilbron Springs VFD {5.0}  
Lawtey VFD {5.0}  
Hampton VFD {5.0}  
Theresa VFD {5.0}  
Sampson City VFD {5.0}

## BREVARD COUNTY

Cape Canaveral Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Indialantic 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}  
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

## CALHOUN COUNTY

Magnolia VFD {5.0}  
Altha Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Carr-Clarksville VFD {5.0}  
Kinard VFD {5.0}  
Scott's Ferry VFD {5.0}  
Mossy Pond VF {5.0}  
Nettle Ridge VFD {5.0}

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Punta Gorda Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Charlotte County Fire & EMS {5.0}  
Little Gasparilla Island Fire Rescue {5.0}

## CITRUS COUNTY

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

## CLAY COUNTY

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

- Middleburg VFD

## COLLIER COUNTY

Ochopee FCD {5.0}  
East Naples FCD {5.0}  
Immokalee FCD {5.0}  
Golden Gate FCD {5.0}  
Big Corkscrew Island FCD {5.0}  
North Naples FCD {5.0}  
Isles of Capri Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Naples Police & EMS {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 Intn'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}  
Bunnell VFD {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}  
Eastpoint 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 Service {5.0}  
Gretna VFD {5.0}  
Robertsville VFD {5.0}  
Havana Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Wetumpka VFD {5.0}  
Concord VFD {5.0}  
Midway VFD {5.0}  
Sycamore VFD {5.0}

## GILCHRIST COUNTY

Gilchrist County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Bell Fire Dept.

- SE Gilchrist VFD
- North Gilchrist VFD
- Spring Ridge VFD

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}  
Muse VFD {5.0}  
Ortona VFD {5.0}

#### GULF COUNTY

South Gulf County Fire Dept. {5.0} Overstreet VFD {5.0}  
Muse VFD {5.0}  
Ortona VFD {5.0}  
Wawahitchka VFD {5.0}  
Wetappo Creek VFD {5.0}  
Port St. Joe VFD {5.0}  
Gulf County Beaches VFD {5.0}  
Howards Creek 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}  
Bellville Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### HARDEE COUNTY

Hardee County Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### HENDRY COUNTY

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

#### HERNANDO COUNTY

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

- Springhill Fire Rescue
- Tri County VFD

Hernando Beach VFD {5.0}

#### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Sebring Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Highland Lakes VFD {5.0}  
West Sebring VFD {5.0}  
Lake Placid Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Avon Park Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Highlands County Fire Admin. {5.0}  
Leisure Lakes VFD {5.0}  
Lorida VFD {5.0}  
Sun 'N Lakes of Lake Placid VFD {5.0}  
Venus VFD {5.0}

#### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Plant City Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Dover-Creek VFD
- Cork-Knight VFD
- Sun-Dance Fire Dept.
- Bloomingdale Fire Dept.

Tampa Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Temple Terrace Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### HOLMES COUNTY

Bonifay VFD {5.0}  
Gritney VFD {5.0}  
New Hope VFD {5.0}  
Ponce de Leon Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Pittman VFD {5.0}  
Pinelog 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}

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Mayo VFD {5.0}  
Lafayette County Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### LAKE COUNTY

Eustis Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Leesburg Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Groveland Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Tavares Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Clermont Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Montverde 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 {5.0}  
Cape Coral Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Alva FCD {5.0}  
Estero Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Bonita Springs Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Captive Island FCD {5.0}  
Lehigh Acres FCD {5.0}  
Upper Captiva FRD {5.0}  
North Ft. Myers Fire District {5.0}  
Sanibel Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Lee County Port Authority ARFF Dept. {5.0}  
Boca Grande FCD {5.0}  
Fort Myers Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Ft Myers Beach FCD {5.0}  
Ft Myers Shores Fire District {5.0}  
Matlacha-Pine Island FCD {5.0}  
South Trail Fire Rescue {5.0}

Iona McGregor Fire District {5.0}  
Useppa Island VFC {5.0}

#### LEON COUNTY

Tallahassee Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Miccosukee VFD {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

Williston VFD {5.0}  
Levy County Fire Rescue {5.0}  
South Levy VFD {5.0}

#### LIBERTY COUNTY

Bristol VFD {5.0}  
Rock Bluff VFD {5.0}

#### MADISON COUNTY

Lee Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Greenville Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Pinetta VFD {5.0}  
Madison Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Cherry Lake Vol Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Hamburg VFD {5.0}

#### MANATEE COUNTY

Longboat Key Fire Rescue {5.0}  
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

Dunnellon Fire Rescue {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}  
Hialeah 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**

Hilliard VFD {5.0}  
 Fernandina Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Nassau Oaks VFD {5.0}  
 Nassau County Fire Rescue {5.0}
 

- Bryceville VFD
- Nassauville VFD

 Callahan VFD {5.0}
 

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

#### **OKALOOSA COUNTY**

Destin FCD {5.0}  
 Florosa 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}  
 East Niceville Fire District {5.0}  
 Niceville Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Okaloosa Island Fire District {5.0}  
 Holt VFD {5.0}  
 North Bay Fire District {5.0}  
 Almarante VFD {5.0}  
 Blackman 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}  
 Greater Orlando Aviation Authority {5.0}  
 Orange County Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### **OSCEOLA COUNTY**

Kissimmee Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 St. Cloud FR {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}  
 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}  
 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}  
 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}  
 Davenport Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

Crescent City Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Palatka Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 George's Lake VFD {5.0}  
 Florahome-Grandin VFD {5.0}  
 Francis VFD {5.0}  
 Southwest VFD {5.0}  
 Interlachen Lake Estates Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Pomona Park/Lake Como VFD {5.0}  
 Interlachen Area VFD {5.0}  
 East Palatka VFD {5.0}  
 Satsuma VFD {5.0}  
 Welaka VFD {5.0}  
 West Putnam VFD {5.0}  
 Georgetown-Fruitland VFD {5.0}  
 Hollister VFD {5.0}

Bostwick VFD {5.0}  
 Riverside VFD {5.0}  
 Putnam County EMS {5.0}  
 Bardin VFD {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 VFD {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**

Nokomis VFD {5.0}  
 Englewood Area FCD {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}  
 Casselberry Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Longwood Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Orlando Sanford Airport Fire Rescue {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**

Bradford 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**

Lake Butler VFD {5.0}

- Worthington Springs VFD  
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}
- South Daytona 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**

- Crawfordville VFR {5.0}
- St. Marks VFD {5.0}
- Panacea VFD {5.0}
- Wakulla County Fire Rescue {5.0}
- Sopchoppy VFD {5.0}
- Apalachee Bay VFD {5.0}
- Medart VFD {5.0}
- Ochlochnee Bay VFD {5.0}
- Smith Creek VFD {5.0}
- Wakulla VFD {5.0}

**WALTON COUNTY**

- South Walton Fire Dept. {5.0}
- Defuniak Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}

- Freeport Fire Rescue {5.0}
- Liberty Fire District, Inc. {5.0}
- Argyle VFD {5.0}
- Walton County Fire Rescue {5.0}

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

- Vernon VFD {5.0}
- Chipley Fire Dept. {5.0}
- Country Oaks VFD {5.0}
- Hinson Crossroads VFD {5.0}
- Orange Hill VFD {5.0}
- Wausau VFD
- Caryville VFD
- Five Points VFD
- Ebro VFD
- Greenhead VFD



The FFIRS Section would like to thank each of the fire departments responsible for making this report possible. In total, 531 fire departments reported incidents for 2014. 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) 413-3698 or [ffirs@myfloridacfo.com](mailto:ffirs@myfloridacfo.com)

# OUTSTANDING FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE PERSONNEL HONORED



## Florida Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jeff Atwater Presents Fire Service Awards

**TALLAHASSEE**— Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jeff Atwater recognized the winners of the 2014 Fire Service Awards during an evening reception hosted at the Florida Capitol. Additionally, a resolution signed by the Florida Cabinet was presented to honor the winners' outstanding accomplishments to the fire service industry. In total, 10 awards were presented to men and women from across the state, along with an award to the training center of the year. "Not only do these men and women risk their lives each day to protect the health and safety of those around them, they have risen as leaders in their fields and I am eternally grateful for their service," said CFO Atwater. "I look forward to even more great things from them and I hope their dedication inspires others to reach a little higher."

CFO Atwater presented the following Fire Service Awards:

- **Fire Chief of the Year Award:** James White, Winter Park Fire Rescue
- **Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year:** David Freda, Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department

- **Forestry Firefighter of the Year Award:** Travis McGowen, Florida Forest Service Orlando District
- **Fire Marshal of the Year Award:** Shawn Hanson, East Naples & Golden Gate Fire Districts
- **Fire Inspector of the Year Award:** Thomas Eadie, Florida State Fire Marshal's Jacksonville Field Office
- **Professional Firefighter of the Year Award:** Jason Griggs, Dunedin Fire Rescue
- **Fire Instructor of the Year Award:** Charles Frank, Northwest Florida Volunteer Firefighter Weekend Council
- **Fire Investigator of the Year Award:** John Jockin, Orlando Fire Department
- **Volunteer Firefighter of the Year Award:** Robin Russell, Plantation Fire Department
- **Chad Reed Emergency Manager of the Year:** Curt Summerhoff, Miami-Dade Emergency Management
- **Training Center of the Year:** St. Petersburg College, Fire & Public Safety Training Center

For more information about this year's Fire Service Award winners, please visit <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/SFM/FireServiceAward.htm>.















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FLORIDA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM SECTION