

# FLORIDA FIRES

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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# FLORIDA FIRES



DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

[www.MyFloridaCFO.com/SFM](http://www.MyFloridaCFO.com/SFM)





## JIMMY PATRONIS

State Fire Marshal,  
Chief Financial Officer

### Dear Fellow Floridians:

Dear Fellow Floridians:

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



## LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

During 2019, Florida experienced a decrease in fire-related injuries and deaths and as well as property losses when compared to 2018. In total, there were **48,668** fires, **1,999,037** emergency medical and other rescue incidents, **21,382** other incidents, **1,617** pressure, ruptures, overheating incidents and **158,742** false alarms, totaling **2,682,210** incidents reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System, totaling more than **\$448,810,617** in property losses. Of those fires, **14,168** were accidental, **2,755** were intentional, and, unfortunately, there were **150** civilian fatalities and **863** injuries. Tragically, Florida lost three firefighters in the line of duty in 2019: Lieutenant **Barry Boulton** of the Plantation Fire Department, FF/EMT **Brad Gregrich** of the DeSoto County Fire Rescue Department and **Robert Tabor**, Crewman ITT Rayonier. An additional **1,260** firefighters were injured on duty. We will continue to offer unfaltering support to these heroes by strengthening training, adding resources, and raising awareness on the importance of fire safety to ensure these numbers continue to decline.

Members of our fire service community are ready to act at a moment's notice, whether that is down the street or across the state, in preparation for a potentially catastrophic storm. While 2019 was a less active hurricane season than in year's past, communities in Florida felt the impacts of severe wind and storm surges from Hurricane Dorian as well as Tropical Storm Nestor. In Florida, we hope for the best and prepare for the worst and I am grateful for the dedication of our firefighters who use their skill, training, and expertise to help their fellow man.

One of my most treasured experiences serving as State Fire Marshal is the opportunities I've had to visit firehouses across Florida and spend time with these heroes. During these conversations, I have had the chance to learn directly from our firefighters and their families about their struggles and triumphs and how I can better meet the needs of our fire service personnel. It is important that our fire service professionals have the proper resources, environment and support that enable these brave men and women to serve their communities safely and successfully.

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

Sincerely,



State Fire Marshal  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida





# State Fire Marshal Division Director



**JULIUS HALAS**  
Division Director  
State Fire Marshal

The Division of State Fire Marshal has achieved many of its goals this year. While the 2019 hurricane season was less demanding than the previous year, the damages sustained were substantial. Hurricane Dorian was predicted to be a major Category 5 storm coming up the spine of Florida, but instead struck the Bahamas; Florida was prepared and ready to assist our neighbors there. Tropical Storm Nestor made landfall in Northwest Florida on October 19, 2019, resulting in strong storm surge and tornadoes especially in the Big Bend near Franklin and surrounding counties. Florida's Task Force Teams as always were ready to assist our neighbors and the citizens in Florida.

In 2019, the increased appropriation of legislative funding assisted 28 local governments with purchasing fire apparatus, equipment, and renovations and construction of new fire stations. These grants were an impactful contribution to the recipients, some of which sustained damage during the recent hurricanes and were in desperate need of these funds.

Also, the Florida Fire College hosted the third Florida Fire Services Mental Health Symposium along with the fourth annual Firefighter Cancer Symposium at our campus in Ocala. The mental and physical health of the men and women of the fire service industry is of the utmost concern to their employers and their loved ones. It is our duty to facilitate increased awareness of the hazards faced daily by our brave firefighters. We will continue partnering with the University of Miami and several other firefighter health and safety organizations to achieve these important goals. Our thanks to the 2019 Florida Legislature for their continuing commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of the members of our fire service industry who place service above self every day.

The men and women of the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal remain dedicated to providing quality service to the State of Florida and our primary goal is to serve this great state with honor, integrity, and professionalism. It is my honor to work daily with these dedicated and talented professionals of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

We always hope there will be no major events harming our state each year, but we work hard to be prepared when they do occur. This is also demonstrated by our response to every year's challenges whether from hurricanes, and any other disasters and events with potential state and regional consequences.

Sincerely,

Julius E. Halas  
Division Director  
State Fire Marshal





# Division of Investigative and Forensic Services Director

The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services (DIFS) continued to thrive in 2019. Keeping true to our vision statement, *"United in a purpose to ensure a safer more prosperous Florida through leadership, accountability, and enforcement"*, members of the Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations, Bureau of Insurance Fraud, Bureau of Workers' Compensation Fraud, Bureau of Forensic Services, and the Office of Fiscal Integrity worked tirelessly to ensure the Division's goals were accomplished and the needs of our customers were met.

In 2019, many of our highly-skilled men and women achieved tremendous accomplishments; Detective Shaun Tyson received IAAI Investigator of the Year Award, Lt. Stacy McIntyre received the FBI Leeda Trilogy Award, Det. Angela Castillo received FIFEC's Detective of the Year Award, and Lt. Adam Kline, Det. Jason Clark, Det. James Gardner, Det. Bill Whittlesey and Det. Seth Shiefer received the WCTF Investigators of the Year Award.

During the 2019 calendar year, our Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) received 3536 new requests for investigative assistance from fire departments, law enforcement agencies, federal and state agencies, individuals, and insurance companies. During that same time period, BFAEI conducted numerous investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of approximately \$166 million with \$17 million attributed to the crime of arson.

In June of 2019, BFAEI responded to conduct a fire origin and cause investigation of a three-story residential condominium structure fire in Escambia County, Florida. In total, 27 residences and 16 vehicles were damaged or destroyed by the fire. The damage was estimated at \$5,000,000.

In July 2019, BFAEI investigated a large-scale gas explosion in Plantation, Florida. The gas explosion resulted in 29 people being injured, caused major structural damage to 18 commercial buildings and damaged over 40 vehicles. The scene was investigated over a six-day period and documented with sketches, building plans, over 1200 photographs and drone footage.

In addition to responding to numerous suspicious packages, barricaded subjects, bomb threats and fire scenes, the members of our EOD and K-9 Teams assisted with state-wide events throughout 2019, to include the Daytona 500, Homestead-Miami Speedway races, and Grand Prix of St. Petersburg to name a few.

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

Our BFS Lab processed 8,867 Service requests with the majority being for Fire Debris Analysis and its required quality assurance test (5557 analyses) with an average turnaround time of 6.9 days. Comparatively, we are surpassing the national median by 33.1 days or 82.75%. The success of our lab is attributed to the hard work and dedication of our staff that includes three certified American Board of Criminalistics Fire Debris Analysis Analysts. Our BFS was able to add two new gas chromatographs with mass spectral detectors to continue supporting the ever growing need to process debris for fire investigations.

DIFS has continued to collaborate and support the mission and goals of the CFO and State Fire Marshal, including the management and coordination of Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 4&9 and the support and assistance of ESF 16 at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The activation of the State EOC in 2019 for Hurricane Dorian required many DIFS members to respond to the EOC as well as areas throughout Florida providing law enforcement protection services, search and rescue, and special operations group missions. On behalf of our members, thank you for your continued support and assistance in our efforts to protect all Floridians against acts of arson, fraud and abuse of state funds.

Sincerely,

Simon Blank  
Division Director  
Investigative and Forensic Services



**SIMON BLANK**  
DIFS Division Director





# Office of the Director



**MELVIN STONE**  
Assistant Director  
State Fire Marshal

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

The division's long-established relationships with the fire service, law enforcement and related professional associations, are paramount to keeping open lines of communication and reaching our shared goals. One example of many of this collaborative communication is the Florida Fire Service Grant Program enacted by our state legislature three-years ago; using these funds the division awarded grants to 28 volunteer / combination departments during the FY19-20.

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

The level of dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment from each member of the division's team of employees who come to work each day and strive for excellence in serving the fire service and citizens of Florida is unparalleled. As you read the 2019 Annual Report, please take a moment to learn about each bureau and its mission of service. We are very proud of their work and the accomplishments they have achieved. Also, note the detail and analysis of the statistical data provided by our local partners through the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS). This information provides highly useful and important decision-making data to our fire and emergency services and the citizens of Florida seeking to become better educated about the services their agencies provide.

Florida Statute 633.135 and Rule 69A-37.502, F.A.C. established the Firefighter Assistance Grant Program to improve the emergency response capability of volunteer fire departments, provide financial assistance to increase firefighter safety, and to provide firefighting and emergency medical services to their communities. Grant funding is available for training, personal protective equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, and cost share subsidy for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Awards (AFG) apparatus awards. Twenty-seven (27) Firefighter Assistance Grants were awarded in the year 2019, and grant applications are available on the Division of State Fire Marshal's website. Hopefully, these grants will help our fire service partners to better address the needs and safety concerns of all first responders, as well as the citizens and visitors of Florida.

Sincerely,

Melvin M. Stone  
Assistant Director  
State Fire Marshal

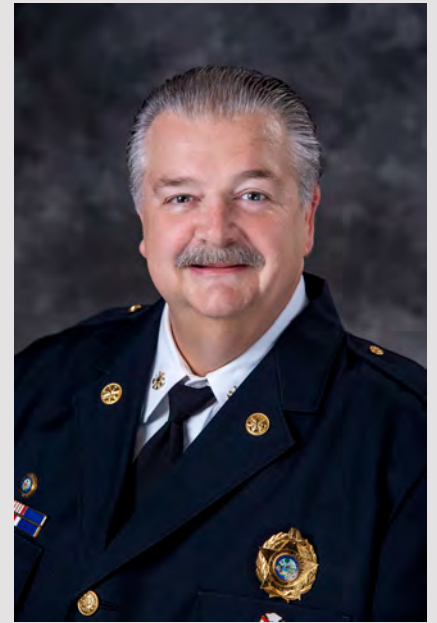
# Emergency Management and Response

During 2019, Florida and ESF 4 & 9 experienced a slightly less busy hurricane season, but numerous other incidents had to be addressed as usual. During the 2019 Hurricane season Florida was in the path of Hurricane Dorian, a very big Category 5 storm threatening the densely occupied south-central region of the State. Fortunately, Dorian eventually stopped 90 miles east of Florida in the Bahamas for 2 days before moving to the northeast, causing some rain and flooding issues along the U. S. East Coast before moving into the North Atlantic and breaking apart. Prior to knowing the final path of Dorian, in expectation of a looming disastrous strike Division of State Fire Marshal Emergency Support Function 4 (fire) and 9 (search & rescue) (ESF 4&9) and the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association State Emergency Response Plan (FFCA SERP) through the Florida Department of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center (FLDEM-EOC) pre-positioned state resources at 3 locations inside our state and additional other state and federal teams outside Florida ready to respond if needed. Our partners from the Florida Forest Service set up a unified Incident Management Team to manage field activities. Altogether, 67 Florida teams consisting of Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) teams, engine, ambulance, hazardous materials teams and Mutual Aid Radio Caches (MARC) units were positioned. Out of state US&R teams from the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were also placed in ready locations or alerted. More than 500 fire personnel participated in the event. Providentially, the gigantic Hurricane Dorian finally turned to the east, northeast, sparing the central region of Florida from disastrous consequences that could have had long lasting human and economic impacts.

We always hope there will be no major events harming our state each year, but we ceaselessly work to be prepared when they do occur as demonstrated by our responses to every year's challenges whether from hurricanes, fires, health crises, and other disasters and events with potential state and regional consequences.



Wayne E. Watts, Jr. MPA  
Fire and Search & Rescue (ESF 4 & 9) Coordinator



**WAYNE WATTS**  
Senior Management  
Analyst - Supervisor





**JOHN P. KOHNKE**

Domestic Security  
Grant Programs & State  
Emergency Response  
Team ESF 4&9

## Domestic Security Coordinator

During the 2019 Hurricane season, Florida was threatened by Hurricane Dorian, a large Category 5 storm trekking towards the heavily populated south-central part of the State. The storm ultimately stalled 90 miles east of the Florida coast over the Bahamas for 2 days before moving off to the northeast. In anticipation of an imminent catastrophic impact State Fire Marshal ESF 4&9 and the FFCA SERP throughout the state, EOC pre-staged resources at three locations in state and additional teams out of state. Florida Forestry Service established a joint Incident Management Team to coordinate field activities. In total 67 Florida teams made up of US&R, Engine, Ambulance, Hazardous Materials and Mutual Aid Radio Caches teams and others were deployed. In addition, out of state US&R teams from FEMA and EMAC were deployed or alerted. An estimate of over 500 fire personnel were attached to the activation. Fortunately, the massive hurricane eventually veered off to the right that, if impacted, would have reshaped the center of the State for years to come.

The Domestic Security Coordinator works in concert with:

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

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

The Domestic Security Coordinator works in conjunction with various federal, state, and local agencies, as well as constituent groups to support and enhance the State's fire specialized teams providing Urban Search and Rescue, Advanced Hazardous Materials Response, and mobile Mutual Aid Radio Cache communications responses across the state. The State Fire Marshals' Office partners with local departments through the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association State Emergency Response Plan (SERP) to provide the capabilities. The coordination team supports local specialized response teams through developing grant funded projects, response planning, exercises, deployment during activations, reimbursement claims eligibility, documentation, and submittal for reimbursement. Over the past 16 years, the Domestic Security Program helped secure and oversee the Fire Rescue allocations of the Federal Homeland Security Grant Funds to eight Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) teams, 29 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) capable Hazardous Materials teams (18 SHS Grant funded), eight Mutual Aid Radio Cache (MARC) units, and local Light Technical Rescue Teams (LTRT).



# Bureau of Fire Standards and Training

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

The mission statement for the Florida State Fire College is the driving focus of how we conduct operations. While the Florida State Fire College is what firefighters and Fire Service Providers think of when they talk about fire service training and certifications (career and volunteer), the reality is the FSFC is an operational aspect of the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST). While BFST may be the regulatory agency for Florida's fire service, it is also true that the mission of BFST remains one of enabling the success of firefighters and fire departments within the State. By working to ensure their success, BFST allows each of them to better serve their communities and constituents.

The BFST staff continues to purposefully work to ensure processes are in place to understand the needs of fire service students and their employers. Having quality training programs, effective certification processes, and effective safety programs are an important part of ensuring their success. The Bureau continues to survey all students attending courses at the Fire College to ensure courses remain relevant and current. The feedback of students attending training programs at the Fire College continues to be very positive. In addition to coursework completed at FSFC, the Bureau also endeavors to ensure students attending training through any fire service training provider feel as if they successfully increased their individual knowledge, skills, and abilities, and are better situated to serve their communities and not to simply "get a certificate". During this reporting year, BFST continued to deliver its annual Mental Health Symposium, Cancer Symposium, and Instructor Conference on campus and actively supported the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association's Annual Safety and Health Conference.

The State Fire Marshal's office is responsible for the management of a recurring one million dollar grant program focused on cancer prevention for fire fighters. This initiative, enabled by the Florida Legislature,

has made significant improvements in the health and welfare of Florida's firefighters relative to the cancer prevention efforts of Florida fire departments and firefighters. Once again awarded to the University of Miami's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, BFST is responsible for the direct management and oversight of the recurring grant, focusing on improving the health and safety of Florida's volunteer firefighter. While this program has been focused on serving Florida's fire service, it has also demonstrated to all involved that Florida is a leader in the United States in protecting the most valuable assets of Florida's Fire Service Providers. This health and safety grant initiative has proven highly successful in ensuring Florida's volunteer firefighters have access to current personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus.

The training and certification programs administered by the BFST are developed through an open rulemaking process. BFST continues to encourage fire service professionals to take an active role in all rulemaking activities. Without active participation by constituents, successful rulemaking cannot occur. Rulemaking may be initiated at the request of our fire service stakeholders or by the Bureau under specific conditions. The Bureau serves as the facilitator of the process by receiving input from others to reach a consensus on language. The BFST continues to strongly encourage participation by individuals and constituents to frame a consensus on the rule, as it is truly a participative process by inviting comments both pro and con. To stay informed, please subscribe to the Florida Administrative Weekly site at <https://www.flrules.org/> to receive notifications of any BFST rulemaking.

We continue to remind everyone that **THE** Florida State Fire College is **YOUR** Fire College and we look forward to seeing you for future classes!



**MICHAEL TUCKER**  
Bureau Chief



# Executive Development Section

**PATRICK GIACOBBE**

Supervisor

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

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

Each of the courses within the Executive Development Programs use real and current data from the student's own fire department. Consistent with the dynamic needs of the Florida Fire Service, practical applications for these courses include projects, case studies, activities, and experiences including field trips that are appropriate to the given course. All curricula incorporate the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF) 16 Life Safety Initiatives as well as the NFIR's incident reporting program; requiring students to integrate data from their community into classroom projects. Executive Development Program class sizes are limited to 15 students, to assure adequate time for student discussion, presentations, and networking. In total 676 individuals participated in the Fire Officer 3 and 4 series classes.

## National Fire Academy State-sponsored Curricula

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

The NIMS ICS-300 and ICS-400 classes are requirements for earning the Florida's Fire Officer II and Fire Officer III Certifications respectively. Statewide 526 individuals completed NFA State sponsored classes with 298 being ICS 300 and 400 courses.

# Standards Section

**EUGENIA L. TUCKER**

Standards Supervisor

The Standards Section is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the Florida Fire Service certification programs, written and practical testing, Pro-board and IFSAC accreditation, certification and inspection of 44 training centers, supplemental compensation, and the Division's online electronic database (FCDICE). The Standards Section is staffed with eight (8) full-time and thirteen (13) OPS personnel to ensure that all fire service personnel receive excellent customer service and fire service certification programs are managed professionally and economically. These personnel conduct field examination testing and annual inspections of training centers.

## Firefighter I and II Minimum Standards Program:

### Minimum Standards Curriculum

The Florida State Firefighter Minimum Standards program is regulated by FL Statute 633 and Rule 69A-37. This year the Bureau conducted six (6) listening sessions, six (6) workshops, and a rule hearing for the curriculum change from 2013 NFPA Standard 1001 to the 2019 standard. The current hours required to become a Firefighter 1 are 206 and 192 for Firefighter II. As a result of this process, the curricula for the Firefighter 1 will become 191 hours and 301 for Firefighter 2 for a total of 492 hours effective July 1, 2020.

In addition to the regularly scheduled examinations and facility inspections conducted by Standards Section personnel, the Standards Section Supervisor was able to conduct ten (10) personal visits to various training academies. These visits were to conduct annual inspections, review testing procedures, or conduct a visit on behalf of a director's request.

Upon completion of the required training, achievement of a passing score on two comprehensive examinations (written and practical) and meeting all statutory requirements for certification the recruit will receive a Certificate of Compliance (FF2). In 2019, 2,641 individuals earned certification as a Firefighter 2.

The written examinations are used to evaluate the individual's aptitude and capability relative to the job performance requirements (JPR's) set forth by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Written examinations are conducted in partnership with Pearson Vue. As relevant updates or changes to NFPA Standards occur, each test associated with those standards are reviewed and updated to maintain reliability and validity in the process.

## Firefighter II Practical Examinations

Practical examinations are conducted for the Firefighter II minimum standards program at either a Florida State approved training center (initial examinations) or the Florida State Fire College (re-test, DoD, and out-of-state examinations). Practical examinations are conducted to ensure the recruit can perform routine firefighting tasks involving residential and commercial buildings.

The Bureau conducts an equivalency program for the Department of Defense (DoD) personnel that were firefighters (aka Operation Dispatch) as well as a program for those from other states that wish to obtain the Certificate of Compliance. In 2017, 45 personnel took advantage of the two programs, as well as 2018 (25), and 2019 (30). Last year 21 Certificates of Compliance were issued to individuals completing the “out-of-state” process.

## Florida Fire Service Certification Program:

The certification program consists of twenty-five (25) certifications that are defined in Florida Statute and Administrative Code. These certifications include Firefighter I & II, Fire Officer I to IV, Fire Safety Inspector I and II, Fire Instructor I to III, FLUSAR and others. Not including Firefighter II Certificate of Compliance, 5,700 certificates were issued during 2019 in the Firefighter I, Experiential Learning, Executive Development, and Vocational Training certification program areas. This reflects a 4.2% increase from 2018 to 2019.

## Pro-Board / IFSAC Accreditation:

Florida fire service and military personnel that have participated in, and completed, technical training through the Bureau are eligible to receive Pro Board and/or IFSAC certification. Military personnel are trained at various military bases in the southeast region, or at the Florida State Fire College. In 2019, the Standards section issued 1,142 Pro Board certifications and 283 IFSAC certifications.

ProBoard reaccreditation will take place in late 2020 and IFSAC reaccreditation will occur in 2021. As part of the accreditation and reaccreditation processes, the Bureau utilizes the expertise of subject matter experts (SME) to review training processes and review skills sheets.

## Performance Objectives:

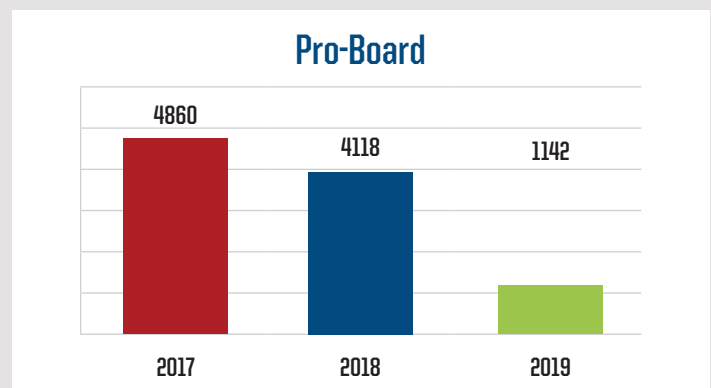
Specific Performance Objectives (PO’s) have been developed in cooperation with the state approved Training Centers to ensure standardization of basic firefighter skills teaching and assessment. Each of the PO’s are utilized by the forty-four (44) training centers within the State of Florida to

provide consistency in instruction regardless of the Training Center’s location (i.e. Panhandle or Florida Keys). The goals of the objectives are 1) lead the industry in training and standardization, 2) ensure upon completion of minimum standards each recruit leaves their respective academies ready to respond to emergencies on day one and 3) recruits become some of the best firefighters in the country.

PO’s were not reviewed or revised in 2019 due to the anticipated curriculum update in July of 2020. The PO’s are reviewed in March of each year with subsequent Minimum Standards Instructor meetings to be held between May and June prior to roll-out of the new PO’s. The intent of these sessions is to review the material with the instructors that teach minimum standards to ensure state examiners and academy instructors are teaching and testing the same material. PO’s are then provided to each instructor and academy director after each meeting.

## Fire College Department of Insurance Continuing Education (FCDICE)

A significant component in meeting the above requirements is for each firefighter and fire service provider to maintain their respective information within FCDICE. The FCDICE database populates information for over 70,000 firefighters. A firefighter’s work and training history from initial certification to retirement is maintained within FCDICE. The presence of accurate contact information in FCDICE allows the Bureau to effectively communicate to specific issues associated with those previously listed. The Bureau provides a Government Analyst 1 specifically assigned to oversight of the FCDICE system and is responsible for updates and maintenance of this program.

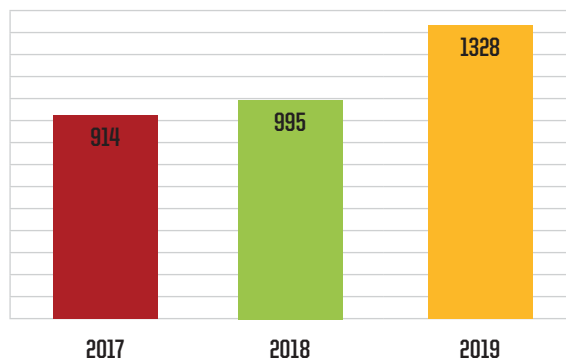




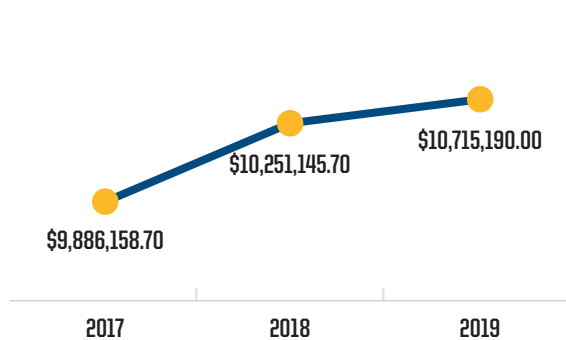
## Firefighter Supplemental Compensation Program

The supplemental compensation program awards fire service personnel with an education incentive with qualifying degrees (associate and bachelor levels). For the degrees to qualify, the course of study must be associated with the fire service and the duties performed by the individual. In 2019, 1,328 individuals were approved for either initial entry into supplemental compensation or upgrade from associate to bachelor level compensation. In total the supplemental compensation program accounted for \$10,715,190 in reimbursements to Florida's Fire Service Providers.

### Applications Approved



### Annual Disbursement



## Student Services Section

**REGINA SAUERACKER**

Operations Manager

**ANGELA CAIN**

Registrar

The Bureau of Firefighter Standards and Training (BFST) Student Services Section at the Florida State Fire College provides support for all student needs on-campus. Uniquely positioned, the Student Services section assists with registration, dormitory reservations, instructor needs, campus-wide improvements, maintenance, and housekeeping. Section staff also operate the Fire College Bookstore. Working in concert with the college's training and standards sections, Student Services maintains the facility schedule to ensure all training needs are met for the best possible learning experience for our students. The utmost importance for best learning practices are emphasized throughout the campus to make sure our students can successfully complete their training program without worry.

Serving both volunteer and career fire service members from the entire State of Florida, as well as out-of-state and international students, services are orchestrated to accommodate registration through completion. Student surveys are reviewed weekly to make sure the needs of the fire service are met during their visit to the Florida State Fire College. Not only is the student learning experience addressed, but "in-house" safety measures are constantly evaluated as well as American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Significant campus improvements have occurred within the last few years, mostly due to student recommendations. In 2019, 4,224 students attended courses on the campus. Additionally, 2,497 students utilized the dormitories at the Fire College in 2019.

Additionally, Student Services staff provide support to all campus operations through campus maintenance, contract administration, purchasing, and logistics. Registration numbers are used to trend fire service training needs throughout Florida to make sure our fire service continues to lead the nation.

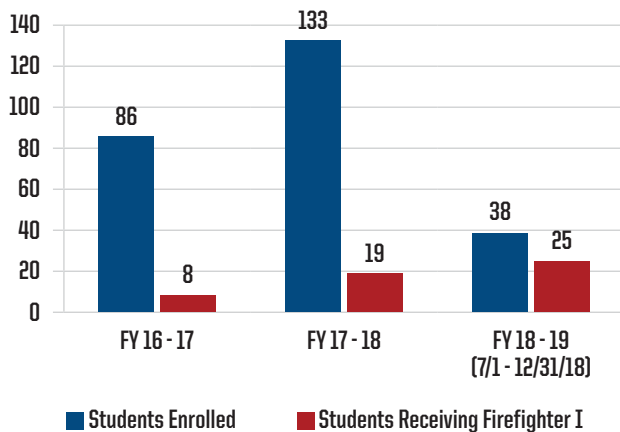
# Volunteer Fire Section

**CHARLIE FRANK**  
State Volunteer Fire Coordinator

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

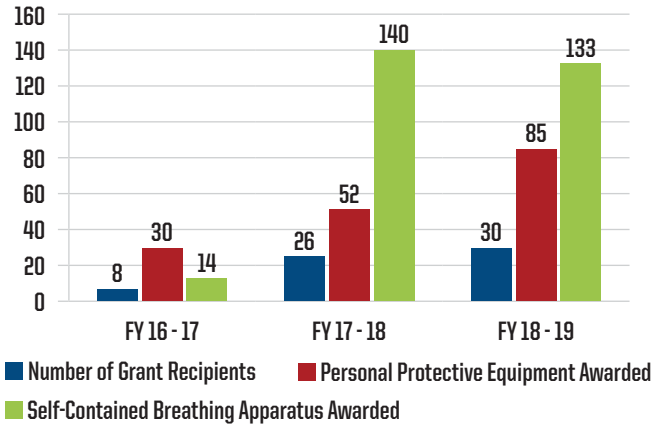
- Assisting volunteer and combination fire departments with training
- Statutory and Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) requirements
- Recruitment and retention
- Resources and grants
- Managing the BFST “Grow as You Go” Online Firefighter I Program
- Oversight of the Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant Program

## BFST "Grow as You Go" Online Firefighter I

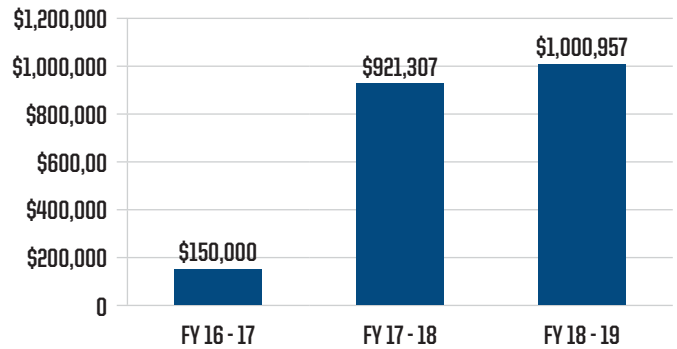


This year, the Fire Coordinator attended over 40 meetings with fire chiefs and volunteer/combination fire departments from Pensacola to Islamorada and presented the Bureau’s “Grow as You Go” Online Firefighter I, Firefighter Assistance Grant Program, general compliance to Administrative Code and Statutes, FCDICE FD roster maintenance, updates on the Bureau, and general questions. The Fire Coordinator also conducted training at Gulf South County Fire Rescue and assisted with Northwest Florida Volunteer Firefighter Weekend, Volunteer Week at the Fire College, and the Great Florida Fire School.

## Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant Program



## Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant Award per Fiscal Year



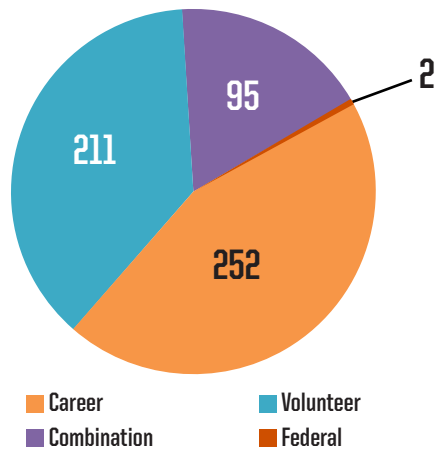
In an effort to assist volunteer fire departments in obtaining additional trained firefighters, the BFST created the “Grow as You Go” Online Firefighter I Program in March 2016. The Bureau provided the recruit the ability to complete the classroom portion of Firefighter I at their own pace and at no cost to their fire department. Fire departments are able to utilize local instructors to complete the practical portions of the program to obtain certification for the recruit.

At the end of 2019, there were 364 students enrolled in the program with 106 of them completing the program. Of those completing the program, 82 students received their Volunteer Certificate of Completion from the Bureau. Currently, 52 students enrolled into the FY19-20 Program. While there was a reduction of enrolled students, the number of completing students increased.

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



Number of Fire Departments



Those not completing the entire program and taking various modules can function within the department as “Support Personnel” to perform various tasks safely outside the hot zone (IDLH) of an emergency scene. These tasks include pulling hoses, opening and closing fire hydrants, driving and operating apparatus, carrying tools, carrying or moving equipment, directing traffic, manning a resource pool, or similar activities.

The Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant Program was established by Section 633.135, F.S. on July 1, 2016, and defined in F.A.C. 69A-37.502. The purpose of the Grant Program is to improve the emergency response capability of volunteer and combination fire departments by providing financial assistance to improve firefighter safety and enable such fire departments to provide firefighting, emergency medical, and rescue services to their communities.

This grant program has resulted in 56 volunteer / combination fire departments receiving 143 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and 250 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The improvement in the safety of these volunteer firefighters has been positively impacted and the citizens of these communities are better served as a result. In total, the grant program has expended a total of \$2,998,087 in assistance to volunteer / combination fire departments.

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

## Safety Section

**SUSAN SCHELL**

Safety Program Manager

The Safety Section is the contact point between fire departments and FCDICE. As such, the Section is responsible for conducting safety inspections for newly created fire departments, and works with FFIRS to assure that the department is set up for incident reporting as well. The Section is also responsible for conducting safety inspections for private fire departments who wish to be recognized fire departments in Florida’s system to include federal agencies such as military based fire departments and fire brigades.

In 2019, the Safety Section started a process to assure the database records were accurate by contacting the volunteer fire departments with the intent to assure that the departments knew how to access the system as well as assuring that members were placed on the fire department roster. To date, FCDICE contains the records of 252 career, 211 volunteer, and 95 combination fire departments. This data is very important as the volunteer certification, which is good for four years, is renewed if the individual is an active volunteer firefighter. This is verified by their inclusion on a fire department roster in the FCDICE database.

During this initiative it was discovered that several volunteer departments had either merged with a county, other fire department, or dissolved. The Bureau will be working in 2020 to complete working combination departments and will be working to complete the same process with career fire departments.

The Safety Section works with the Volunteer Firefighter Coordinator in support of volunteer fire departments, as well as assisting with the Volunteer Firefighters Assistance Grant. The grant has also had an impact on the Safety Section’s workload. As a condition of eligibility, the department must achieve safety compliance. This is accomplished through a review of the department’s SOPs/SOGs, training schedule, maintenance records, documentation, safety committee/coordinator program, respiratory plan, and emergency response plan. The Safety Section Representative meets with the fire department and provides guidance on achieving compliance.

These inspections are in addition to the investigations that are required by Statute and Administrative Code. An investigation is required when there is a line of duty death or whenever a firefighter is hospitalized more than 24 hours. Investigations must also be completed when there is a founded complaint received by the Bureau. These complaints can be in writing or by phone.

Medical emergencies continue to be the number one reason for an investigation. These medical emergencies include strokes, heart attacks, and seizures. Injuries occurring on structure fires resulting in hospitalizations more than 24 hours include burns, falls, and smoke inhalation. The numbers do not include dehydration or minor strains, bruising, etc. that do not require hospitalization.

Finally, the Safety Section's personnel answer phone calls and questions daily on topics such as medical exams, OSHA oversight, adopted NFPA standards and guidance on safety issues in training and operations.

Florida enacted legislation requiring the addition of two four-hour blocks of instruction on mental health and cancer. The Training and Safety Sections worked collaboratively with our constituent customer groups including the Florida Health and Safety Collaborative, Sylvester Cancer Center, University of Florida, Firefighter Cancer Support Network, and representatives of the fire service. During the annual Firefighter Mental Health Symposium on May 30, these components were developed to be included in the firefighter "minimum standards" program. The resulting video was produced by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and has been broken into four one-hour segments and placed on the State Fire Marshal's website for anyone to access.

The Safety Section continues to present and attend various conferences throughout the year such as Fire Rescue East, Northwest Volunteer Firefighter Weekend, and the Health and Safety Conference. Safety Field representatives also made themselves available to various regional meetings throughout the State.

The Safety Section continues to assure that departments are aware of current safety issues. The Safety Section also played an integral role in the issuance of Florida's post-fire decontamination buckets (aka "decon" or "green buckets"). Following the initial distribution of these decon buckets, the Safety Section continued to receive information from departments that had not received decon buckets. The State Fire Marshal's office continues to identify resources to ensure availability of these resources, and fire departments should contact the Bureau to obtain a decon bucket if they have not been previously issued to their organization.

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

## Training Section - Experiential Learning

**FRANCIS ENNIST**

Training Supervisor

**ROBERT COYNE**

Program Specialist IV

**JUDI AAMLAND**

Government Analyst I

The Florida State Fire College has and continues to deliver high quality, professional instruction to firefighters, fire inspectors, U.S. Military, law enforcement, and various other customers. This mission is accomplished by using part-time and contract instructors in the classroom. The realignment of the Bureau's full-time instructor positions to Program Managers has increased the ability to coordinate, review, update, and develop all courses, provide supervision, and support part-time and contract instructors.

The Training Section is responsible for firefighters and others seeking certification as Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire and Life Safety Educator, Florida Safety Officer, Pump Operator, Florida Urban Search and Rescue Program (FLUSAR) Technician, Fire Extinguisher Technician, or Hazardous Materials Technician. The Section is also responsible for oversight of the High School and Cadet program through which youth can begin a path leading to firefighter certification.

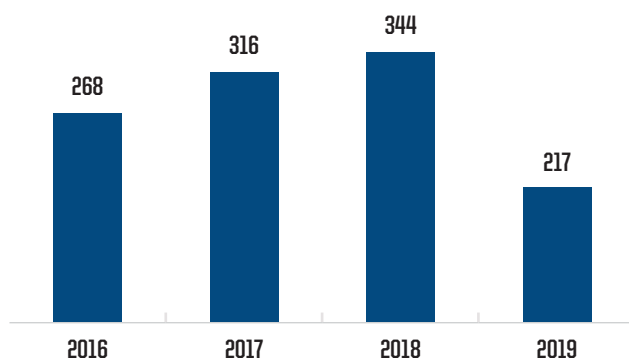
In addition to these certification programs, the Training Section works with Marion Technical College (MTC) to deliver many of the "hands-on" programs at FSFC. MTC is contracted to teach firefighter minimum standards, pump operation, Urban Search and Rescue, and Hazardous Materials courses. The Florida State Fire College also works collaboratively to train members of United States Army personnel in all urban search and rescue and hazardous materials disciplines.

The Training Section also approves instructors through colleges, certified training centers, fire department training centers, and private providers to deliver "hands-on" training throughout the state when firefighters cannot attend the FSFC. Lastly, the Section delivers many classes on campus, and has incorporated the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF) 16 Life Safety Initiatives into our curriculum as well as the NFIR's incident reporting program to allow students to utilize "real-time" data from their respective communities to address local issues.



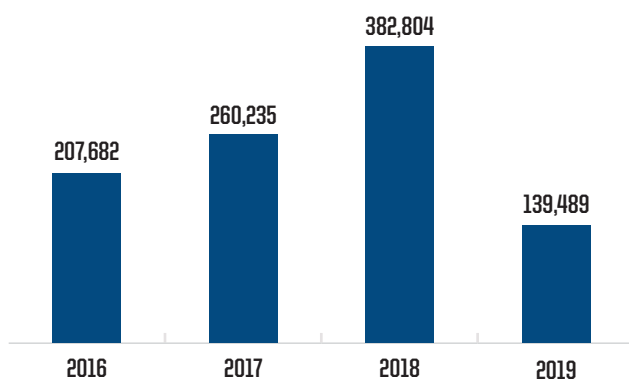
Through experiential learning, the Training Section continues to work with the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations to support the delivery of arson courses and development of the student manual which encompasses four of the arson courses leading to certification. The Section also continues to work with the Standards Section to ensure all certification exams are current with respective NFPA Standards. Subject matter experts (SME) are routinely involved in validating state exams being offered for certification. The goal is to provide personnel with the most current information and tools to complete training and gain certification through a variety of instructional methodologies.

### Number Classes Offered



During 2019, the Training Section offered 217 classes. Class subject matter varied between Fire Officer certification classes, Firesafety Inspector certification classes, Technical Rescue classes as well as classes leading to volunteer firefighter certification.

### Student Contact Hours



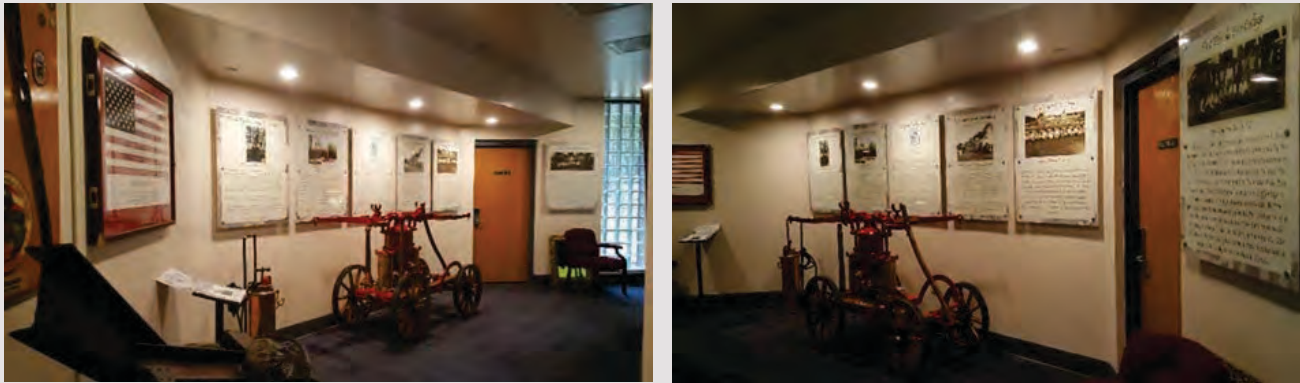
Student contact hours totaled 139,489 and included students that are firefighters, military students (special operations programs), and civilian students (fire extinguisher technician).

The Section continues to focus on introducing relevant delivery methods to meet the emerging needs of the instructors and students in support of an ever-developing fire service. By understanding their needs, we are better able to provide a quality service to customers and students, and better prepare them to serve the needs of their communities.

During this reporting period, the Training Section supported the delivery of 95 different courses in 217 class offerings for 139,489 total student contact hours. The following figure provides a graphical representation of the courses delivered at FSFC for Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II and Fire Safety Inspector Program.

In 2019, the Training staff also conducted new course approval requests (1374), new instructor approval requests (2,190), class offerings requests (6,385), new provider approval requests (266), as well as requests for course to course equivalencies (305). These activities involve working with the many providers currently approved (or wish to be approved) to teach courses leading to certification or continuing education. Additionally, the Section staff work with newly certified instructors to ensure they have met the necessary requirements to teach specific courses. In addition to “in-state” courses, many firefighters have taken courses throughout the country by means of colleges, universities, and online training providers. The Section staff are required to review these courses to ensure their equivalency to courses required for Florida certification. These equivalencies are based on current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) job performance requirements (JPR’s). In total during this reporting period, the Section conducted more than 10,000 actions in support of these requests.

The Training Section also works to present an annual program “Volunteer Week” aimed at Florida’s volunteer firefighters at no cost to the individual. This initiative is intended to assist volunteer firefighters with task book sign offs, compliance for wildland/urban interface training, officer development courses, and various outreach classes from the National Fire Academy (NFA). Participants also receive free lodging at the Fire College dorms. While priority goes to volunteer firefighters, career firefighters are always welcome and invited to take part in the program. Our training staff also shares responsibility for assisting in the production of the annual Fire Instructor Improvement Conference, as well as, the Cancer and Mental Health Symposium. The Instructors Conference focuses on improving the skills and abilities of instructors across the state. Through guest speakers, panel discussions, and exercises, instructors can find the added value students look for in fire science presentations.



The Florida State Fire College displays collages and antique equipment related to Florida fire service history.



Equipment staged for hurricane response.



Student Rehabilitation Facility



Staging for hurricane response



New burn/fire simulator





# Bureau of Fire Prevention



**CASIA SINCO**  
Bureau Chief

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

## Efficiency Measures

The Bureau continues to seek new methods to improve efficiency within each of its functional areas. In 2019, the Bureau achieved final implementation of an electronic plans review system which allows agencies and architects to upload and apply for plans review online, saving the state valuable printing, storage, and postage costs, as well as decreasing review time.

## Public Safety

The Bureau continues to expand our public safety education efforts. We offer fire extinguisher training to state employees and members of the public utilizing digital trainers which allow indoor training as well as outdoor. The Bureau also delivers fire safety education to audiences and venues throughout the state including the Florida State Fair, Fire Prevention Week, and Campus Fire Safety Week.

## Staff Development and Training

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

## State Fire Marshal - Compliance and Enforcement Bureau of Fire Prevention FY 2019

Number of boiler inspections by department inspectors	848
Number of construction plans reviewed	1,303
Number of entity requests for licenses, permits and certifications processed within statutorily mandated time frames	9,557
Number of recurring inspections completed	5,928
Number of high hazard inspections completed	6,834
Number of construction inspections completed	1,845
Number of regulatory inspections completed	993

# Boiler Safety Program

**DAVE WARBURTON**  
Boiler Inspections Chief

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

David Warburton, Chief Boiler Inspector, administers the State Boiler Inspection Program. Boiler safety Section staff consist of the Chief, 5 Deputy Inspectors, and two, Administrative Support Staff. Boiler insurance companies employ about 120 insurance inspectors who conduct inspections and submit inspection reports to the program.

## Operations

There are more than 20,000 registered boilers located in Florida's public assembly areas in active service. For the 2019 calendar year, the deputy boiler inspectors, program staff, and insurance company insurance inspectors conducted and recorded 7775 boiler inspections, identified 1014 violations, and closed 598 violations.

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

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

## Public Portal

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

# Plans Review Section

**JOHN S. GATLIN**

Plans Chief

Plans Review is the first of two phases in ensuring compliance to the Florida Fire Prevention Code, the statewide adopted minimum fire safety code. The State's plans review authority is for construction projects within all state owned and state leased buildings. One of the primary benefits of effective pre-construction plan review is an overall cost savings accomplished through the identification of potential code compliance problems early in the process, which allows designers, state agencies, and taxpayers an opportunity to avoid costly construction changes and delays due to change orders and redesigns. As the Bureau of Fire Prevention's primary mission is to protect human life from fire and products of combustion as well as reduce state government and taxpayers' losses due to fire, effective plans review is a vital step in the continued accomplishment of this mission.

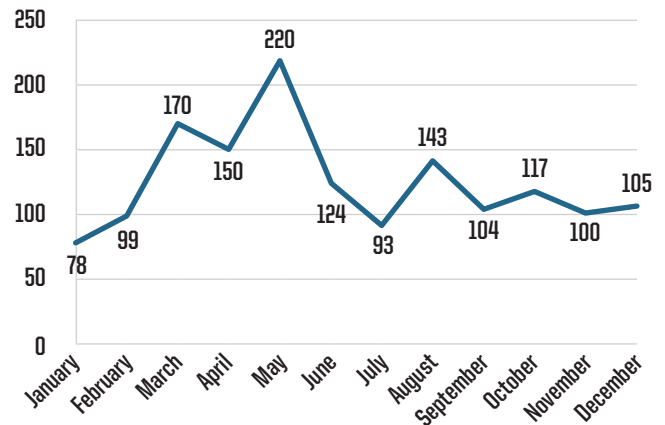
In January 2019, the section began full utilization of its newly procured electronic plans review system and process. This followed a successful limited scope trial period during the end of 2019. Once fully implemented, an evaluation of the electronic submission process revealed it was utilized in 27% of 2019 submissions.

Also during 2019, the section continued its reduction of stored legacy paper plans by having them converted to an electronic format and placed on the Department of Financial Services' servers. This process not only reduced storage space needs for the Bureau, but allowed for greater access to these documents in regional offices as well as in the field.

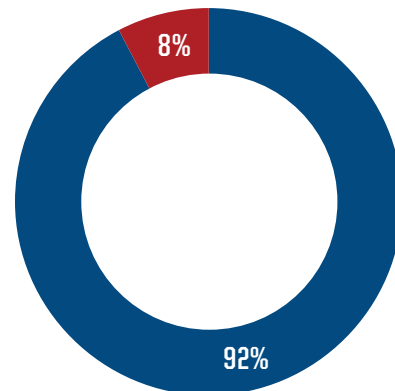
The Plans Review Section completed 644 formal project reviews during 2019, a 55% increase from 2018 and the highest in over 5 years. The project review process includes the formal review but may also include additional supportive activities such as design revision reviews, sprinkler system reviews, fire alarm system reviews, etc. The section completed 1,503 supportive activities during 2019, a 94% increase from 2018.

In addition to formal reviews and supportive activities, section team members serve as subject matter experts, routinely assisting other members within the Division of State Fire Marshal and local authorities having jurisdiction, as well as fielding general inquiries from individuals on a variety of subjects and projects.

## 2019 Supportive Activities



## Formal Reviews



■ State Owned Plans Reviewed

■ State Leased Plans Reviewed



# Inspections Section

## JOHN WALKER

Senior Management Analyst,  
Supervisor Inspections Chief

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

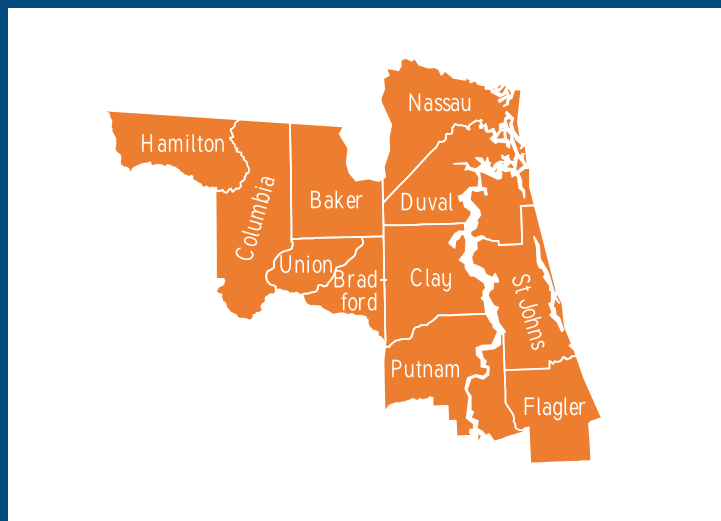
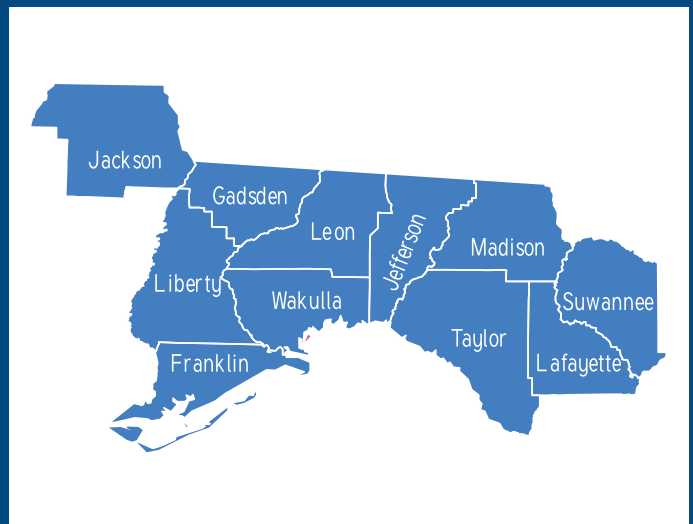
homes, restaurants, public lodging establishments and childcare facilities among others. The section’s staff also respond to calls for code interpretation and assistance and other members continue their participation with the Florida Building Commission and administration of the Department’s Loss Control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

The section’s mission is 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 equally important aspect of our mission is preventing fires through public education regarding fire safety and fire hazards.

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

## North Region

The North Region is under the command of District Chief **Paul Dyer**. The region encompasses (11) counties including Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Liberty, Jefferson, Madison, Suwanee, Lafayette, Taylor, Wakulla and Franklin. Field operations are conducted by the region’s (5) Fire Protection Specialists. The North Region conducts inspections on over 2,100 buildings per year, not including construction, regulatory, or lease spaces. Examples of the high hazard buildings inspected in this region include the 22-story Florida State Capitol, Florida State University, including Doak Campbell Stadium, Florida A& M University, state prisons, and a hospital. Public Education continued to be successful during 2019. The North Region conducted numerous public education outreach programs including fire extinguisher classes, cooking safety, and proper techniques to maintain fire safety in the home during the holiday seasons.

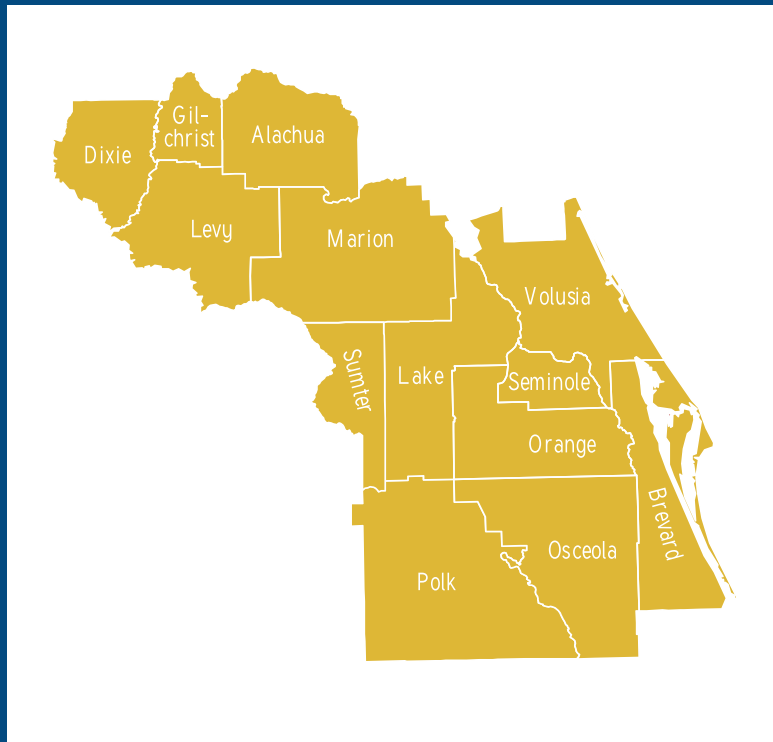
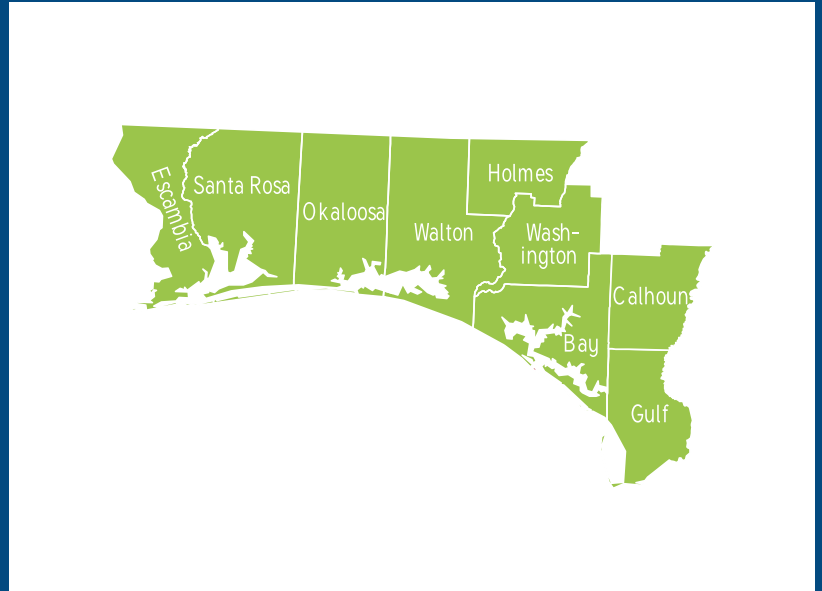


## Northeast Region

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

## Northwest Region

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

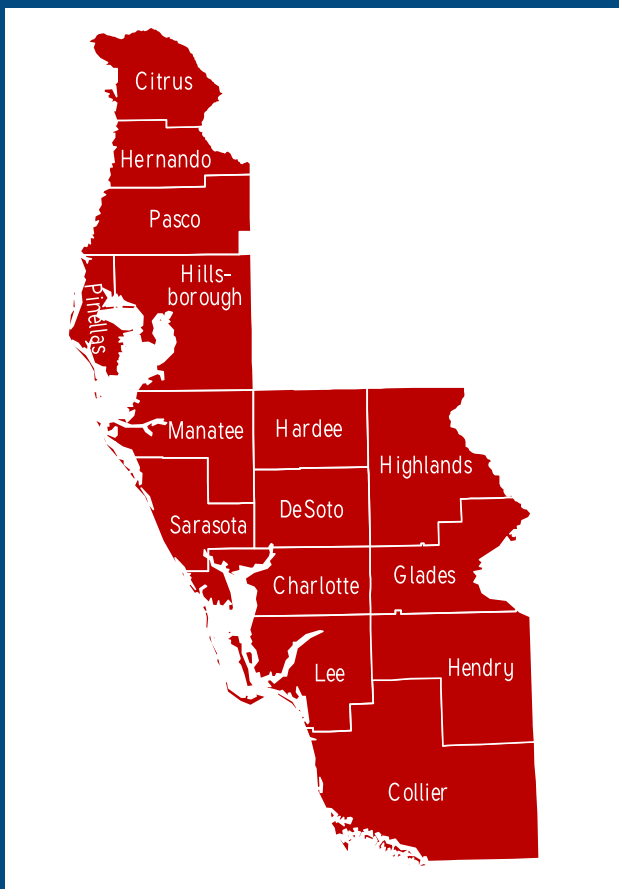
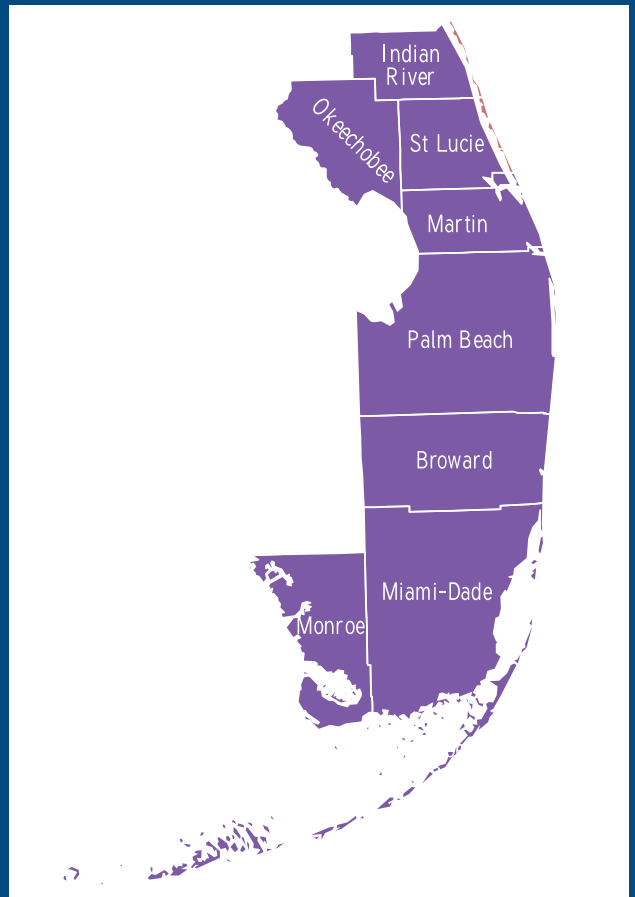


## Central Region

The Central Region is under the Command of District Chief **Kimberly Fluharty**. The region encompasses 13 counties including: Volusia, Brevard, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Lake, Polk, Sumter, Marion, Alachua, Gilchrist, Dixie and Levy. Field operations are conducted by the regions six Fire Protection Specialists. The region has one License and Registration Inspector. The Central Region conducts inspections on over 3,300 buildings annually, not including construction, regulatory, and leased spaces. Examples of High Hazard Building included in this region include Shands Patient Care and Shands Teaching Hospital, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Polytechnic University, Florida Architecture and Mechanical University, numerous state parks and several prisons.

## Southeast Region

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



## Southwest Region

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



## Inspections Required by Law

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

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

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

## Public Outreach

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



# Regulatory Licensing Section

**KEITH MCCARTHY**  
Safety Program Manager

The role of the Regulatory Licensing Section is to provide licensing, certification, and regulatory enforcement for individuals who wish to gain the certification necessary to service and maintain the Fire Equipment Industry (portable extinguishers and pre-engineered systems), and the Engineered Fire Protection System Industry pursuant to Chapter 633, F.S. The section also provides service to individuals and firms who wish to become certified in the explosives industry (manufacture, distribution, use and storage of explosives) in the state of Florida, as well as issuing permits to firms engaged in the mining of base materials for the construction of roads statewide pursuant to Chapter 552, F.S. Lastly, the section regulates the sparkler industry (manufacture, distribution, wholesale and retail sales) in the state to firms and individuals pursuant to Chapter 791, F.S.

The Regulatory Licensing Section is supported using Citizen Serve web-based software in processing licenses and maintaining current COI (Certificates of Insurance) and FCDICE (Fire College Department of Insurance Continuing Education) system in maintaining certification courses for the Fire Equipment Industry and Engineered Fire Protection System Industry.

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 introduction of a 40-hour pre-engineered certification course and the implementation of an updated, internet-based licensing system that enables all licensing functions to be completed by applicants and regulated entities online.

## Construction Mining and Explosives Industries

Construction mining permits are issued for ten years and are subject to an annual inspection of records as well as the mining 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	2019
Manufacturer-Distributor of Explosives	35
Dealer of Explosives	14
User of Explosives	180
Blaster Permits	212
Construction Mining Permits	91
<b>Total Licenses and Permits</b>	<b>532</b>

## Fire Equipment Dealers and Fire Protection Contractors Industries

The Regulatory Licensing Section maintains a database of all current licensed entities, including **1,117** Fire Protection System Contractors and **602** Fire Equipment Dealers. The staff is also responsible for producing photo identification cards for **1,690** fire equipment permittees, **777** pre-engineered system permittees and **818** water-based inspectors employed by certified Fire Protection System Contractors I and II.

License/Permit Type	2019
Class A Fire Equipment Dealer	103
Class B Fire Equipment Dealer	48
Class C Fire Equipment Dealer	202
Class D Fire Equipment Dealer	249
Portable Extinguisher Permits	1,690
Pre-engineered System Permits	777
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,069</b>

Fire Protection System Contractor I	225
Fire Protection System Contractor II	452
Fire Protection System Contractor III	37
Fire Protection System Contractor IV	3
Fire Protection System Contractor V	400
Inactive Contractors	5
Water-Based Protection System Inspectors	818
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,941</b>



## Florida Fire Safety Board

The section also receives and processes continuing education courses for the Fire Equipment Industry and the Fire Protection System Industry, and tracks approvals of those courses attended by industry members and technical staff support for 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 System industries. In addition to the normal responsibilities of this board during 2019, the board approved 196 continuing education courses as well as instructors for all class room courses. Continuing education coursework for both industries is available by mail or via the division's website at [MyFloridaCFO.com/division/SFM/](http://MyFloridaCFO.com/division/SFM/)

## Sparkler Industry

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

The Regulatory Licensing Section, in conjunction with the Bureau of Forensic and Investigative Services, 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, reviews chemical analysis reports, weighs, and performs a functional test on each item to ensure compliance with Chapter 791, F.S. 105 new products were approved during the 2019 product testing. The approved list was updated and is comprised of 2,587 approved products and is available on the division's website at [MyFloridaCFO.com/division/SFM/](http://MyFloridaCFO.com/division/SFM/)

## 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 are responsible for fielding phone calls, noting all relevant information, and passing the complaints to the appropriate personnel for review and inspection. This section also continues its ongoing role in developing and monitoring the Florida Administrative Code, related to the regulated industries working jointly with section staff to ensure proper inspection and regulation of the licensed entities.

Registration Type	2019
Manufacturer of Sparklers	0
Distributor of Sparklers	7
Wholesaler of Sparklers	107
Seasonal Retailer of Sparklers	1,126
Retail of Sparklers	773
Retail Location of Sparklers	3,861
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,874</b>

Product Submission	2019
Sparkler Products Submitted	105





# Bureau of Forensic and Investigative Services

## Our Mission

The Bureau's Mission is: ***"To provide the highest quality of relevant and reliable forensic services, while maintaining the most efficient fiscal impact possible."***

Public agencies, the courts, and the public demand that forensic laboratories provide quality analyses that can be relied upon to assist with investigations and lay a foundation for their proper resolution. It is the Bureau's duty to provide our stakeholders with such analysis, and as a result, we sought and achieved re-accreditation in 2019 and 2020 through the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) against both their internal accreditation requirements as well as the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 which accredits testing laboratories.

We have also begun an aggressive program seeking certification of the professional competence of our staff. Currently Chief Chasteen, Quality Manager, Perry Michael Koussiafes, and Analyst Sam Blittman are certified as Fellows of the American Board of Criminalistics in Fire Debris Analysis. The remaining staff are in training and will seek to take the examination for their specialties in 2019, 2020, or 2021.

Following the filing of criminal charges or a decision not to proceed with criminal charges by the investigating agency, our reports are sometimes used by insurance provider investigators in their determination of a fraudulent claim. The Bureau has a commitment to providing credible high-quality services for our customers. We also recognize the citizens and visitors to our State are also our

customers. As such we are obligated to them to ensure our findings and reports are accurate and we have exercised due diligence when developing opinions of our analyses. It is not uncommon for us to field a question from an investigator where we must explain that while some of the data suggested an ignitable liquid present on fire debris, the data was not sufficient to allow us to make a conclusive determination against the requirements of the relevant international standard.

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



**CARL CHASTEEN**  
Bureau Chief

# Our Services

## Chemical Analyses

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

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

The Bureau also analyzes evidence collected from explosions, incendiary events, and situations where a potentially hazardous chemical is found. The potential exposure to fires, explosions, or other hazardous situations for first responders, should they encounter these chemicals, is a primary motivation for the Bureau’s analysts.

Fire debris analysis, identification of unknown chemicals, and explosives analysis are exclusive to the Chemical Analysis Section. The Imaging Section is where forensic video analysis, photographic/image archiving, and reproduction of records for public or investigatory requests are housed. Our staff consists of the Chief of Forensic Services, one senior crime laboratory analyst, three crime laboratory



*Analyst Dr. Dee Ann Turner performing extractions of fire debris*



*Quality Manager Perry “Mike” Koussiafes examining the Preventive Maintenance work on a GC-MS*

analysts, one forensic technologist, one maintenance mechanic, and one part-time receptionist. In late 2018 a Government Analyst position within the Divisional Administration area was assigned to the laboratory to assist with our accreditations. Our Administrative Assistant was administratively transferred to the Office of Strategic Services in 2019 yet maintains an office in the Bureau’s facility.

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

by the criminal) and what is inherent to the substrate. Our analysts must have the correct combination of skill, equipment, and knowledge to characterize ignitable liquids or explosive residues. They exercise extreme caution in making final determinations. If the data is insufficient, the analyst will report the sample as negative. BFS performs a technical review of 100% of all samples. This means that a second equally trained analyst experienced in the same discipline performs the review.

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

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

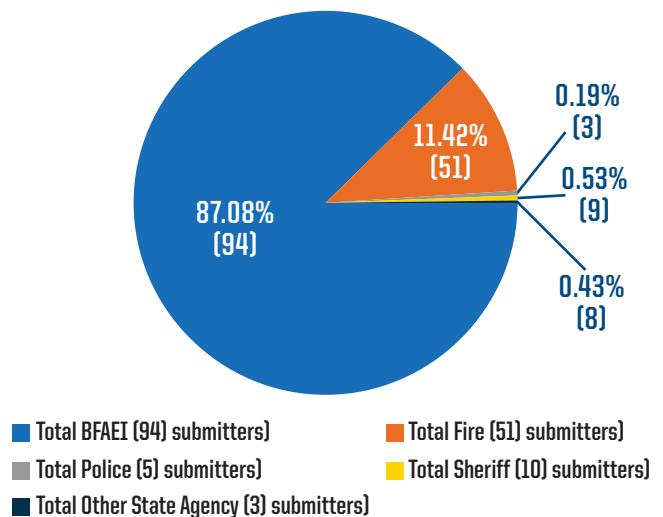
In the calendar year 2019, the Bureau performed 298 chemical analyses related to explosives or unknown hazardous chemicals with 2,786 fire debris sample analyses. A total of 2,524 separate quality control/quality assurance (QA/QC) analyses were completed for fire debris and explosives/hazardous chemical samples. These test the efficiency and quality of the laboratory's extraction, analysis, and interpretation procedures.

The Bureau's largest submitter is the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations which accounts for over 87% of all submissions (76.75% of Chemical Analyses, 100% of Digital Image Archives, and 29.41% of Forensic Video Requests). The remaining items are submitted by fire departments, sheriff's offices, police departments, and other state agencies performing law enforcement investigations.



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

### Percent of All Submissions 2019



When a fire debris or explosives sample was submitted to the Bureau, the average turnaround time to complete the analysis in 2019, was an average (mean) of 8.6 days. All laboratory services are provided without charge to law enforcement, fire department, or public investigative agencies. Analysts provide expert testimony at deposition or trial on request through a subpoena. Often our analytical reports will be stipulated by all parties or sometimes will be used in plea negotiations with the matter resolved without trial. For 2019, Bureau analysts provided testimony under oath fourteen (14) times. Our Forensic Technologist and Analysts coordinated two hundred twenty-eight (228) consultations in 2019 with submitters, potential submitters, or the public regarding submission, storage, and return of evidence.



Agency	Agencies/Field Offices	Individual Submitters	Percent Chemical	Percent All
BFAEI	12	94	76.95%	87.80%
Fire	20	51	22.13%	11.42%
Police	5	5	0.26%	0.17%
Sheriff	9	10	0.72%	0.47%
State	3	3	0.14%	0.14%

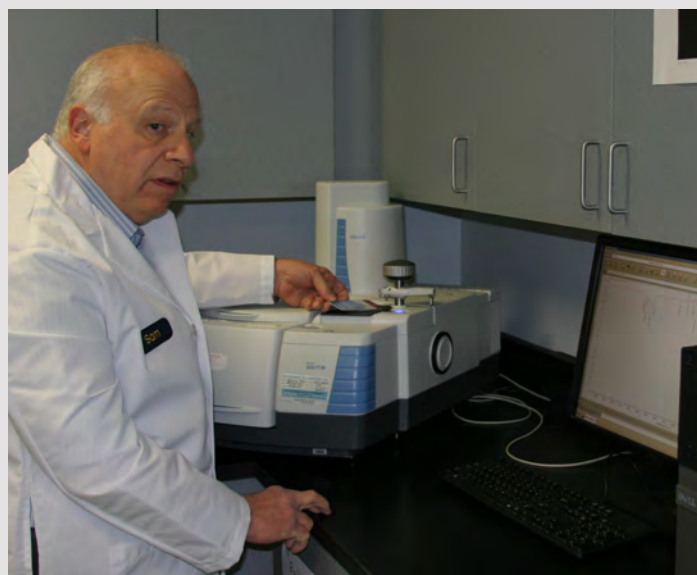
## Imaging

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

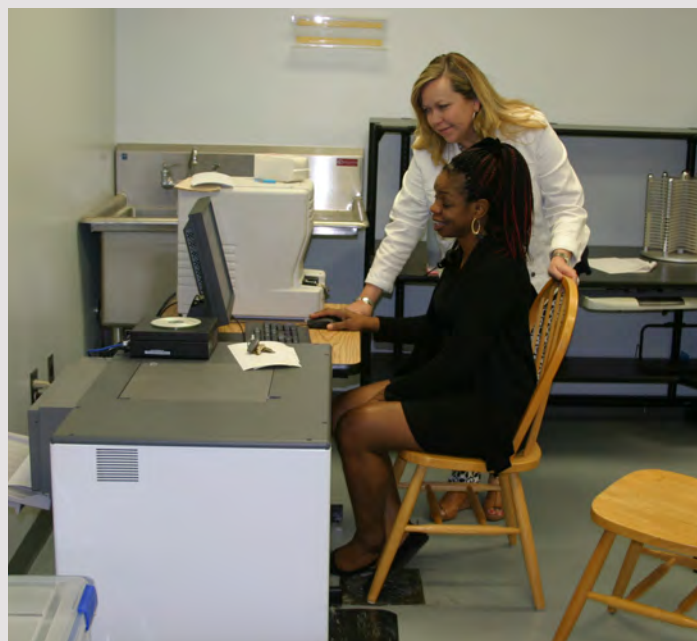
Last, the Bureau operates a section where forensic video processing is performed. Since video surveillance and recordings have become commonplace, the occasions where video has captured some aspect of a crime have also increased. These videos are often of poor quality or are presented in a confusing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

In our Imaging Section, digital images of crime scenes are transferred from the BFAEI server and archived on the secure BFS server dedicated to that purpose. The dedicated server is also backed up regularly so that data can be recovered should the main server malfunction. Coordination of the archival of images and receipt, storage, and return of physical evidence is coordinated by Crime Laboratory Analyst Amy Pearson.

We can also scan conventionally developed photographs into a digital format for archival and processing purposes. The imaging section archived 2,649 cases in the calendar year 2019, containing over 201,000 separate images. In 2019, 24 videos were processed by Detective Dietz and Crime Laboratory Analyst Stephens.



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



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



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

## Submitting Samples

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

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

After the samples are tested and a report is sent, forensic evidence submitted to the Bureau will be returned to all non-BFAEI submitters. BFAEI samples will either be destroyed, returned to the submitter's field office, or retained by the Bureau. For Fire Debris Evidence, the sample is no longer useful after it is extracted. The extract is maintained on an activated carbon strip (ACS). The ACS becomes the evidence of value following extraction as the amount extracted from the debris is in the microliter to milliliter amounts and may not extract the same quantity the second extract. Given that most debris from fires is submitted in metal cans, these will rust through in a short time exposing the samples inside to contamination or evaporation. On the other hand, it has been determined that the ACS can be fully reconstituted to show the same results even after 25 years of storage. The Bureau has all ACS extracted since 1992 and plans to save all future extracts.



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

## Training and Professional Representation

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

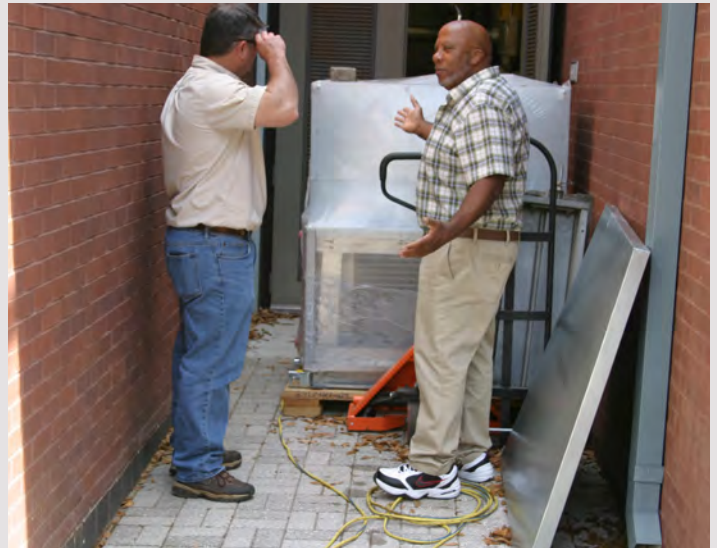
- Florida State University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Wisconsin at Platteville
- West Virginia University
- Eastern Kentucky University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Auburn University
- University of Lausanne (Switzerland)

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

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

## Facility

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



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



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





# Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations

The Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) is a law enforcement branch of the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services and conducts fire, arson, and explosives investigations and other related criminal investigations statewide. 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 field of fire and arson investigation is a challenging one for law enforcement officers because fire investigations are inherently complex, arduous, and quite often dangerous. All fires occurring within the State of Florida are not investigated by BFAEI detectives, but they do respond to requests for service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to investigate fire and explosion-related incidents. BFAEI detectives are highly trained experts in the field of arson and post-blast investigations and are backed by a team of equally skilled crime intelligence analysts.

In 2019, the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations continues to take an active role in targeting arson for profit rings in the State of Florida. Perpetrators of these elaborately staged crimes receive payouts from insurance companies that often result in higher insurance premiums for law abiding citizens.

During calendar year 2019, the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations received over 3,000 new requests for investigative assistance from fire departments, law enforcement agencies, federal/state agencies, citizens, and insurance companies. This year, the Bureau conducted investigations on properties that resulted in estimated losses of over \$150 million. Of this estimated property

loss, over \$20 million was attributed to the crime of arson. Detectives made arrests in over 300 investigative cases in 2019, and over two thirds of these investigations were classified as “incendiary” fires. As a result, over 200 defendants were arrested for the crime of arson. Holding arsonists accountable for their actions is our primary goal, and this mission is driven by our highly trained detectives. The investigative support provided by our skilled crime intelligence analysts and dedicated support staff is second to none and ensures that we continue to reach our goals. We continue to not only meet our mission, but we annually exceed the national average in case clearances. During 2018, our arrest clearance rate for incendiary fires was 32 percent, which is well above the reported national arrest percentage of 23 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 throughout the State of Florida. Our detectives work diligently to bring criminals to justice.

The Bureau is staffed statewide by 115 members, including: one Chief, two Majors, five regional Captains, 14 Lieutenants, 80 detectives, seven crime intelligence analysts and other civilian support personnel. The Bureau is under the direction of Chief Mike Wood.



**MIKE WOOD**  
Bureau Chief

# Special Operations

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

- 4 Hazardous Device/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams (EOD)
- 5 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 Team

Additionally, BFAEI investigators respond to man-made and natural disasters in conjunction with Emergency Support Functions: 4 (Firefighting), 9 (Search and Rescue), and 16 (Law Enforcement).

## Computerized Voice Stress Analysis Operators

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 the occurrence of incendiary fires through effective investigation techniques and the 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.

## Crime Intelligence Analysis Support

The Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations formed the Crime Intelligence Analyst Unit (CIAU) in 1994, to support the enforcement efforts of 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 the investigation and prosecution, and Investigative Analysis – crime scene, psychological, and forensic analysis used in arson cases.

Three levels of analysis are also provided daily to law enforcement agencies throughout the state tactical, operational, and strategic.

- Tactical Analysis pertains to the day-to-day crime analysis, looking for series, patterns, sprees, 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 policymakers rather than individual investigators.

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, financing, the crime of arson.

The CIA group has expanded over time to support our members in the field. These analysts are located statewide with one (1) analyst serving in each of our regions and two (2) supervisors overseeing their activities.

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 can efficiently analyze crime data using state-of-the-art information systems.

## Hazardous Device/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD)

The Bomb Squad is comprised of four teams throughout the State of Florida providing rapid responses to hazardous incidents. During 2019, the teams responded to numerous incidents and conducted over 1,400 activities that included render safe operations of suspicious items, disposal of hazardous materials, operational stand-by, and integrated bomb/SWAT (special weapons and tactics) responses, public education demonstrations, etc. SWAT integration with an EOD component has become an increasingly valuable asset to the Unit. SWAT teams continue to rely heavily on specialized robotic and surveillance equipment provided by our Bomb Squad, along with EOD specialists to provide real time intelligence and surveillance in support of ongoing SWAT operations to enhance officer safety.

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

During 2019, the Division of Investigative & Forensic Services Bomb Squad conducted countless hours of EOD activities across the state. Our teams perform these functions while continuing to work their primary job of fire and arson investigation. Team members receive specialized training annually to keep up with emerging crime trends and ever-changing technologies, and continue working closely with local, state, and federal partners in the safe resolution of hazardous devices for the citizens of this state.





# Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives 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 signal to their handlers, who will remove a sample for lab 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 each.

## Six Accelerant Detection Teams



Captain Holt  
ADC Icy



Detective Young  
ADC Fresca



Detective Batz  
ADC Booker



Lieutenant Roberts  
EDC Porshea



Detective Huffman  
ADC Shay-Ley



Detective Hitchcock  
ADC Penzy



Detective Stafford  
ADC Ginger



Detective Taylor  
EDC Oregon

## Two Explosive Detection Teams

# Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations

## Cases of Interest

### Case#19-1711

On June 19, 2019 at 0431 hours, BFAEI was called to respond to a three-story residential condominium structure fire at 17292 Perdido Key Drive, Key Harbour Condominiums, Pensacola, Escambia County. The Escambia County Fire Department requested a response from the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) to conduct a fire origin and cause investigation. There are ten buildings/duplexes on the property with two units in each building for a total of twenty condominiums. To the west and adjacent to the Key Harbour Condominiums property was a single-story wood frame piling house. To the east and adjacent to the Key Harbour Condominiums property was the two-story wood frame multi-unit Pescador Landing Condominium structure. Based on information and observations from Key Harbour Condominium residents and fire fighters, they indicated the fire originated at Unit E, spread to other buildings in the complex before spreading to the single-family residence and the Pescador Landing Condominiums. There were several witnesses who first saw the fire under the staircase of Unit E, and several witnesses who saw the fire at the air conditioner unit under the staircase of Unit E. The witnesses described the intensity of the fire and how quickly it spread due to the strong winds. The intensity of the fire, the complete destruction of Unit E, and the length of burn time created difficulties in specifically identifying an area of origin. Ultimately, a determination was not possible. In total, 27 residences and 16 vehicles were damaged or destroyed by the fire. The damage was estimated at \$5,000,000, and thankfully no injuries or fatalities were reported.





## Case #19-1530

On June 2, 2019 BFAEI responded to an explosion at 21105 Hurst Rd, Fountain, FL 32438. The explosion resulted in one fatality and five injuries. The fatality was recently retired Panama City Police Officer James Smith, who received his injuries while attempting to get his family out of the collapsing and burning structure. The victims were evacuated by helicopter to various medical facilities. The explosion led to a structure fire and a brush fire. The Bay County Sheriff's Office, Bay County Fire Rescue, Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations Bomb Squad, and the Division of Forestry responded to the scene. Upon examination of the scene, it was determined the cause of the explosion was a LP gas leak in the kitchen. The explosion occurred when one of the occupants attempted to light the gas stove before smelling the LP gas. During the investigation, the Division of Consumer Services LP Gas Inspectors aided with examining the LP gas components.





### Case #19-2754

On October 23, 2019, the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations was requested by the Tallahassee Fire Department to investigate a commercial structure fire located at 2806 South Monroe Street in Tallahassee. The structure fire occurred to a Taco Bell restaurant and resulted in two employees receiving burn injuries. BFAEI Detective Brock Dietz responded to the business to conduct a fire investigation. It was determined that the fire was an act of arson and was caused by a human act. The suspect, Mia Williams, had an altercation with staff that evening and was asked to leave the premise. Williams returned a short time later with a container filled of gasoline and proceeded behind the front counter and poured/splashed the gasoline onto several employees and ignited the vapors with a cigarette lighter. Williams then fled the scene and was later apprehended by authorities. Williams was charged with Arson which resulted with injuries and Attempted Homicide.



### Case #19-102

On January 11, 2019, the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations was requested by the Chattahoochee Fire Department to investigate a structure fire located at 1203 South Main Street in Chattahoochee. The structure fire occurred to a multistory residential home. During fire department overhaul, the occupant was found deceased in the living room. BFAEI Detective Chris Scovotto responded to the residence to conduct a fire investigation. The fire was determined to have originated in the living room area and was accidental in nature. BFAEI Detective Jim Stafford along with Accelerant Detection Canine Ginger responded to the scene to conduct scene examination which resulted in no alerts. Autopsy revealed that the occupant died as a result of the fire and was deemed non-criminal in nature.



### Case #19-2554

Multi-agency cooperation and arrest with confession. JSO, JFRD, ATF, Bunnell Police, and Flagler SO were all involved.

On September 30, 2019 at approximately 1104 hours, the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD) was dispatched to a structure fire at 6773 Kinlock Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32219. At approximately 1130 hours, they requested the investigative assistance of the Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI).

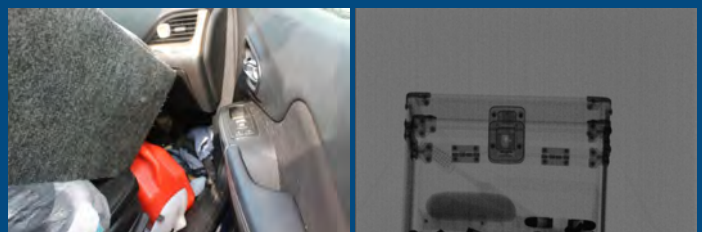
After a thorough origin and cause investigation a suspect was developed, and it was determined that the fire started by the suspect using an open flame device to ignite the couch in the living room, assisted by an accelerant (gasoline).

The suspect had fled the residence in a stolen Jeep SUV which was later recovered in Bunnell, Florida. The suspect was arrested for the stolen vehicle and possession of a firearm.

Detective Bass responded to Rogers Towing in Bunnell to view the recovered vehicle. In the front passenger floorboard, a 5-gallon gas can was recovered.

Special Agent Calhoun (ATF) and Detective Bass proceeded to the Flagler County Pre-Trial Detention Facility (FCPTDF) to interview the suspect during which he confessed to setting the house on fire. He also threatened to make his family pay and said it was their fault he did it.

An arrest warrant was obtained for Mr. Doctor and he was arrested and booked.

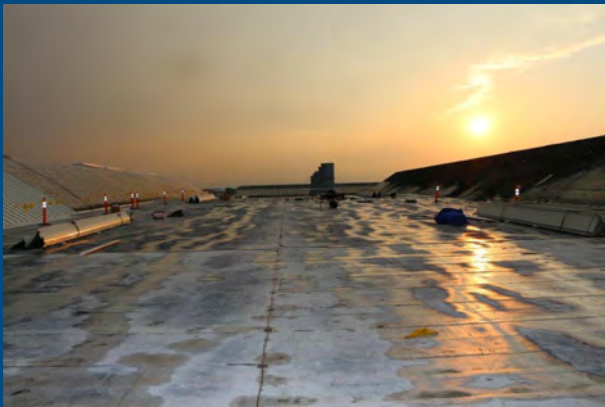


## Case #19-1478

On May 28, 2019 at approximately 1618 hours there was a fire involving HS-15 Hangar 124 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville located at 6801 Roosevelt Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida 32210. The NAS Fire Department requested assistance from the Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) for an origin and cause investigation.

The fire occurred on the roof of the hangar where workers had been working on the roof.

It was determined that work was being conducted on the north sawtooth the day of the fire, started from 1200-1330 hours. They were using rolled “modified Bitumen” roofing material, where the south face meets the flat roof. A propane torch was used to heat the roofing material for it to adhere to the surface. The fire was determined to be accidental in nature.



## Case #19-2378

On September 9, 2019 at 20:10 hours Marion County Fire Rescue requested the assistance of the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services, Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations at the scene of a commercial structure fire. The fire occurred at 19:08 hours at 12888 US-441, Markets of Marion Flea Market, Belleview, Florida 34420. Per MCFR, upon arrival the bulk of fire was found in the south end of Aisle C.

The fire destroyed approximately 11,000 square feet of structure under roof, causing approximately \$200,000 in structural damage and additional tens of thousands of dollars in contents damage. BFAEI assembled an investigative team to conduct a fire scene examination the following morning once the scene was rendered safe.

Excavation and reconstruction of the scene led to a determination that the fire originated in the overhead fluorescent lighting space, based on the observed fire effects. Subsequently, BFAEI detectives obtained motion-sensitive surveillance video supporting that conclusion.





### Case #19-2422

On September 15, 2019 Williston Fire Department requested the assistance of the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services, Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations in the examination of a major commercial structure fire as 20510 East Levy Street, Williston, FL 32696. The business name was Derby Gold, and the facility was used to process pine timber into various wood by-products. The fire occurred between 2030 hours the previous night and 0445 hours in the morning. An investigative team from BFAEI was assembled and the Regional BFAEI New Holland skid steer was deployed, to begin excavation, once the fire was extinguished. The damage was estimated at approximately \$2,000,000 with total damage to the structure estimated at approximately 19,000 square feet.

Upon conclusion of the scene investigation, approximately 10,000 square feet of metal roofing and heavy timber was removed using the BFAEI skid steer, at which time the area of origin was identified in an electrical room on the northeast side of the complex. This was compared with eyewitness statements made prior to beginning the origin and cause identification and found to be consistent. No suspicious activity was discovered during the investigation.



### Case #19-1160

On April 29, 2019, Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosion Investigations was notified of a large structure fire at a propane storage tank yard at the Kosan Crispin Plant located at 11850 Twitty Road, Sebring FL. Detective David Lockard responded with Captain Phil Roman. It was determined from the scene that one employee was airlifted and trauma alerted with burn injuries. The scene was still active and was held until the following day where multiple detectives from the Lake Wales Field Office assisted with the scene investigation. A large warehouse structure was heavily damaged by the fire as well as multiple structures at a nearby mobile home park. The company refurbishes 20 gallon or larger LP Gas cylinders. The fire originated on the exterior northeast corner of the building. Through the scene investigation and interviews it was determined that a pallet of LP cylinders for refurbishing was in the area of origin. It was also determined that one of the tanks appeared out of place and possibly leaking when an employee touched it causing a static discharge igniting LP vapors. Additional ignitions occurred to other surrounding tanks causing them to launch in the surrounding area including the mobile home park explaining the additional sources of ignitions to some of the residences. The estimated total loss is approximately \$4,000,000. The employee survived his injuries and the cause of this fire was ruled accidental.





### Case #19-899

On April 1, 2019, Lakeland Fire Department requested the assistance of the Florida State Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) in the investigation of a residential structure fire located at 1330 W. Lake Parker Drive in Lakeland. LFD Investigator/Inspector McGrath requested the BFAEI respond to investigate the incident. Detective Greg Bubb responded and initiated the origin and cause investigation. There was no discernable fire damage to the exterior of the residence. His investigation revealed a fire in the North West bedroom on the bed that had self-extinguished and was discovered later by the homeowner. No forced entry was noted. Detective Bubb was also able to locate several other points of origin in the same room. Residue of an ignitable liquid as well as a plastic gas can were in the residence as well as a paperback book in the area. Detective Roberta Case assisted in the investigation and was able to bring out fingerprints on the paperback book.

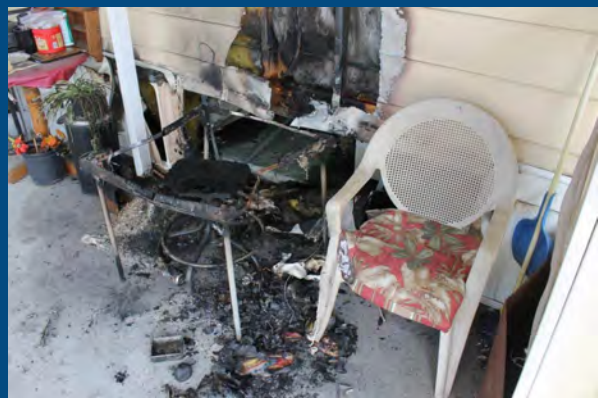
Through the investigative process Detective Bubb was able to discover the residence owner who lived in a different home next to this had recently reported keys stolen from her residence as well as she had reported harassment from a local transient resident who had made threats to her voicemail. Detective Bubb was contacted by Lakeland Police Department that they had identified Anthony Harris as a suspect in the theft of the keys. A fingerprint comparison was conducted and confirmed Mr. Harris had been in the residence of the fire. When confronted with this information post-Miranda Mr. Harris offered a confession for responsibility of this fire. At the time of this writing the trial is pending.



### Case #19-572

On February 25, 2019, the Lakeland Fire Department requested the assistance of Florida Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations at the scene of a residential structure fire located at 2121 new Tampa Highway, Lot D10, in Lakeland, Florida. Detective Greg Bubb arrived on scene and conducted a fire scene examination and investigation of the structure fire that occurred at this incident location and determined the fire was incendiary/intentional in nature. Through the investigation it was revealed a suspect, later identified as Todd A. Hines, had been making threats to the resident/victim of the fire scene address.

Detective Bubb contacted the suspect's probation officer in reference to the incident. The probation Officer assisted Detective Bubb by having the suspect come to the probation office. Detective Bubb went to the probation office and met with the Probation Officer and suspect. An interview took place and the subject was arrested. The arrestee was transported to Polk County Jail by a Polk County sheriff's deputy for booking.



**Case #20-53**

On January 7th, 2020, the North Ft Myers Fire Department responded to 357 Jose Gaspar Dr in North Ft Myers for the report of a structure fire. There were reports of gunfire at the structure from 911 calls. First arriving fire units found a double-wide mobile home fully involved in fire. During fire suppression operations, the deceased body of an adult male was found within the structure. The Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations was requested to assist in the investigation of the fire. The Lee County Arson Task Force and the Lee County Sheriff's Office also assisted in this investigation. Major Roman, Lt Minervini, Detectives Quick and Lewis and CIA Parker of the BFAEI responded to conduct an origin and cause investigation. The BFAEI investigators utilized a response truck equipped with specialized equipment that allowed the team to investigate the cause of this fire thoroughly and methodically. During the investigation, a second deceased victim was found. The body of an adult female was in the rear bedroom of the structure. The female victim had her hands and feet bound and was wrapped in a tarp. The victim was later identified as the male occupant's roommate. The fire was determined to be intentionally set with the ignition of gasoline vapors within the structure. The results of the subsequent latent investigation revealed that the male occupant had murdered the female roommate and committed suicide.



**Case #19-2630**

On October 8th, 2019, the Ft Myers Shores Fire Department responded to 1450 Werner Dr., Alva for the report of an industrial structure fire with two reported injuries. Detective Raul Vallejo and Major Phil Roman responded to conduct an origin and cause investigation. The fire occurred at the Lee County Water Treatment Plant in the Motor Control Center (MCC). The injured workers were electrical contractors who were installing a backup generator in the MCC. The fire scene examination revealed a large mass loss in the MCC near the main busbar controlling electrical current. Based on evidence found at the fire scene, it was determined that a large arc flash occurred at the busbar causing damage in the MCC. The injured electricians survived their injuries.



**Case #19-2062, #19-2065, #2066, and #2067**

Det. Graff worked four separate arson-related fires in a span of a few days in Martin County. Through hard criminal follow up and evidence collected, these incidents were committed by Daniel John Dolan. Mr. Dolan was charged with 4 counts of Arson of the 2nd Degree to a vehicle. Mr. Dolan is currently incarcerated waiting trial for these charges.

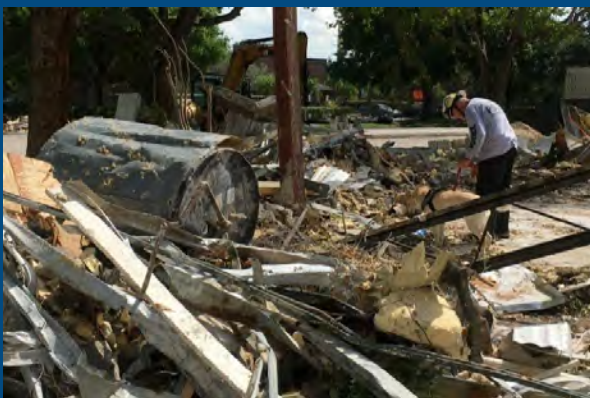




## Case #19-1825

On July 6, 2019 at approximately 1128 hours, an explosion occurred at the Market on University Mall located at 1025 South University Drive, Plantation, Florida. The explosion resulted in 29 people being injured, caused major structural damage to 18 commercial buildings and damaged over 40 vehicles. The Plantation Fire Department was the initial response to the explosion. Due to the number of injuries and degree of structural damage, they activated the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team for search and rescue operations. The Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations was requested. The Bureau of Insurance Fraud responded and conducted interviews. The local Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) also participated in the investigation. These multiple agencies worked well together, and information was openly provided from agency to agency.

The scene was investigated over a six-day period due to the size of the scene and the large debris field that had to be systematically searched. The scene was evaluated by a structural engineer to ensure the safety of the team and heavy equipment was used to make the building safe. The evidence required to be collected included natural gas piping from the explosion. The scene was documented with sketches, building plans, over 1200 photographs and drone footage. Civilian injuries and damaged personal vehicles were documented.







# Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations

## Field Operations

**District 1** Major **Karl Morgan** is the Commander of Field Operations for District One, which is comprised of three geographic regions (Northwest, North and Northeast). Major Morgan is headquartered in Tallahassee and can be contacted by phone at (850) 413-3663.

### NORTHWEST REGION

The Northwest Region is under the command of Captain Chris Welch. The region has three (3) field offices that service the twenty-one western most Florida counties, totaling 15,783 square miles.

Lt. David O'Dell supervises the Pensacola office. He and six (6) law enforcement detectives cover calls for service in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and North Walton Counties.) Lt Matt Streichert coordinates the activities of four (4) law enforcement detectives assigned to the Panama City office. This office covers South Walton, Bay, Holmes, Washington, and Gulf counties. Lt. Jason Roberts supervises the field operations of the six (6) detectives in the Tallahassee field office. The Tallahassee field office coverage area consists of Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla counties.

The region is supported by an administrative secretary and two (2) crime intelligence analysts located in Pensacola and Tallahassee.

The Northwest region responded to 662 requests for service this year. Of those requests 389 were accidental fires and 119 incendiary fires were investigated.

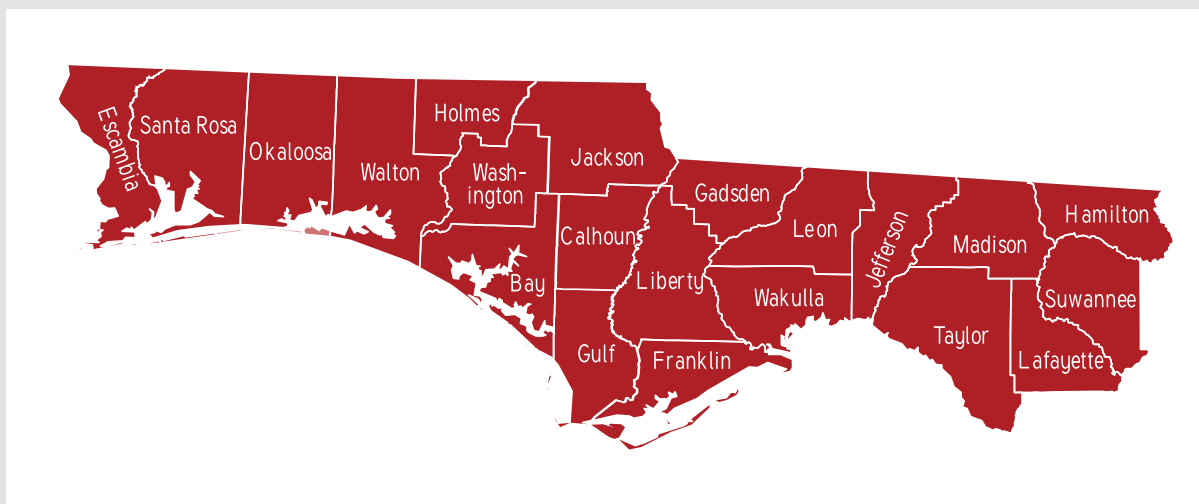
**Pensacola Office:** (850) 453-7803

**Panama City Office:** (850) 747-5888

**Tallahassee Field Office:** (850) 413-3900

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

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



## NORTHEAST REGION

The Northeast Region is under the command of Captain Robby Stephens and consists of fourteen (14) counties in the Northeast Florida area. The region is divided into two (2) field offices, Jacksonville and Ocala. Both field offices are supported by Administrative Secretaries. The region has one (1) Crime Intelligence Analyst. Lieutenants Ernest Cooper and Joseph Pietrafesa lead the Jacksonville squads of detectives serving seven (7) counties. There are (10) law enforcement detectives assigned to the Jacksonville Field Office. The Ocala Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Matt Legler and serves nine (9) counties. There are seven (7) law enforcement detectives assigned to the Ocala Field Office.

The Northeast region responded to 817 requests for service this year. Of those requests 370 accidental fires and 246 incendiary fires were investigated.

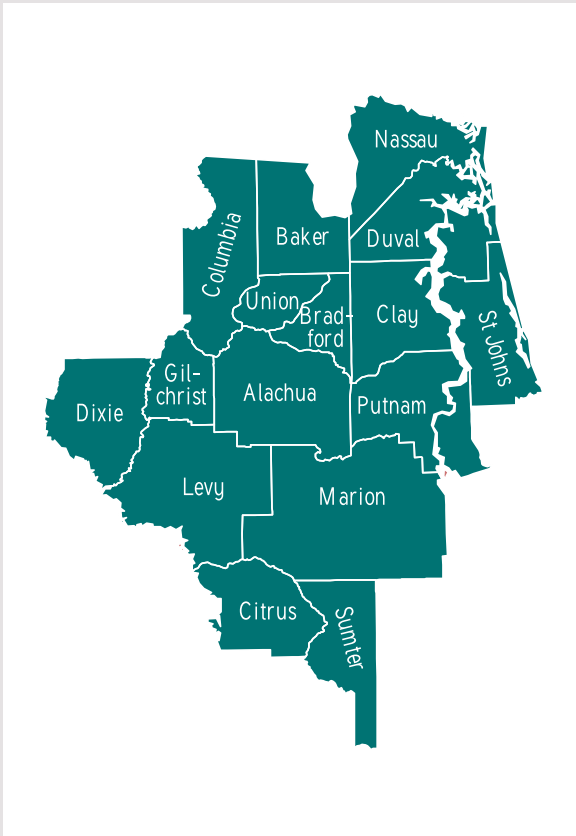
**Jacksonville Field Office:** (904) 798-5804

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

**Ocala Field Office:** (352) 369-2801

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

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



## District 2

Major **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 (7) counties and is comprised of two (2) field offices one in Orlando and the other in Daytona Beach.

The Orlando Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant Cindy Campina and Lieutenant Paul Patterson 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 eight (8) law enforcement detectives. The Daytona Beach Field Office covers a five (5) county area and is supported by five (5) law enforcement detectives.

The North Central region responded to 590 requests for service this year. Of those requests 242 accidental fires and 224 incendiary fires were investigated.

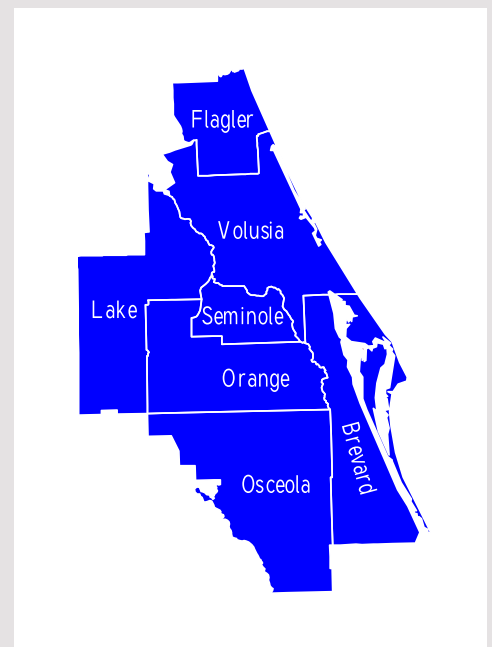
**Orlando Field Office:** (407) 893-3654

**Counties of Assignment:** Orange, Osceola and Lake

**Daytona Beach Field Office:** (386) 323-0904

**Counties of Assignment:** Brevard, Seminole, Volusia and Flagler

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



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

The South Central Region is under the command of Captain Phil Roman 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. Randy St. Clair and is supported by six (6) law enforcement detectives, an administrative secretary and a crime intelligence analyst supervisor, with a service area of six (6) counties. The Lake Wales Field Office is supervised by Lt. Stacy McIntyre and is supported by eight (8) law enforcement detectives and an administrative secretary, with a coverage area of four (4) counties. The Ft. Myers Field Office is supervised by Lt. Joseph Minervini and is supported by five (5) law enforcement detectives and an administrative secretary, with a coverage area of three (3) counties.

The South-Central Region responded to 806 requests for service in 2018. Of those requests 352 fires were classified as accidental and 228 were classified as incendiary. The SC Region Bomb Squad (EOD Team) responded to nearly 65 requests for service.

**Tampa Field Office:** (813) 972-8604

**Counties of Assignment:** Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota.

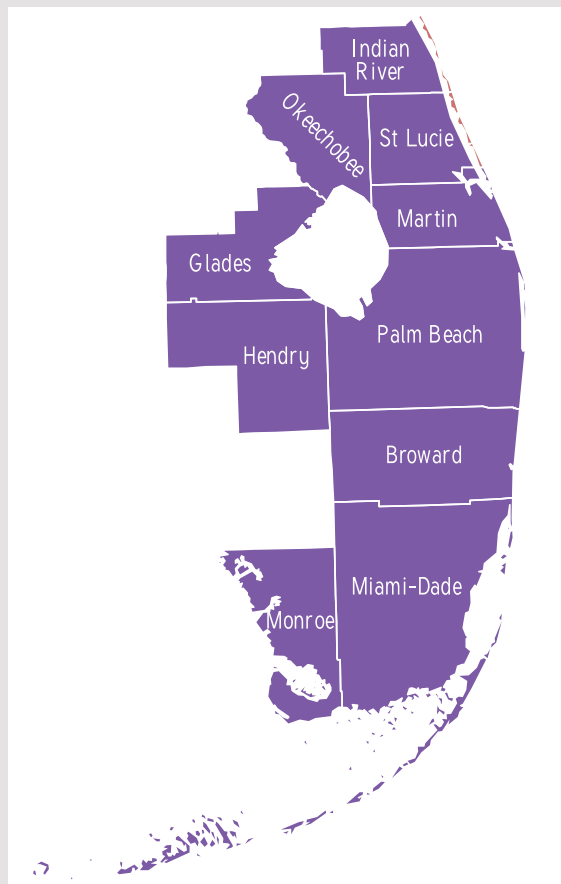
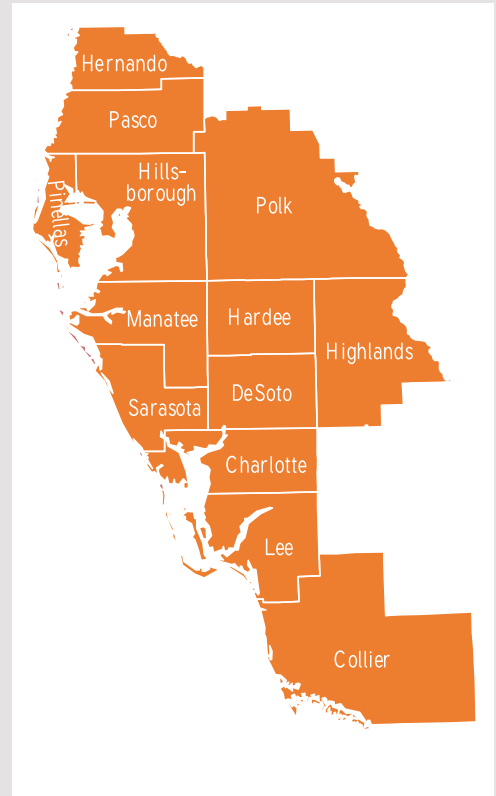
**Lake Wales Field Office:** (863) 679-4180

**Counties of Assignment:** Polk, Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto.

**Ft. Myers Field Office:** (239) 278-7525

**Counties of Assignment:** Charlotte, Collier, and Lee.

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



## SOUTH REGION

The South Region is supervised by Captain Ross Holt and consists of ten (10) counties, with offices located in, West Palm Beach, Miami, and Plantation.

The Plantation Field Office is under the supervision of Lieutenant James Milton and consists of five (5) law enforcement detectives responsible for providing service to Broward County. The West Palm Beach Office has four (4) law enforcement detectives, under the direction of Lieutenant Anthony Mozealous, that are responsible for providing service to seven (7) counties. The Miami Office has five (5) law enforcement detectives, under the control of Lieutenant Edwin Tapanes that are responsible for providing service to two (2) counties.

The South region responded to 554 requests for service this year. Of those requests 256 accidental fires and 108 incendiary fires were investigated.

**Plantation Field Office:** (954) 321-3704

**Counties of Assignment:** Broward

**West Palm Beach Office:** (561) 640-6704

**Counties of Assignment:** Glades, Hendry, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie

**Miami Field Office:** (954) 321-3704

**Counties of Assignment:** Dade and Monroe

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





# Civilian Deaths from Fires

Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section

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

Based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire deaths and only fire deaths are primarily identified by the code range for accidental fire exposure X00-X09. The X00-X09 range includes most, but not all, fire deaths. The code refers to uncontrolled vs. controlled building/structure or non-building/structure fires. Using these guidelines, the State of Florida had a total of **87** 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

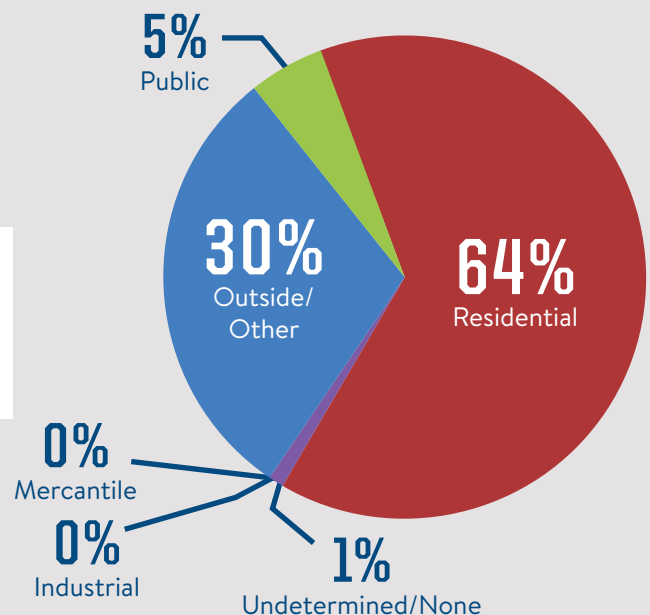
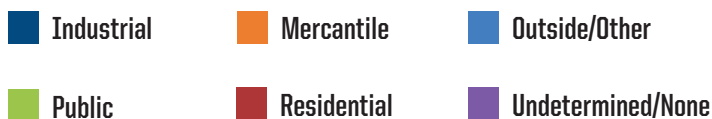
the NFPA standards, but are included by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Tri-Data and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) when performing state-by-state analysis. Utilizing the five additional categories based on their methodology, the State of Florida civilian fire fatalities would increase to **109** (an additional **25.29 %**).

Excluded from NFPA, CPSC, Tri-Data and USFA analyses are fire deaths in vehicles, which would increase the civilian fire deaths in 2019 to **139** (an additional **27.52 %**). 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 **142** (a further increase of **2.16 %**). The catastrophic storm/flood code (X37) was added to the year's total bringing it to **151**.



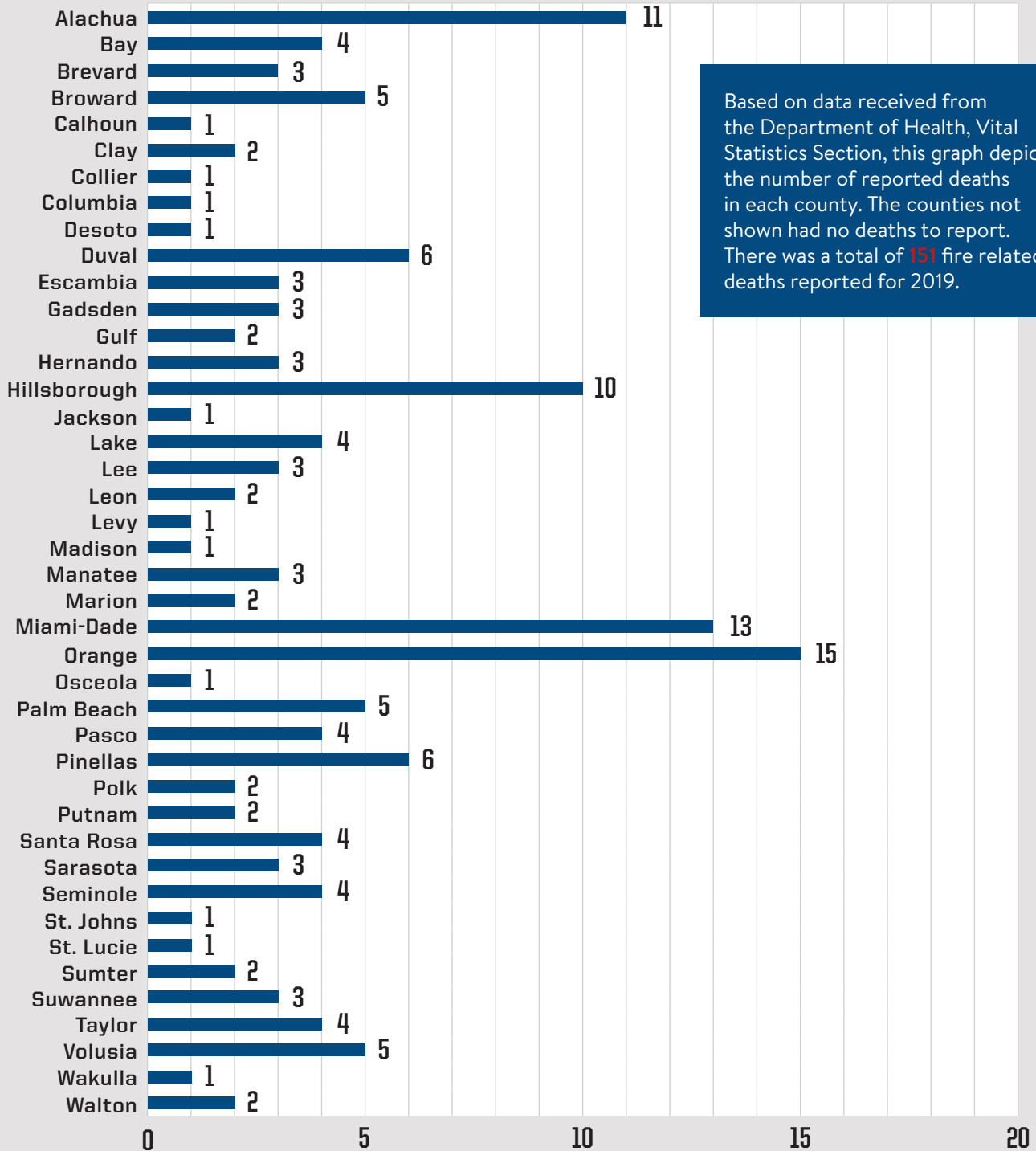
# Civilian Deaths from Fires by Property Use

The following graph depicts **151** civilians that died in 2019 from fire related incidents based on data received from the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section. This represents a **20.53 %** decrease in total fire related deaths compared to 2018.





# Civilian Deaths by County



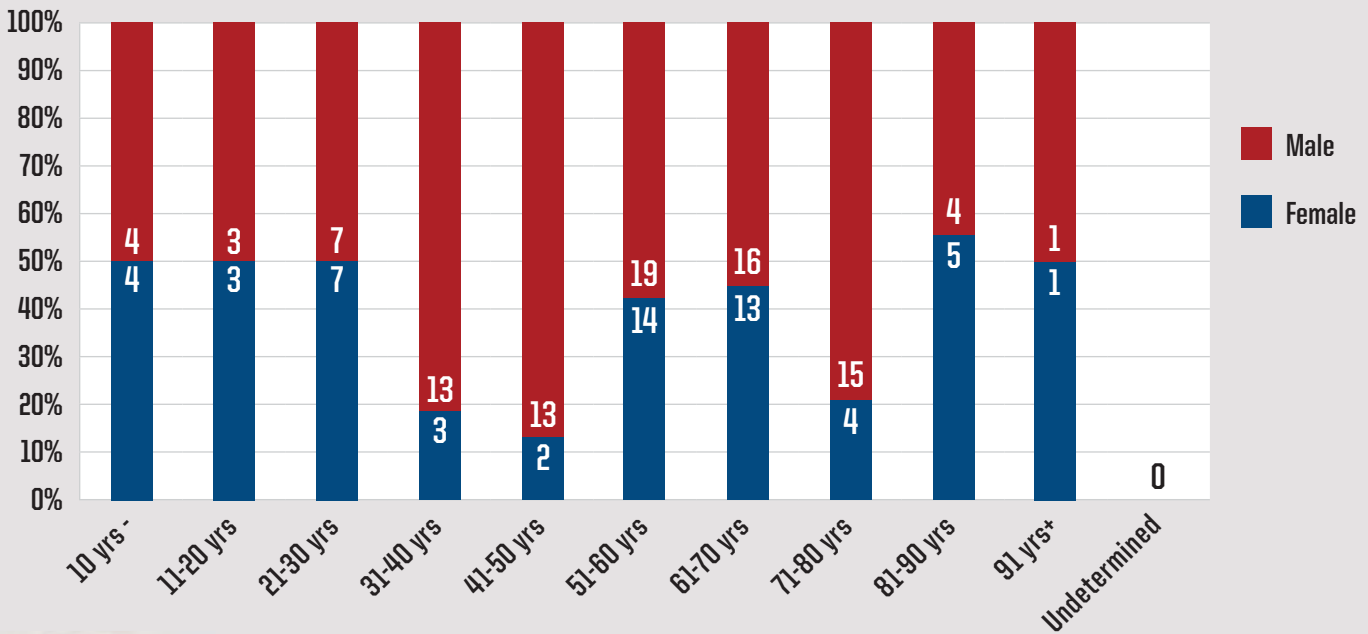
Based on data received from the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section, this graph depicts the number of reported deaths in each county. The counties not shown had no deaths to report. There was a total of **151** fire related deaths reported for 2019.

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



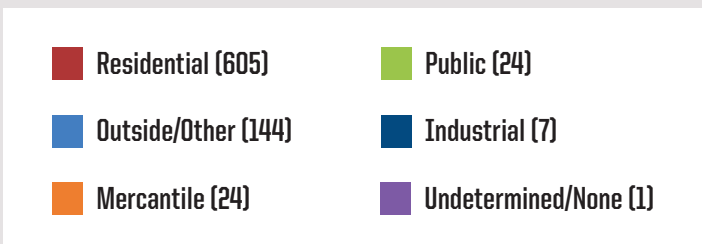
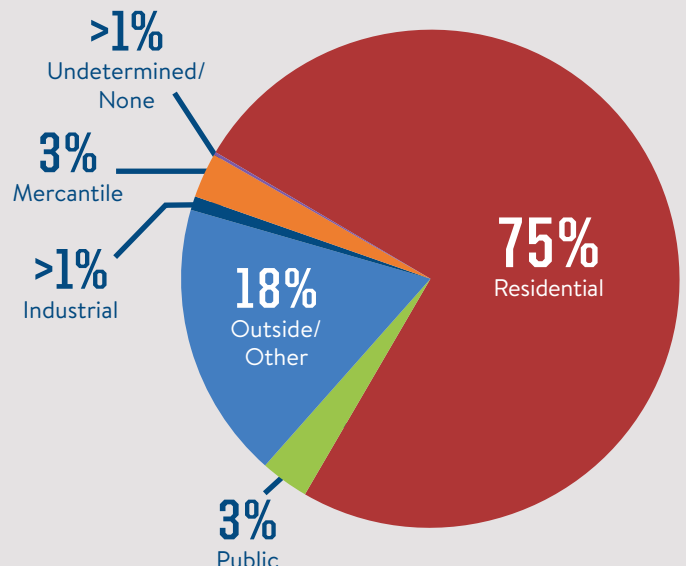
# Civilian Fire Deaths by Age and Gender

Fire education is extremely important. There was a total of **142** fire deaths and **9** storm related deaths in 2019 (based on data received from the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Section). People age 41 and older account for **71%** of Florida's reported deaths from fire. Small children under the age of 10 make up over **5%**.



# Civilian Injuries from Fires by Property Use

During 2019, **664** civilians were injured from fires (based on data received from the State Fire Marshal Office). Residential properties continue to have the greatest number of fire injuries among structure fires. Each year, many factors contribute to the number of fire-related injuries, but cooking remains one of the most prominent factors with **9.84%** of residential property fires originating in the kitchen.







**SARASOTA  
COUNTY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

FLORIDA



# Florida Counties Fire

Counties	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	Exposures	Total Fires	Rescue EMS	Other Calls	False Alarms
Alachua (11)	244	154	480	1	878	40,816	5,554	2,268
Baker (52)	17	11	13	0	41	1,163	178	27
Bay (23)	327	144	383	2	854	15,849	5,959	1,910
Bradford (45)	18	2	30	0	50	742	243	45
Brevard (19)	418	219	793	23	1,430	67,444	16,437	3,394
Broward (10)	1,032	818	946	21	2,796	194,586	59,715	18,732
Calhoun (58)	28	7	39	0	74	198	111	7
Charlotte (53)	125	110	297	11	532	26,357	6,548	949
Citrus (47)	137	97	208	28	442	1,481	1,806	362
Clay (48)	111	62	244	8	417	17,242	3,595	768
Collier (64)	179	132	275	13	586	23,443	9,518	3,486
Columbia (29)	62	74	175	5	311	5,772	1,959	230
Desoto (34)	24	15	136	0	175	3,279	1,139	195
Dixie (54)	38	17	68	0	123	766	213	28
Duval (02)	525	366	1,237	0	2,128	97,189	18,783	7,857
Escambia (09)	395	162	610	75	1,167	13,066	7,495	2,732
Flagler (61)	109	70	144	4	323	40,633	5,507	2,274
Franklin (59)	6	1	11	0	18	1204	178	46
Gadsden (21)	140	81	228	2	449	15,637	6,724	1,996
Gilchrist (55)	35	27	52	0	114	502	179	46
Glades (60)	14	11	42	0	67	58,737	20,263	3,949
Gulf (66)	19	7	24	0	50	168,723	55,238	15,936
Hamilton (56)	41	34	108	1	183	184	122	8
Hardee (30)	31	30	104	0	165	26,563	6,604	1,056
Hendry (49)	37	43	146	0	226	2,499	2,379	464
Hernando (40)	146	105	214	13	465	19,536	4,843	1,046
Highlands (27)	106	74	244	20	424	22,622	8,899	3,113
Hillsborough (03)	551	464	1,249	7	2,264	7,322	2,318	255
Holmes (51)	45	34	112	4	191	3,427	562	173
Indian River (32)	96	54	278	1	428	2,509	281	35
Jackson (25)	180	108	425	0	713	105,151	27,117	8,548
Jefferson (46)	16	14	83	0	113	13,011	7,493	2,174
Lafayette (62)	0	0	0	0	0	14,789	8,263	902
Lake (12)	489	203	479	1	1,171	254	17	5
Lee (18)	492	357	872	11	1,721	581	2,052	308
Leon (13)	345	178	606	49	1,129	1,579	630	41
Levy (39)	44	32	129	0	205	444	194	13
Liberty (67)	4	7	19	4	30	103	47	14

# and Non-Fire Totals

Total Incidents	Add Mutual Aid Given	Total Responses	Total Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
49,516	548	50,064	\$7,359,244.00	3	1
1,409	136	1,545	\$38,400.00	0	0
24,572	578	25,150	\$5,109,210.00	4	3
1,080	370	1,450	\$3,824,803.00	0	0
88,705	1,961	90,666	\$8,731,192.00	26	21
275,829	4,888	280,717	\$33,373,020.00	69	128
390	16	406	\$754,100.00	0	0
34,386	136	34,522	\$5,489,870.00	5	2
4,091	540	4,631	\$3,141,719.00	7	11
22,022	574	22,596	\$3,984,243.00	12	17
37,033	2,393	39,426	\$21,380,270.00	41	25
8,272	16	8,288	\$3,516,727.00	7	0
4,788	4	4,792	\$1,147,750.00	2	0
1,130	143	1,273	\$1,114,600.00	70	0
125,957	804	126,761	\$2,372,520.00	19	15
24,460	197	24,657	\$7,381,577.00	16	5
48,737	848	49,585	\$2,074,230.00	1	1
1,446	0	1,446	\$8,500.00	0	0
24,806	332	25,138	\$2,811,012.00	1	1
841	184	1,025	\$930,000.00	134	0
83,016	27	83,043	\$257,800.00	0	0
239,947	69	240,016	\$112,600.00	6	0
497	150	647	\$605,600.00	1	0
34,388	5	34,393	\$445,426.00	0	4
5,568	102	5,670	\$479,600.00	0	1
25,890	341	26,231	\$6,447,801.00	10	4
35,058	386	35,444	\$1,328,751.00	5	0
12,159	701	12,860	\$28,749,307.00	60	4
4,353	130	4,483	\$897,000.00	0	1
3,253	12	3,265	\$11,351,161.00	2	2
141,529	299	141,828	\$1,491,572.00	1	1
22,791	37	22,828	\$1,429,750.00	0	0
23,954	0	23,954	\$0.00	0	0
1,447	3,999	5,446	\$5,549,039.00	9	82
4,662	3,918	8,580	\$21,330,793.00	22	39
3,379	1,062	4,441	\$12,597,132.00	27	3
856	1,610	2,466	\$839,242.00	32	0
194	3	197	\$187,000.00	0	0





# Florida Counties Fire

Counties	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	Exposures	Total Fires	Rescue EMS	Other Calls	False Alarms
Madison (35)	30	23	73	0	126	510	543	61
Manatee (15)	210	153	347	11	710	22,327	5,586	3,041
Marion (14)	349	285	764	0	1,398	21,175	11,926	2,352
Martin (42)	93	77	202	9	372	22,260	6,669	1,541
Miami-Dade (01)	1,329	1,104	1,829	116	4,262	214,360	39,302	23,804
Monroe (38)	79	63	115	0	257	11,901	2,469	1,137
Nassau (41)	79	42	203	6	324	7,556	1,495	386
Okaloosa (43)	373	97	231	2	701	18,081	5,168	1,611
Okeechobee (57)	51	31	106	0	188	5,837	1,284	144
Orange (07)	1,030	559	1,002	9	2,591	129,415	24,265	13,700
Osceola (26)	358	197	384	49	939	63,129	13,659	2,621
Palm Beach (06)	764	466	778	5	2,008	150,565	35,279	13,389
Pasco (28)	358	197	384	49	939	63,129	13,659	2,621
Pinellas (04)	1,115	383	762	35	2,260	166,777	33,880	8,586
Polk (05)	634	404	992	19	2,030	85,716	21,524	3,304
Putnam (22)	32	21	65	0	118	2,966	602	171
Santa Rosa (33)	427	113	283	0	823	11,608	4,688	993
Sarasota (16)	131	109	368	0	608	21,516	4,274	1,504
Seminole (17)	318	162	378	13	858	41,297	11,067	3,487
St. Johns (20)	215	98	237	1	550	20,505	5,133	1,723
St. Lucie (24)	342	134	256	0	832	45,395	5,079	1,994
Sumter (44)	97	95	193	1	385	15,233	10,157	663
Suwannee (31)	34	46	94	4	174	9,498	501	130
Taylor (37)	37	22	60	0	119	307	931	51
Union (63)	15	12	18	0	45	171	106	17
Volusia (08)	536	301	776	12	1,613	55,395	24,068	3,789
Wakulla (65)	27	11	29	1	67	201	187	20
Walton (36)	196	74	421	2	691	11,050	2,713	820
Washington (50)	12	4	11	0	27	7	64	9
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>15,779</b>	<b>9,572</b>	<b>22,865</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>48,821</b>	<b>2,233,290</b>	<b>585,441</b>	<b>175,760</b>
<b>Mutual Aid</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>1,403</b>		<b>4,786</b>	<b>32,211</b>	<b>24,509</b>	<b>2,696</b>
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>18,526</b>	<b>10,208</b>	<b>24,268</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>53,002</b>	<b>2,265,501</b>	<b>609,950</b>	<b>178,456</b>

\* No Data Received

The above statistics are based on the data submitted by 432 fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) in 2019.

# and Non-Fire Totals

Total Incidents	Add Mutual Aid Given	Total Responses	Approximate Total Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
1,240	128	1,368	\$3,921,488.00	0	0
31,664	662	32,326	\$7,945,613.00	9	1
36,851	208	37,059	\$10,170,261.00	16	5
30,842	930	31,772	\$6,942,923.00	32	6
281,728	232	281,960	\$50,616,041.00	97	196
15,764	223	15,987	\$19,395,650.00	3	0
9,761	231	9,992	\$4,412,768.00	9	14
25,561	2,305	27,866	\$2,307,639.00	7	4
7,453	50	7,503	\$990,300.00	1	0
169,971	2,541	172,512	\$15,672,695.00	43	145
80,348	2,159	82,507	\$4,789,454.00	21	57
201,241	1,926	203,167	\$23,384,524.00	59	140
80,348	2,631	82,979	\$10,538,817.00	40	11
211,503	7,045	218,548	\$27,075,506.00	89	152
109,273	3,069	112,342	\$18,935,211.00	41	16
3,857	31	3,888	\$5,256,050.00	1	0
18,112	760	18,872	\$3,638,067.00	3	0
27,902	1,000	28,902	\$4,423,315.00	9	8
56,709	1,166	57,875	\$11,242,212.00	27	27
27,911	403	28,314	\$4,946,885.00	18	1
53,300	9	53,309	\$3,163,497.00	0	0
26,438	760	27,198	\$1,824,026.00	5	7
10,303	98	10,401	\$3,023,924.00	5	0
1,408	52	1,460	\$1,509,220.00	0	0
339	3	342	\$307,500.00	0	0
84,865	6,084	90,949	\$15,801,643.00	29	10
475	2	477	\$312,704.00	0	0
15,274	627	15,901	\$2,940,006.00	1	4
107	10	117	\$849,610.00	0	0
<b>3,042,959</b>	<b>62,864</b>	<b>3,105,823</b>	<b>\$448,810,617</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,175</b>
	<b>64,202</b>				
<b>3,042,959</b>	<b>127,066</b>	<b>3,105,823</b>	<b>\$448,810,617</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,175</b>

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



# Florida Wildfires by

County	Total Fires		0.1 - 0.2 Acres		0.3 - 9 Acres	
	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres
All Counties	1,811	91,076	437	49	1,082	2,348.30
Alachua	21	123	4	0.4	15	34.6
Baker	32	188	12	1.4	18	34.5
Bay	78	1,464	17	1.8	42	79.6
Bradford	25	54	9	1.1	14	17.8
Brevard	29	1,289	0	0	13	15.8
Broward	17	44,534	2	0.2	5	19
Calhoun	37	483	9	0.9	19	50.8
Charlotte	27	546	5	0.5	11	13.4
Citrus	24	221	4	0.6	16	40.6
Clay	29	293	6	0.6	17	38.8
Collier	25	33	7	0.8	17	22.2
Columbia	46	84	16	1.7	29	34
DeSoto	8	43	1	0.1	6	25
Dixie	23	35	12	1.2	10	13.9
Duval	15	625	2	0.2	9	11.8
Escambia	18	230	4	0.6	13	18.8
Flagler	17	25	7	1	10	23.8
Franklin	22	1,727	9	1	9	31.3
Gadsden	42	138	15	1.5	25	36.4
Gilchrist	6	64	2	0.2	3	7
Glades	20	2,426	1	0.1	10	24
Gulf	9	229	4	0.4	3	8.5
Hamilton	47	88	23	2.8	23	51.8
Hardee	16	334	1	0.2	10	34.8
Hendry	21	1,196	4	0.4	14	34.7
Hernando	17	55	5	0.6	11	37
Highlands	71	296	23	3.4	38	78.4
Hillsborough	12	201	1	0.1	9	31
Holmes	22	62	4	0.4	17	37.5
Indian River	15	208	2	0.2	7	17
Jackson	92	361	30	3.5	53	112.9
Jefferson	14	55	1	0.1	11	23.7
Lafayette	14	90	8	0.9	5	4.5
Lake	23	86	5	0.6	15	30.6







# Florida Wildfires by

County	Total Fires		0.1 - 0.2 Acres		0.3 - 9 Acres	
	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres	# fires	# acres
Lee	43	167	8	1	31	50
Leon	9	9	4	0.4	5	8.3
Levy	51	195	8	0.8	41	111.1
Liberty	13	114	3	0.3	7	20.5
Madison	24	24	15	1.5	9	22.1
Manatee	13	84	2	0.2	8	11.5
Marion	29	144	2	0.3	22	69.5
Martin	14	94	2	0.2	9	17.5
Miami-Dade	57	908	2	0.3	38	129.1
Monroe	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
Nassau	23	86	7	0.7	14	38.5
Okaloosa	21	111	5	0.5	15	35.3
Okeechobee	53	517	20	2	19	49.6
Orange	26	118	2	0.2	21	26.4
Osceola	18	735	1	0.1	9	16.8
Palm Beach	22	26,479	4	0.4	9	31.3
Pasco	9	23	1	0.1	8	22.7
Pinellas	1	60	0	0	0	0
Polk	69	1,056	5	0.5	45	99.3
Putnam	45	149	6	0.6	36	57.2
Santa Rosa	41	539	10	1.1	25	56.8
Sarasota	28	63	4	0.4	23	29.1
Seminole	7	43	1	0.1	5	2.5
St. Johns	26	152	2	0.3	21	44
St. Lucie	18	106	4	0.4	10	26.5
Sumter	6	9	3	0.3	3	9
Suwannee	41	50	12	1.4	29	49
Taylor	36	226	13	1.4	18	38.5
Union	7	30	1	0.1	5	9.5
Volusia	57	488	11	1.4	37	82.8
Wakulla	8	55	3	0.3	3	3.5
Walton	41	287	13	1.4	20	69.6
Washington	20	73	8	0.8	9	15

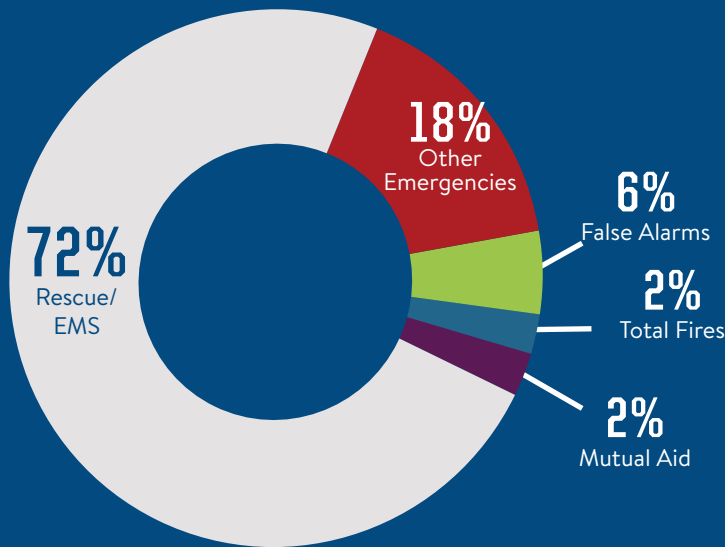






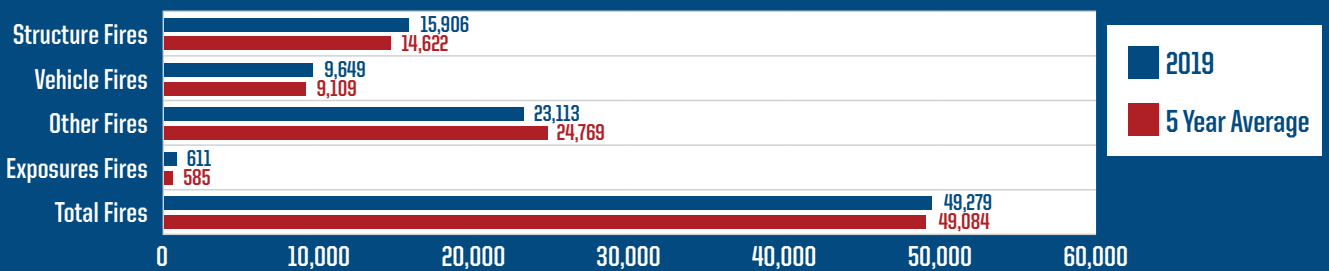
# 2019 Summary Statistics

In 2019, fire departments responded to a total of **2,687,400** incidents. When mutual aid calls were added, the total number of reported responses increased to **2,752,770** which generated slightly fewer requests for fire department services than in 2018. Total fire response incidents decreased slightly by **5.44%** and total dollar loss decreased by **6.03%** based on 2019 data. The number of fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) was **432**, which is a decrease of **7.49%** from the previous year, due primarily to consolidation of smaller agencies into larger ones or disbanding of a few rather than decreased participation in the reporting program.

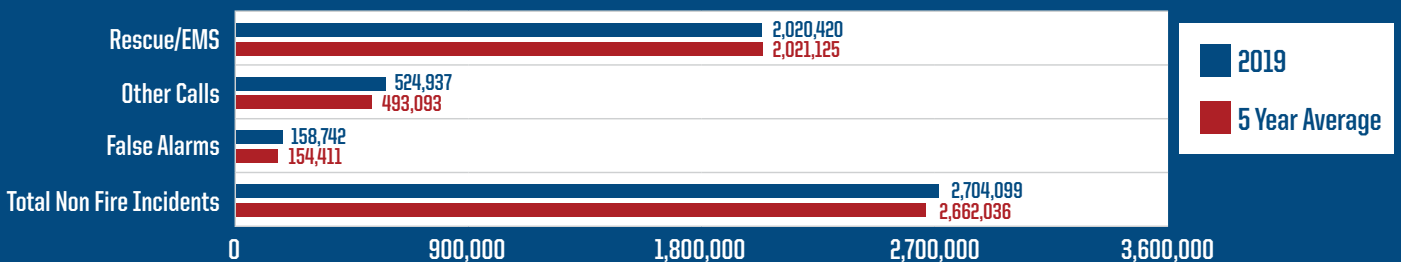


## 2019 State Incident Summary Compared to (2015-2019) 5 Yr. Average

2019 Fires

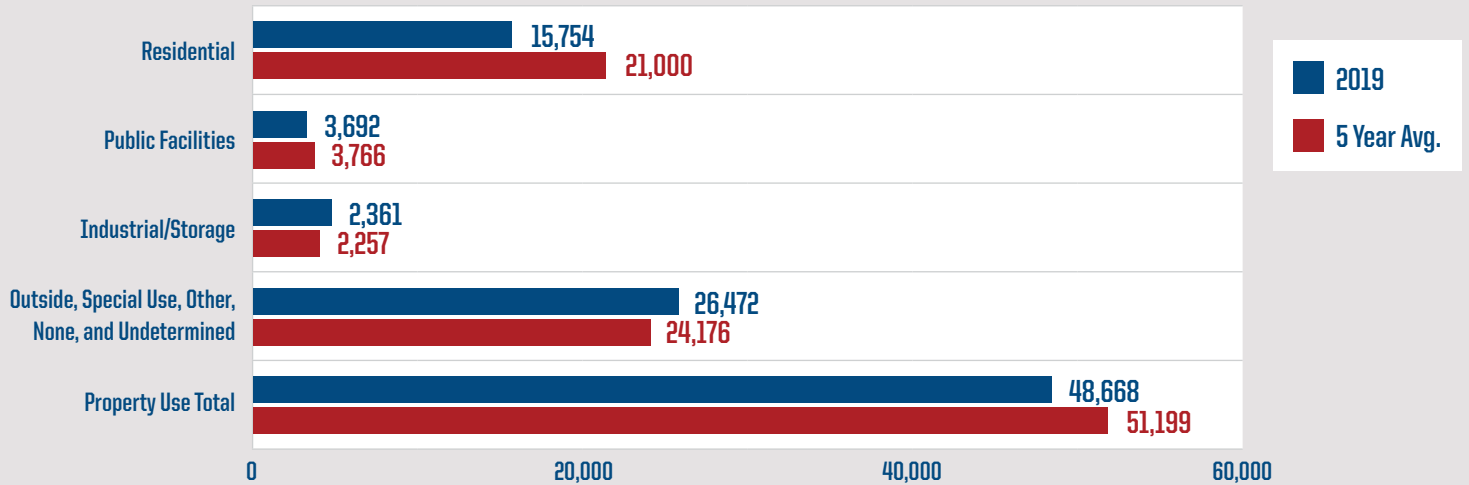


2019 Non Fire Related Incidents



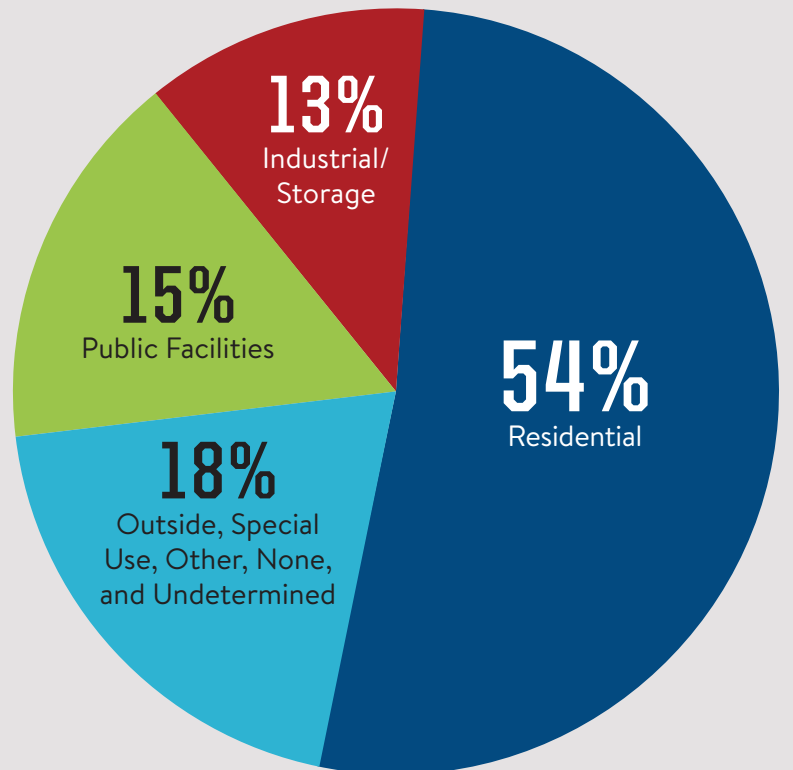


# Total Breakdown of Fires by Property Use



## Total State Dollar Loss Reported Value of Property Loss for 2019: **\$450,676,050**

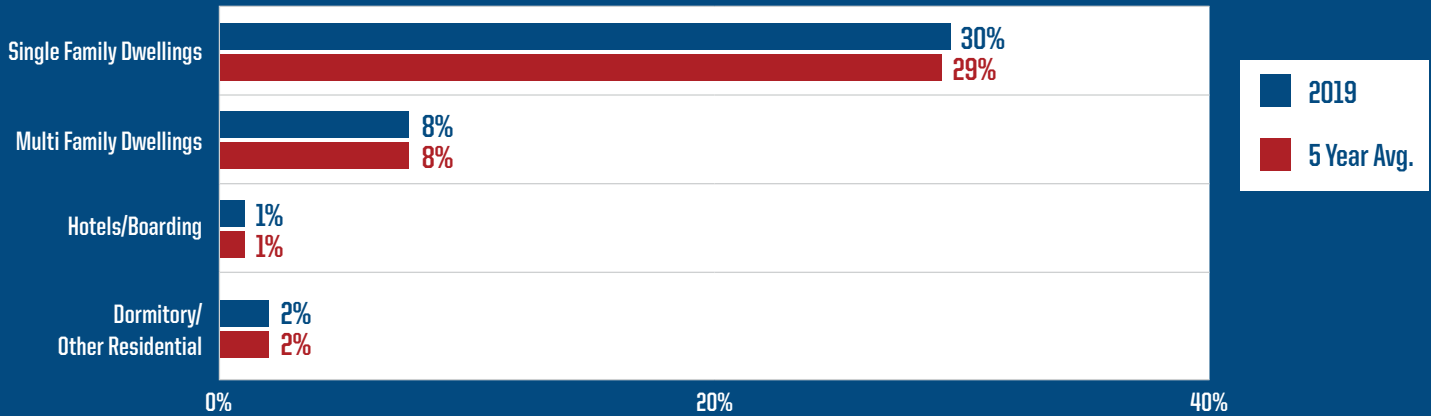
Residential	\$243,365,067
Outside, Special Use, Other, None, and Undetermined	\$81,121,689
Public Facilities	\$67,601,407
Industrial/Storage	\$58,587,887





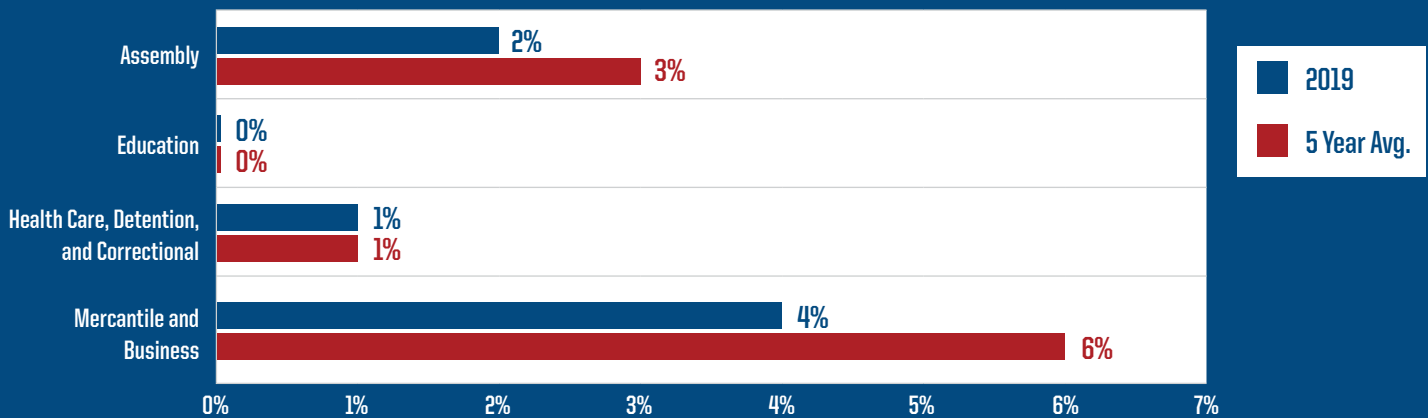
# Percentage of Fires and Dollar Loss Compared to Five Year Average by Property Use

## Residential



Residential Property Type	2019 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2019 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Single Family Dwellings	15,762	15,252	\$138,709,576.00	\$167,707,231.80
Multi Family Dwellings	3,893	4,002	\$36,054,084.00	\$43,504,331.40
Hotels/Boarding	341	381	\$3,154,732.00	\$3,699,813.20
Dormitory/Other Residential	973	970	\$9,013,521.00	\$6,615,229.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,969</b>	<b>20,605</b>	<b>\$186,931,913.00</b>	<b>\$221,526,605.60</b>

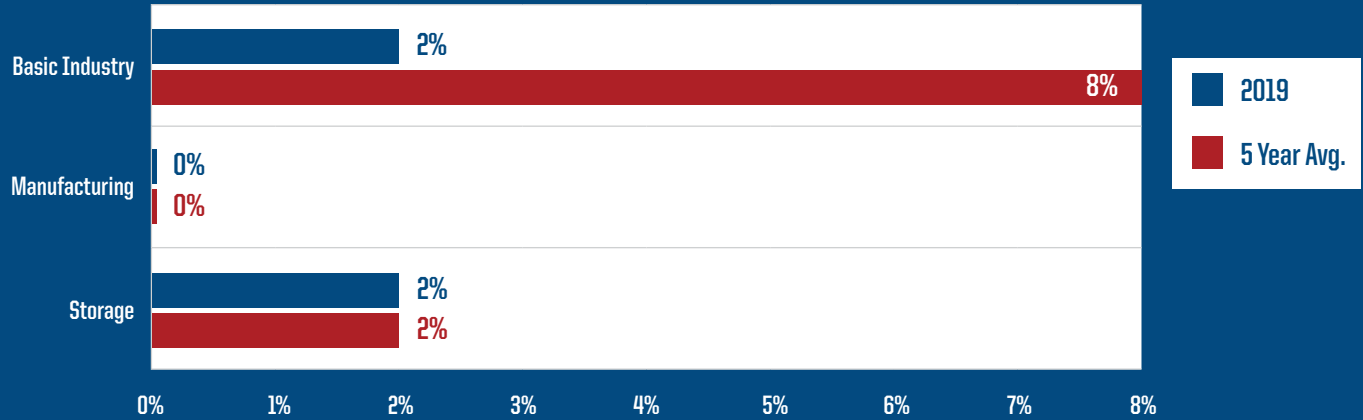
## Public Facilities



Public Facilities Property Type	2019 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2019 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Assembly	1,460	1,262	\$12,520,282.00	\$18,876,790.80
Education	195	215	\$1,802,704.00	\$1,621,296.00
Health Care, Detention and Correctional	292	307	\$2,704,056.00	\$2,493,940.00
Mercantile and Business	1,947	1,978	\$18,027,042.00	\$43,431,302.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,894</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>\$35,054,084.00</b>	<b>\$66,423,329.40</b>

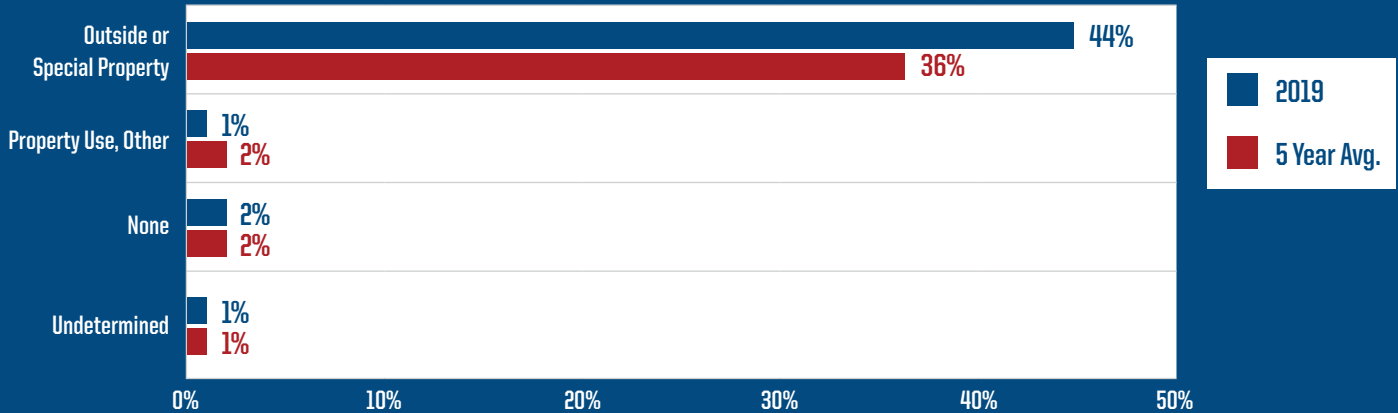


### Industrial/Storage



Industrial Property Type	2019 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2019 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Basic Industry	973	1,026	\$11,520,281.00	\$47,700,127.60
Manufacturing	146	154	\$1,847,270.00	\$6,704,326.40
Storage	977	1,037	\$18,027,042.00	\$28,888,574.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>\$31,394,593.00</b>	<b>\$83,293,028.00</b>

### Outside, Special Use, Other, None, and Undetermined

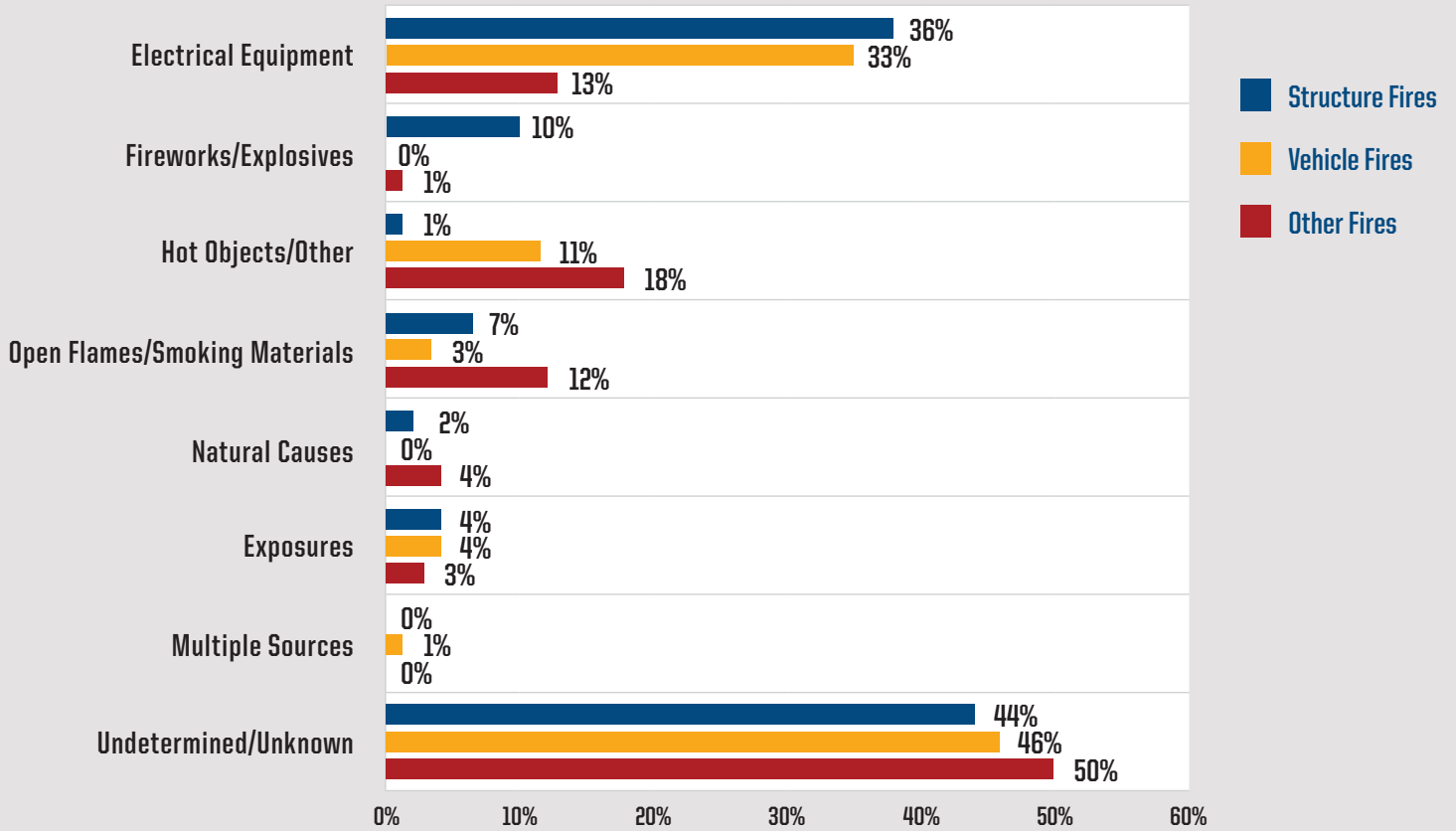


Outside, Special Use, Other, None, and Undetermined Property Type	2019 Number of Incidents	5 Year Avg. Number of Incidents	2019 Total Dollar Loss	5 Year Avg. Total Dollar Loss
Outside or Special Property	19,949	21,100	\$183,777,180.00	\$101,141,624.80
Property Use, Other	487	1,039	\$4,506,760.00	\$3,693,237.20
None	979	1,074	\$6,760,140.00	\$6,277,952.20
Undetermined	294	325	\$2,253,380.00	\$1,121,097.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,709</b>	<b>23,538</b>	<b>\$197,297,460.00</b>	<b>\$112,233,911.80</b>

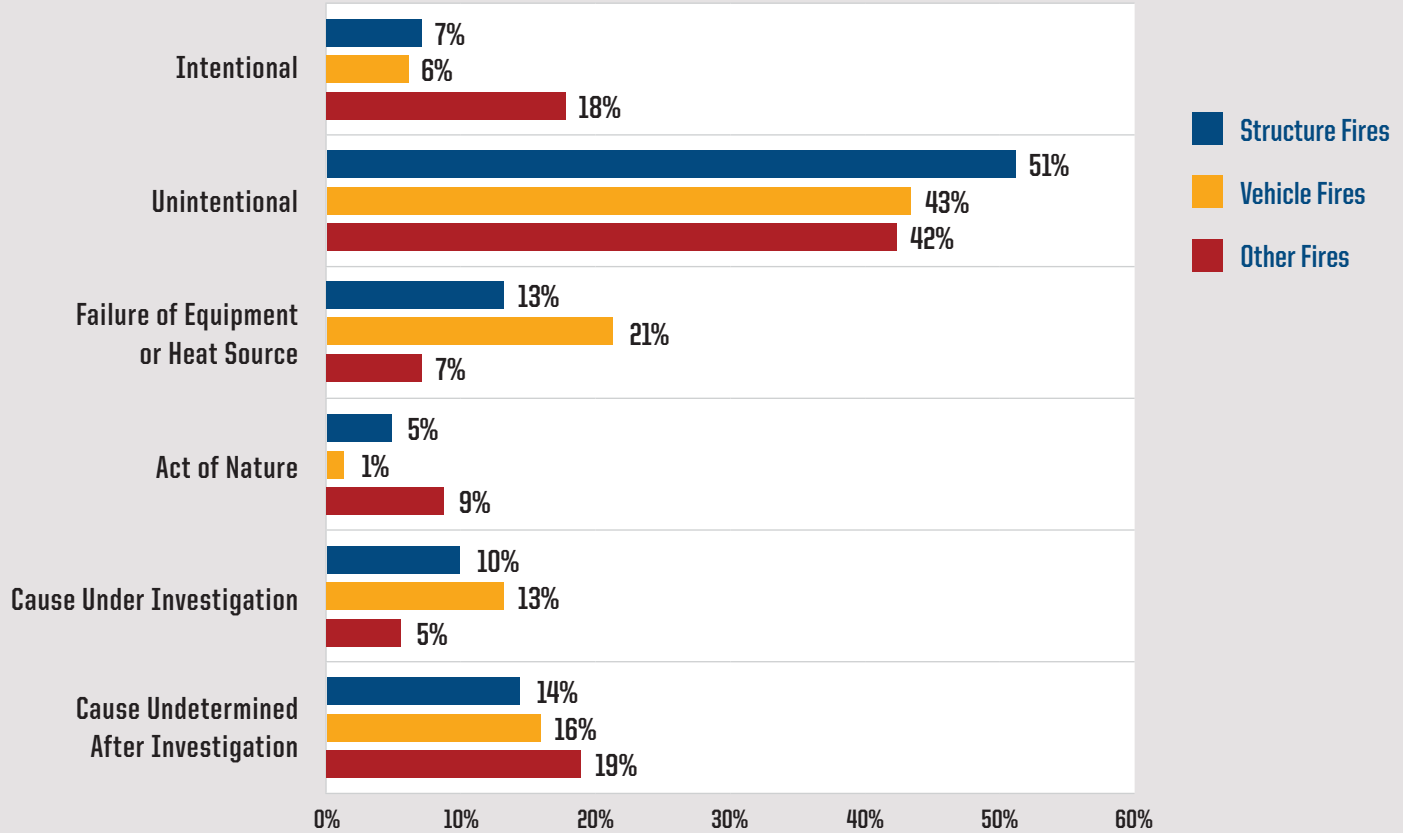


# 2019 Heat Source and Cause of Ignition Percentages

## Structure, Vehicle and Other Fires Heat Source



## Structure, Vehicle and Other Fires Cause of Ignition



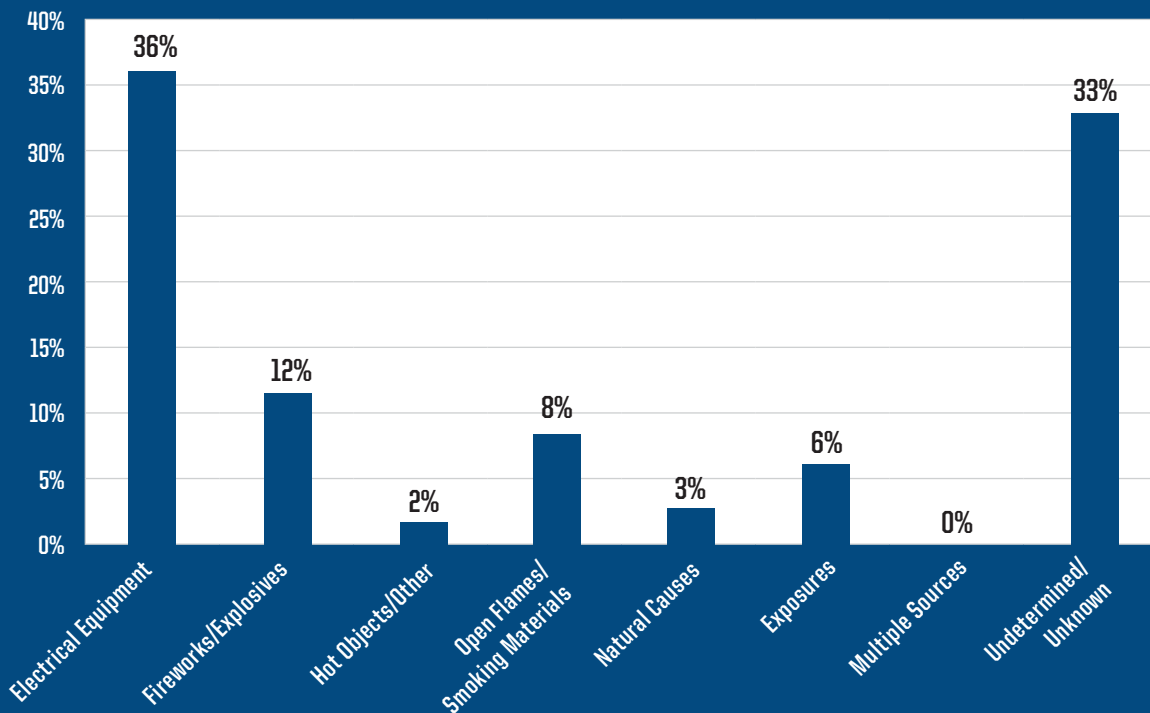
\*Other Fires include: Natural Vegetation, Trash and Rubbish, Outside Special Property, Vegetation and Crops







# Total Dollar Loss, Area of Origin and Fire Cause Percentages for Residential Structures

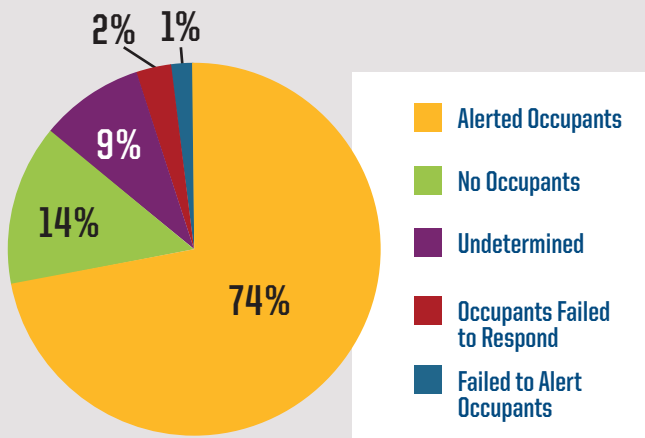




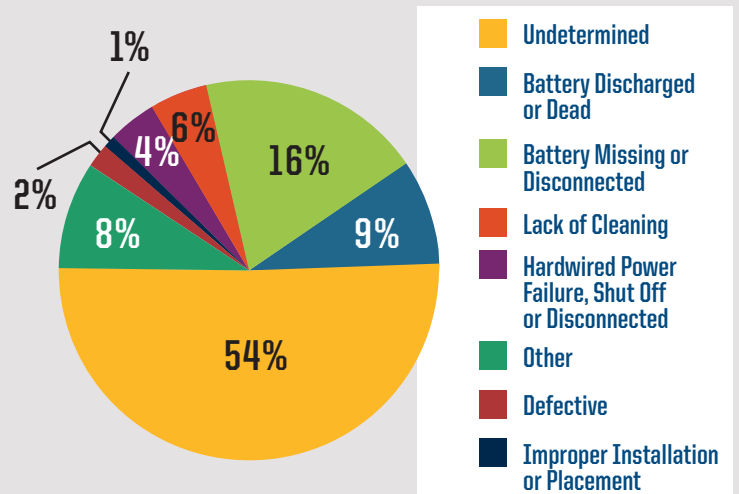
# Smoke Alarm Use Data

Smoke detectors were present in **44** percent of reported structure fires, in which the presence or absence of detectors were reported, with **56** percent of those operational. **23** percent were reported as undetermined and **7** percent did not operate due to a variety of reasons such as no batteries, lack of maintenance, etc. In **14** percent, the fire was too small for the detector to operate. Unfortunately, **36** percent of the structures did not have smoke detectors and **20** percent of the structures reported as undetermined.

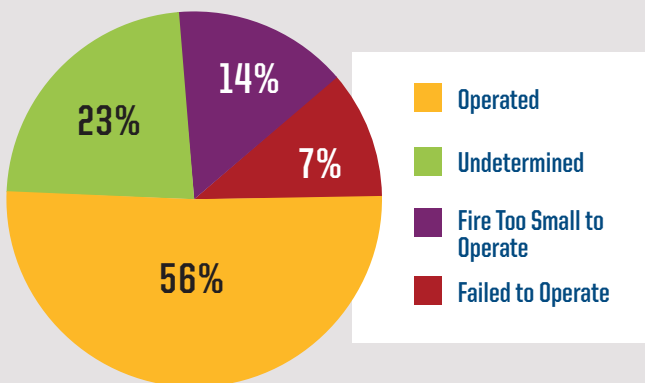
## Detector Effectiveness



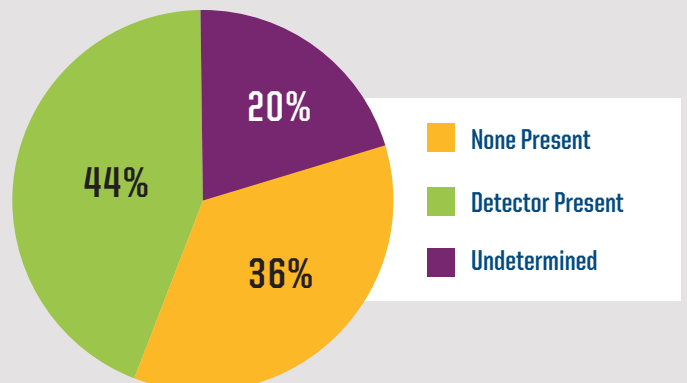
## Smoke Alarm Failure



## Detector Operation



## Detector Present

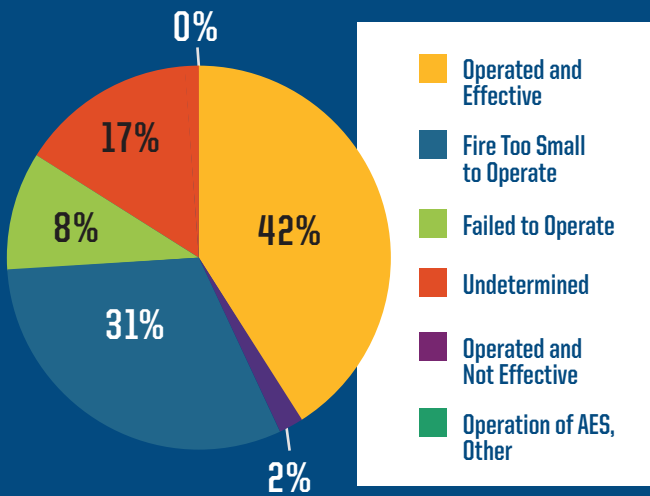




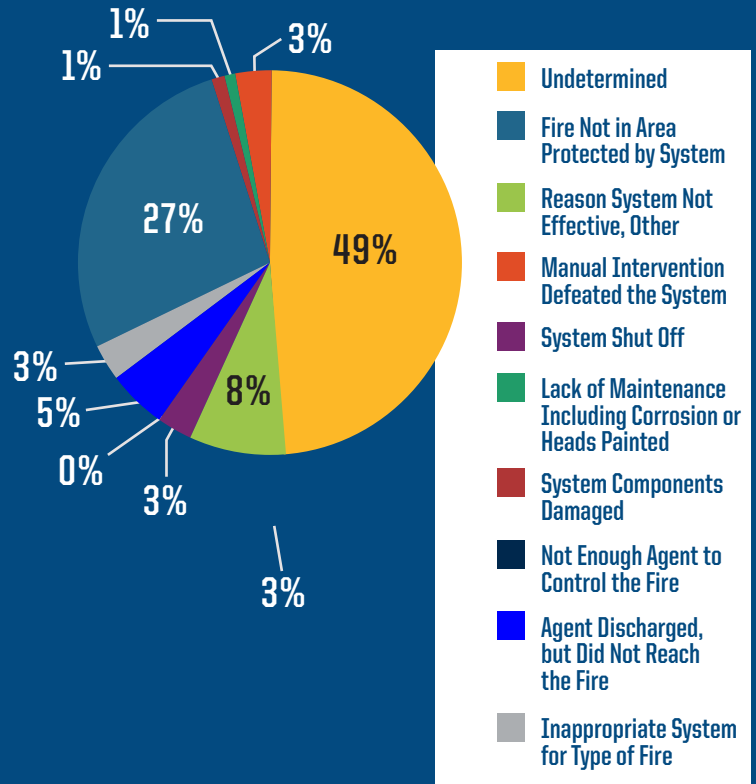
# Fire Sprinkler Use Data

Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) were present in 6 percent of reported structure fires with 38 percent of those operational. 7 percent were reported as undetermined and 8 percent did not operate due to a variety of reasons, such as manual intervention, agent discharged but did not reach the fire, etc. In 27 percent of structure fires, the fire was not in the vicinity of the AES for it to be effective. Unfortunately, in 87 percent of the structure fires there was not an AES present and 7 percent were reported as undetermined.

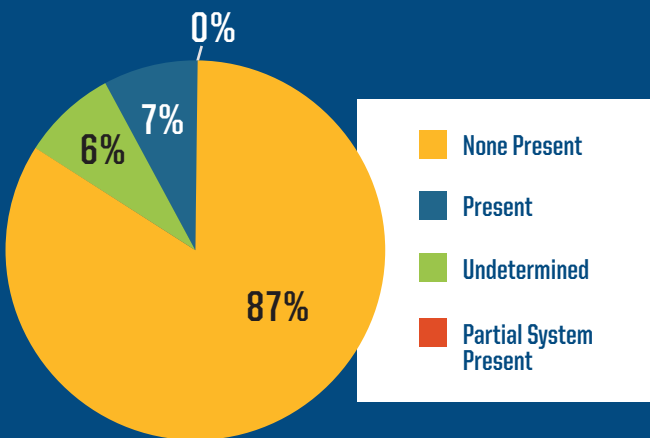
## AES Operation



## AES Failure



## AES Presence







# Average Response Frequencies

REPORTED BY FLORIDA FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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



ONE  
FLORIDA  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RESPONDS  
EVERY  
6 MINUTES

ONE STRUCTURE  
FIRE OCCURS  
EVERY 38  
MINUTES  
AND 34  
SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA







ONE FIRE  
OCCURS EVERY  
**11** MINUTES AND  
**42** SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA

ONE OTHER  
EMERGENCY  
CALL OCCURS  
EVERY **2** MINUTES  
AND **10** SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA



ONE VEHICLE  
FIRE OCCURS  
EVERY **57**  
MINUTES AND  
**46** SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA



ONE EMS/  
RESCUE CALL  
OCCURS EVERY  
**16** SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA



ONE OUTSIDE/  
OTHER FIRE  
OCCURS EVERY  
**23** MINUTES  
AND **33**  
SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA



ONE FALSE  
ALARM OCCURS  
EVERY  
**3** MINUTES AND  
**47** SECONDS  
IN FLORIDA



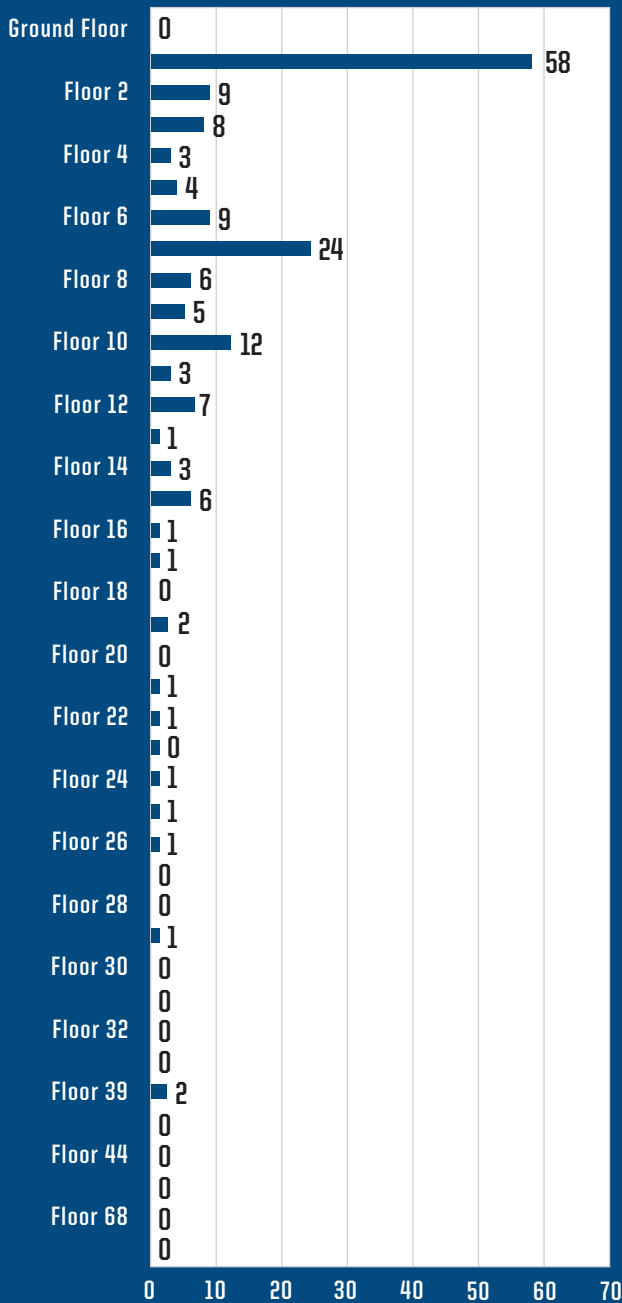




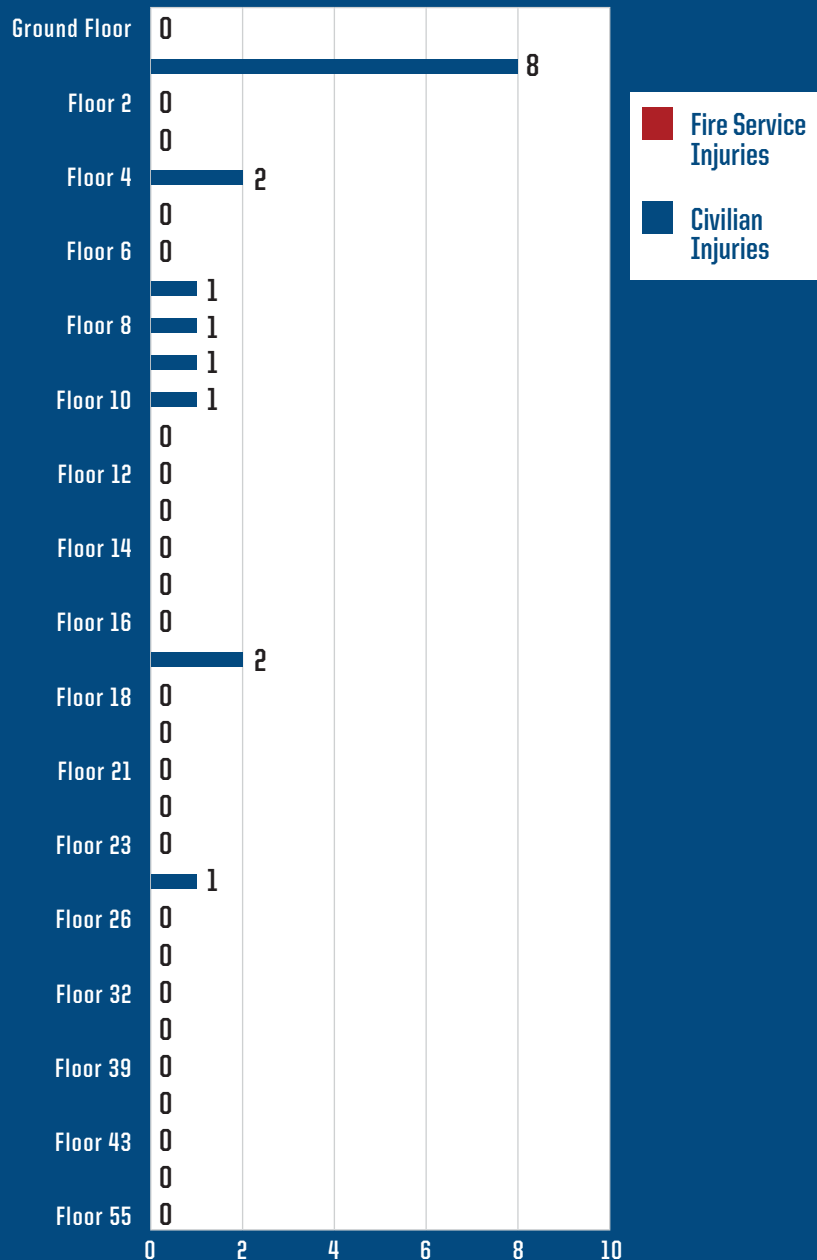
# Frequency and Number of Civilian & Fire Service Injuries in High Rise Structure Fires

The National Fire Protection Association reports there are more than 13,000 structure fires in high rise buildings each year in the United States. The State of Florida had a total of **171** structure fire incidents in high rise structures with **1** fire service injury and **17** civilian injuries in 2019.

### High Rise Structure Fire Incidents by Frequency



### Civilian and Fire Service Injuries in High Rise Structure Fires









# 2019 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. Three Florida firefighters died in the line of duty in 2019: Lieutenant **Barry Boulton** of the Plantation Fire Department, FF/EMT **Brad Gregrich** of the DeSoto County Fire Rescue Department, and **Robert Tabor**, Crewman ITT Rayonier.



Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Ocala, Florida



Florida Wildland Firefighter Memorial in Brooksville, Florida



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

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





COURAGE

FOR THE

FALLEN

HONOR

RESPECT

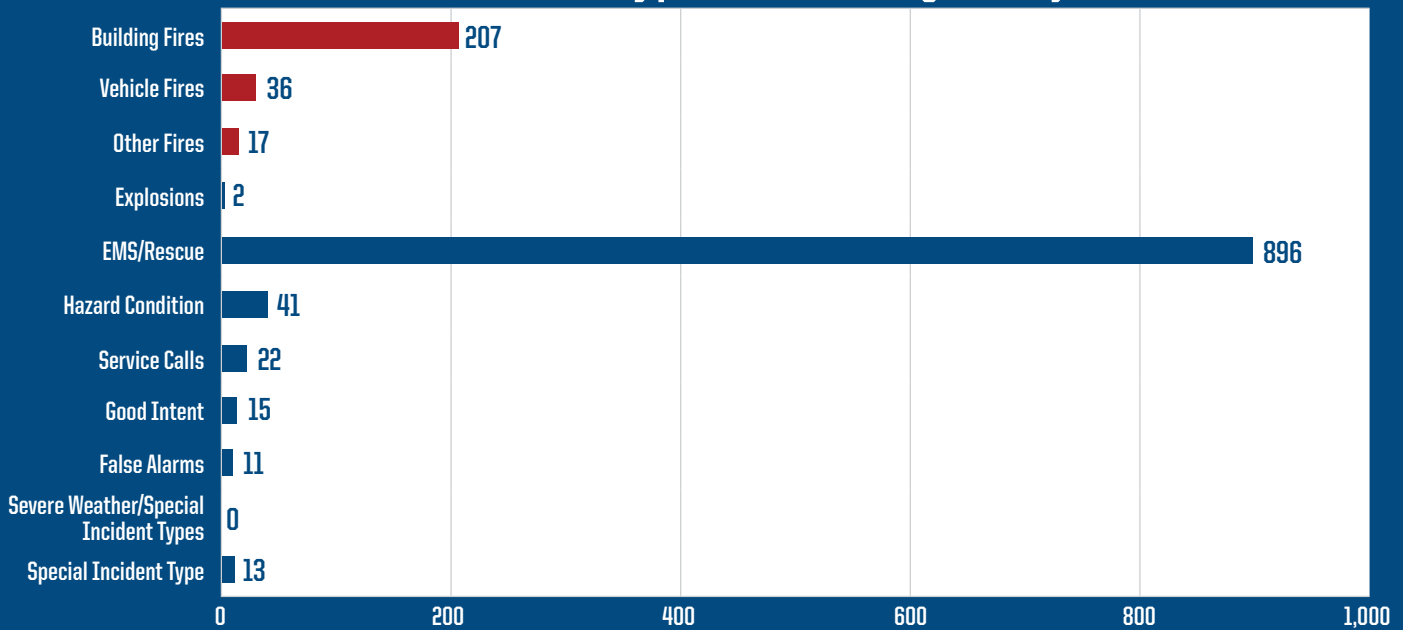
TRADITION



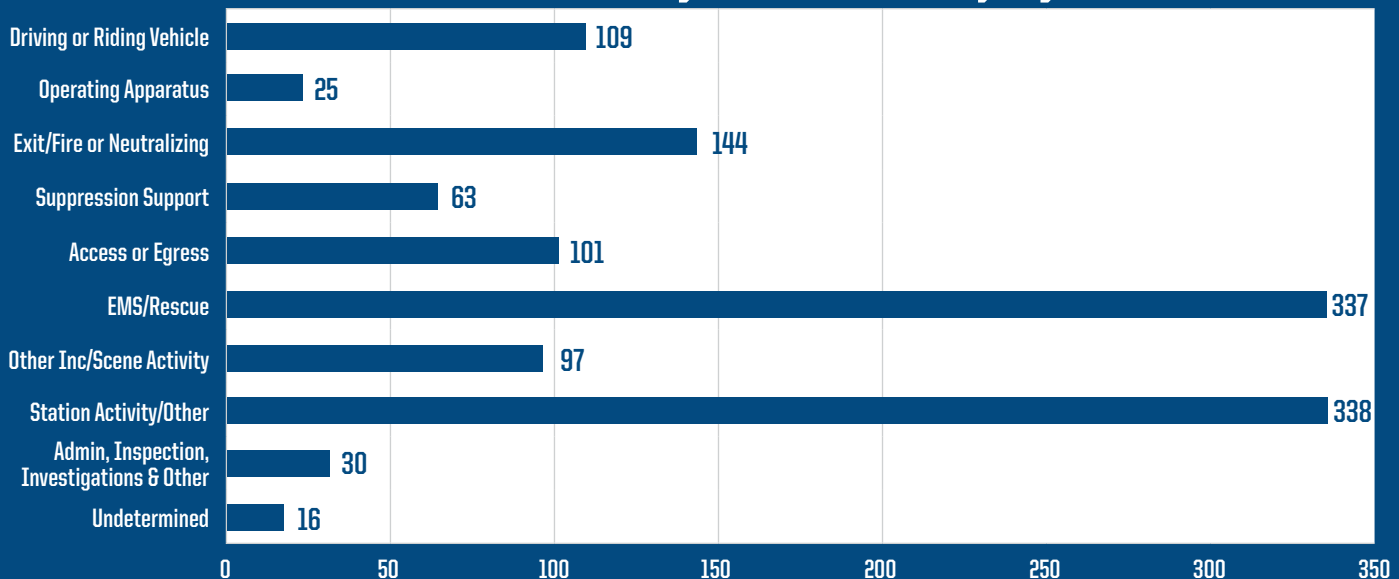
# Firefighter Injuries vs. Number of Fire Incidents

Firefighters throughout Florida deal with a variety of hazards while performing their duties. These hazards include, but are not limited to, smoke inhalation, burns, straining of body parts, exposure to chemicals and stress. In 2019, there were **260** fire related injuries to firefighters.

## Incident Types Resulting in Injuries

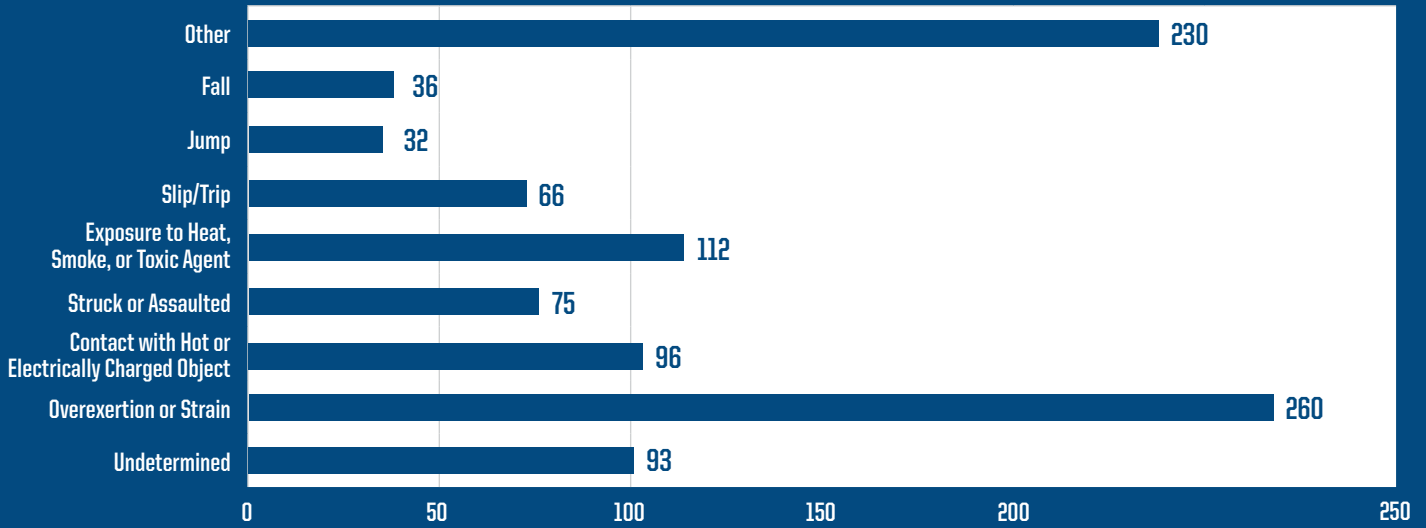


## Activity at Time of Injury





### Cause of Fire Related Injury

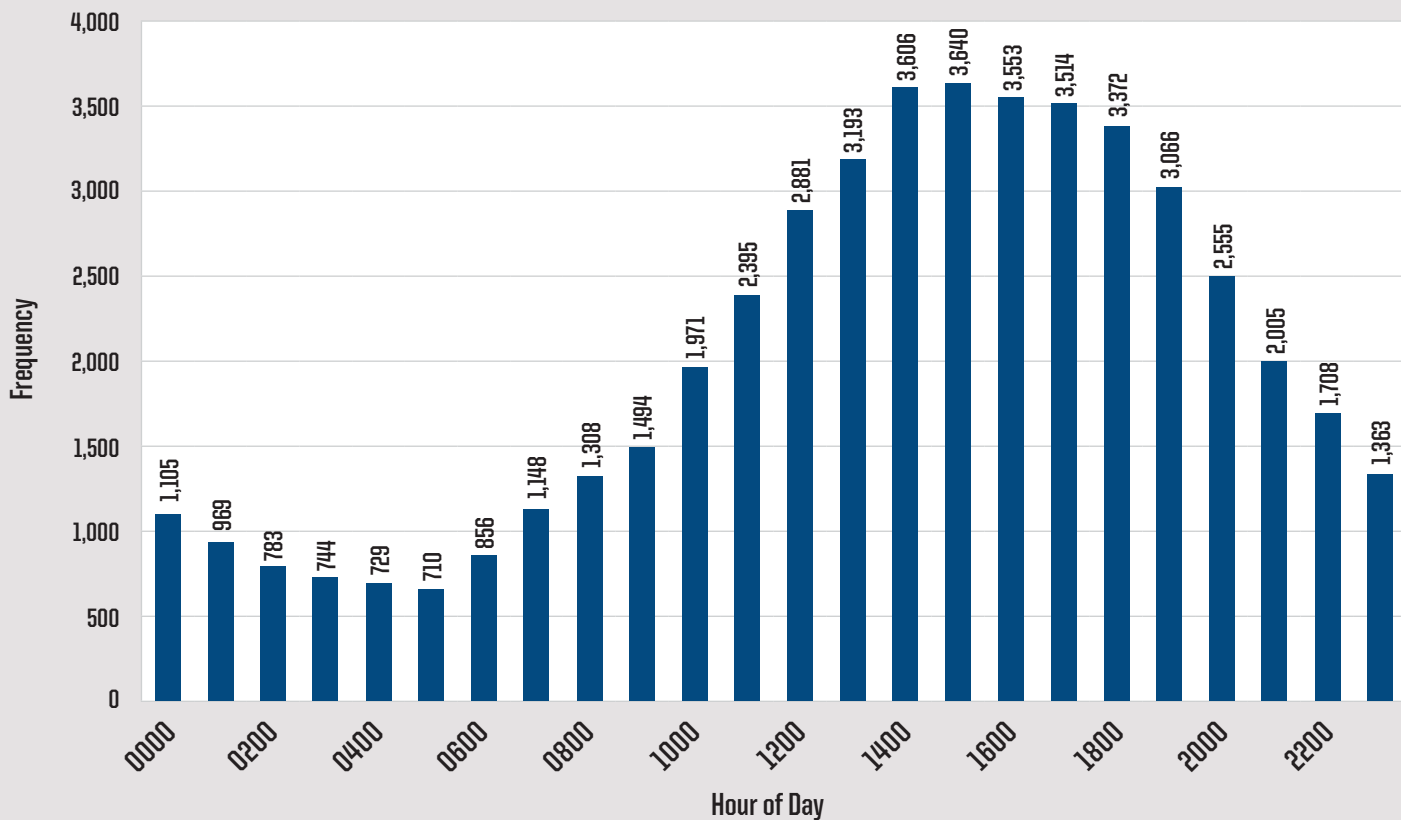




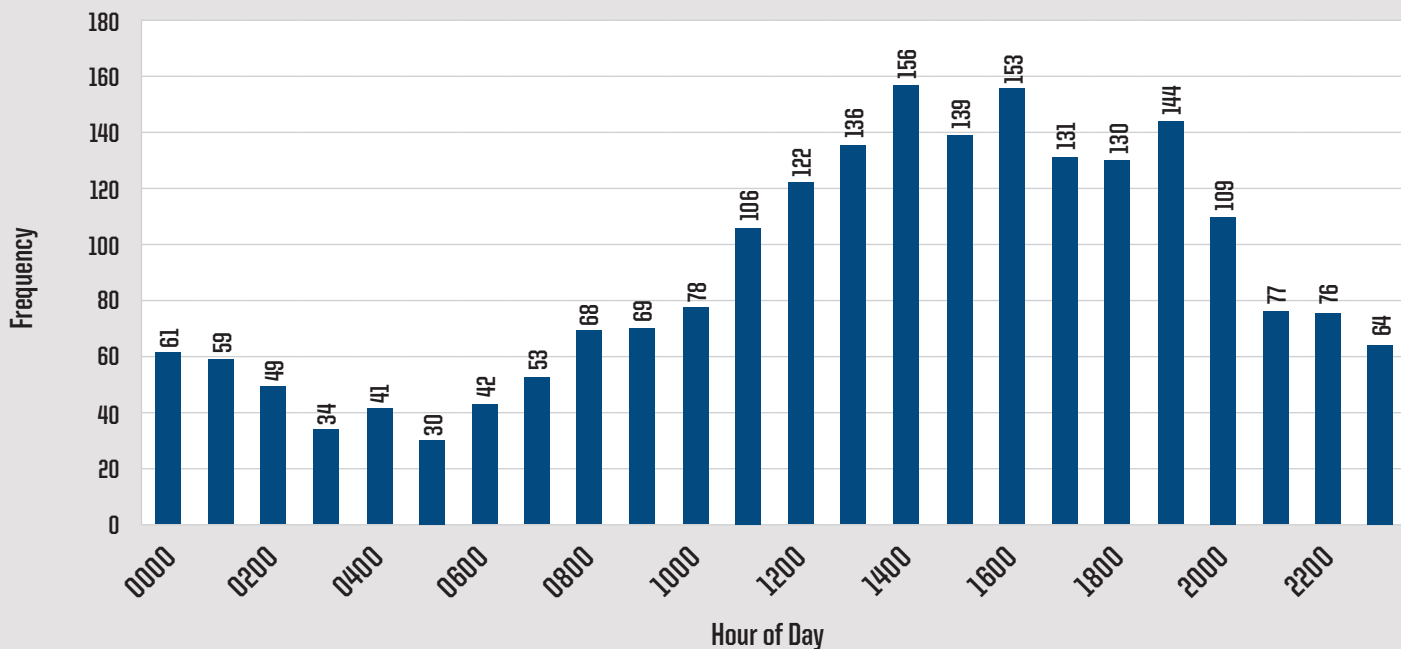


# Fire Incidents and Fire Related Injuries by Peak Hour and Day of the Week

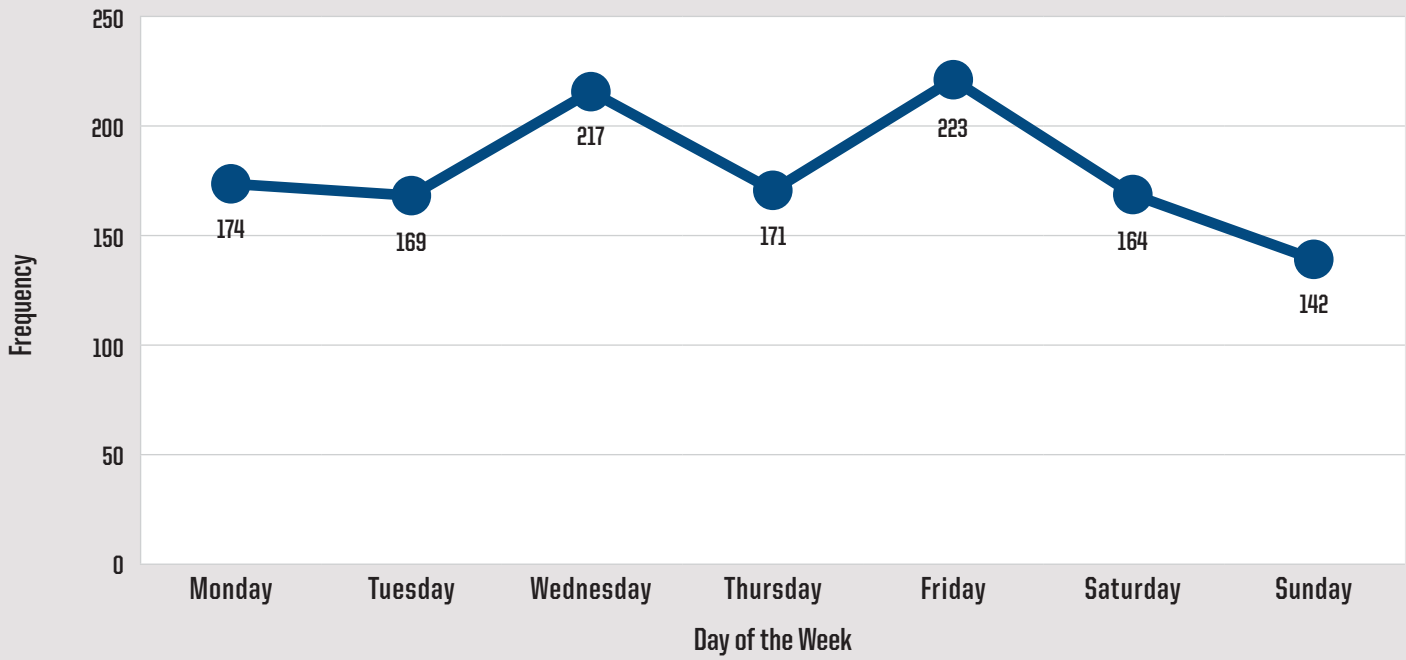
## Fire Incidents by Hour of the Day



## Fire Related Injuries by Hour of the Day



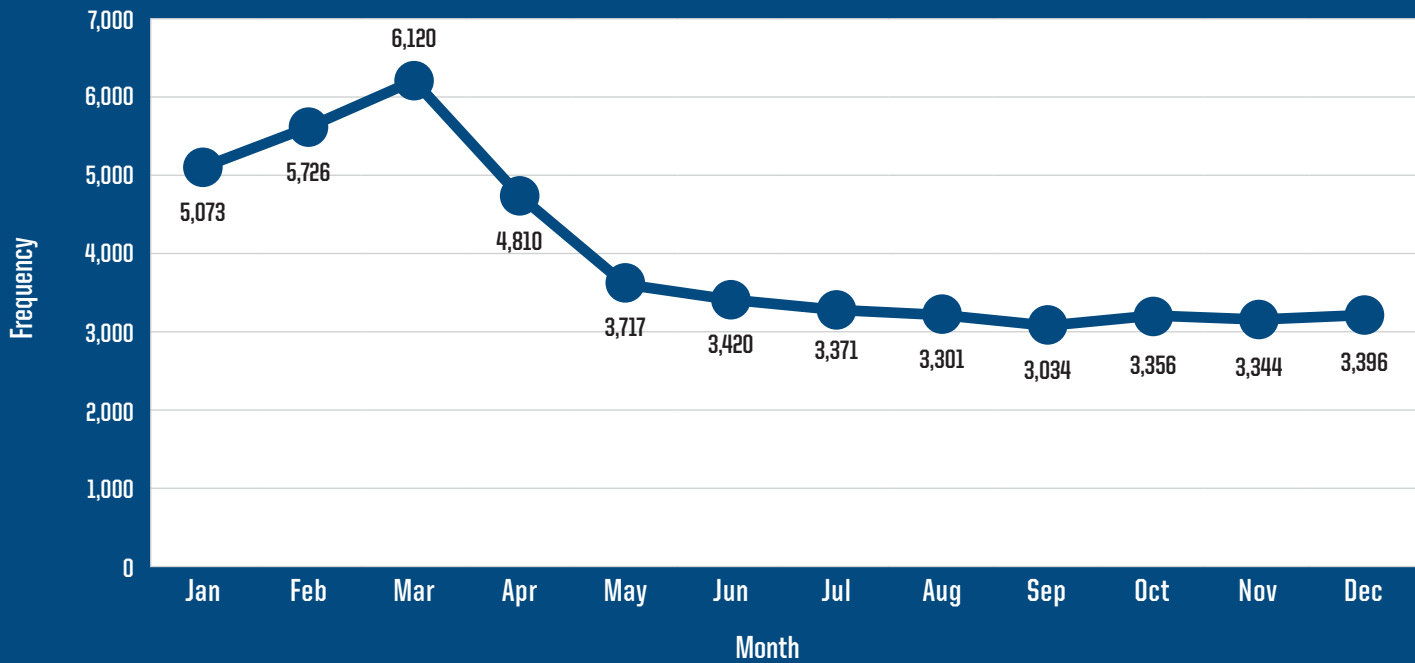
### Firefighter Injuries by Day of the Week



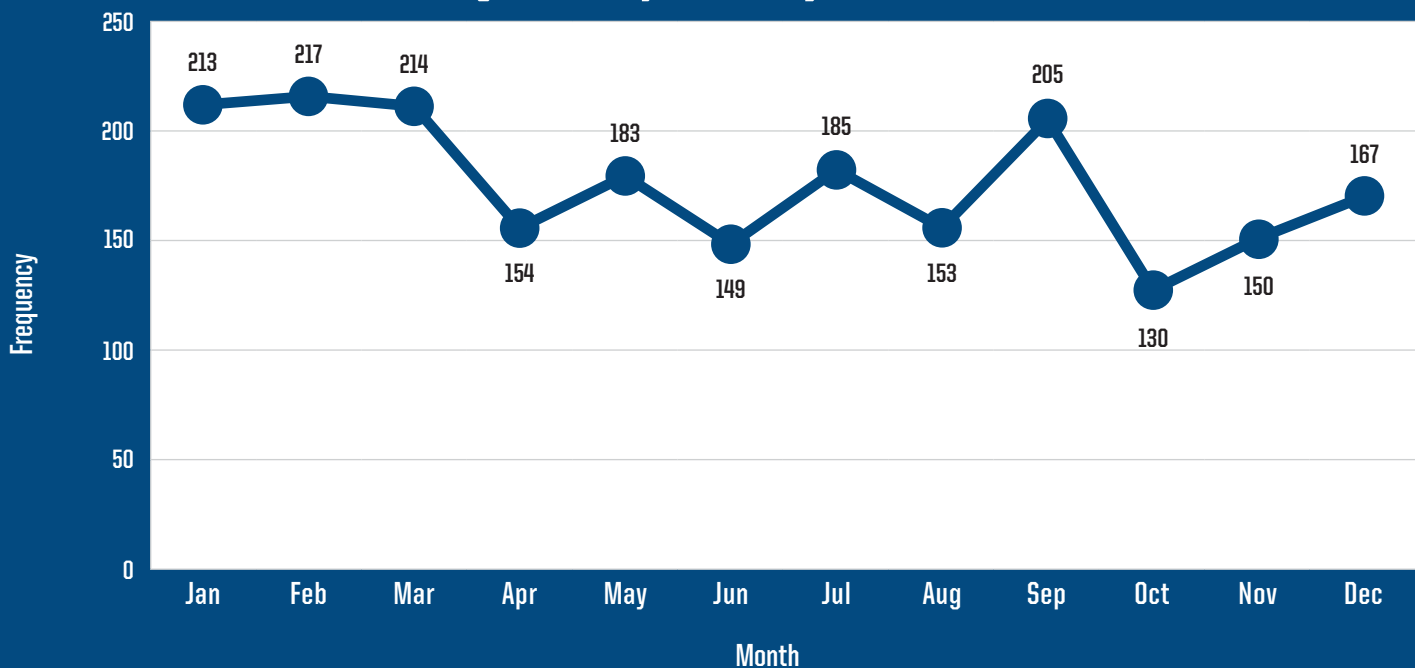


# Fire Incidents and Injuries by Month and Quarter of the Year

## Fires by Month of the Year

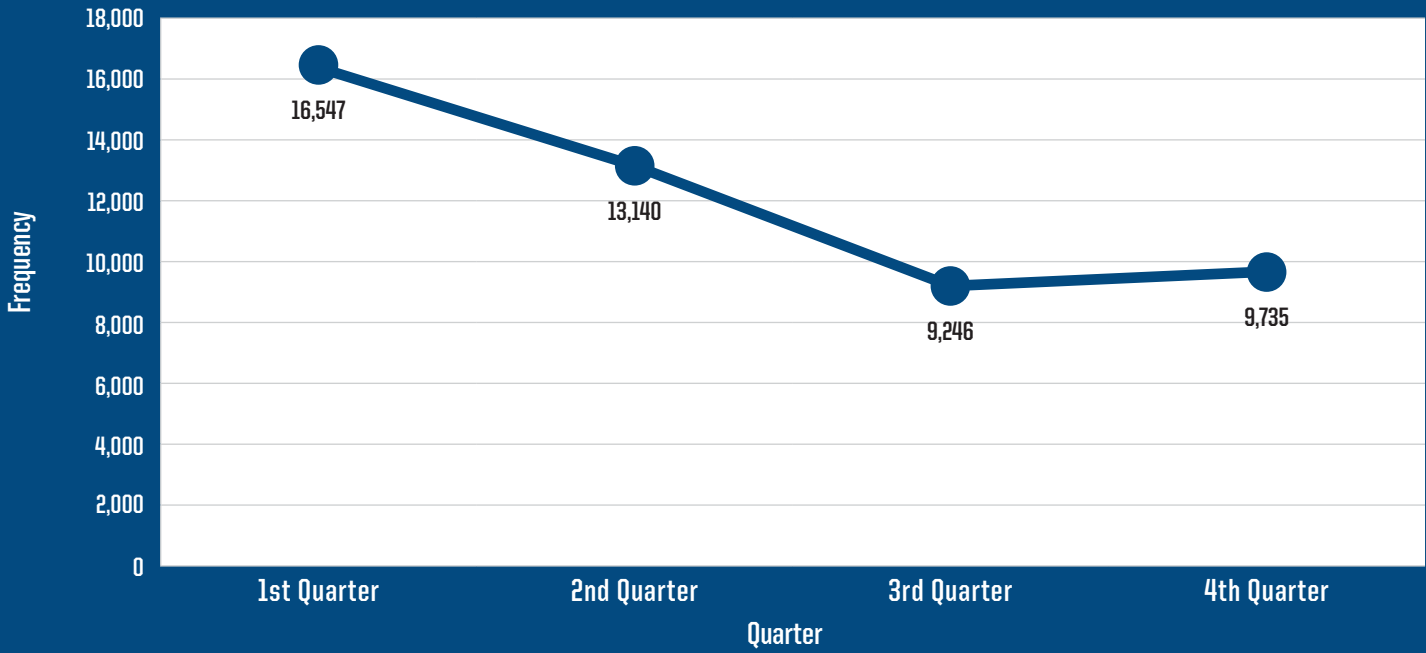


## Firefighter Injuries by Month of the Year

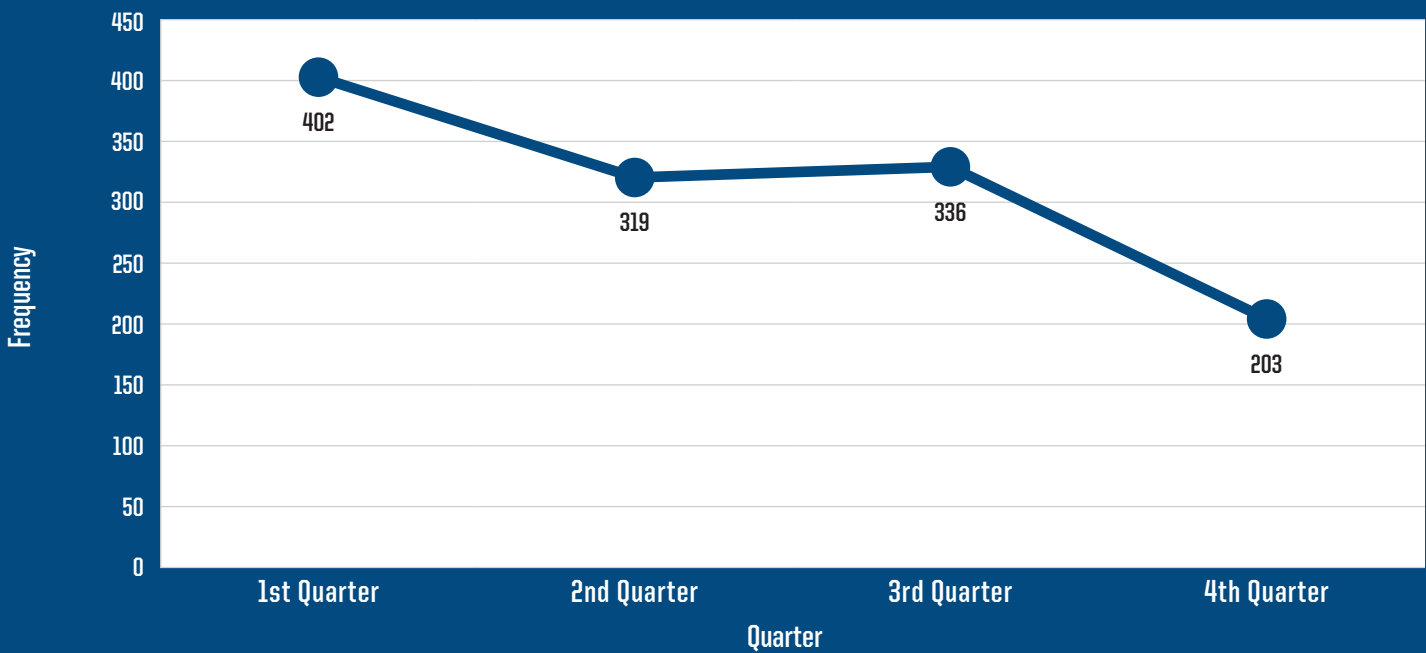




### Fires by Quarter of the Year



### Firefighter Injuries by Quarter of the Year





# 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Awards

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has reported that the following departments received Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Awards for 2019. 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 of future awards. This requirement is included in the 2019 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 2019 recipients may be reviewed by entering the following link into your web browser: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/AFG2019.shtm>.

Please contact the FFIRS Section at (850) 413-3632 or (850) 413-3749 for assistance in helping your department comply with this requirement.

A total **432** fire departments throughout the State of Florida reported incidents to FFIRS for 2019, and of those departments, **26** received grants. Some were recipients of multiple awards.



Organization	State	Program	Award Amount	Award Date	Grant Category
Orange, County of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$2,703,590	1/1/19	AFG
Financial Services, Florida Department of	FL	State Fire Training Academy	\$59,130	1/1/19	AFG
Pompano Beach, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$401,818	1/1/19	AFG
Boynton Beach, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$481,165	1/1/19	AFG
Broward, County of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$586,956	1/1/19	AFG
Greater Naples Fire District	FL	Operations and Safety	\$554,772	1/1/19	AFG
Southwest Ranches, Town of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$10,638	1/1/19	AFG
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue	FL	Operations and Safety	\$911,364	1/1/19	AFG
Marion, County of (INC)	FL	Operations and Safety	\$96,636	1/1/19	AFG
Islamorada, Village of Islands	FL	Operations and Safety	\$118,340	1/1/19	AFG
Harold Volunteer Fire Department	FL	Operations and Safety	\$61,333	1/1/19	AFG
City of Delray Beach	FL	Operations and Safety	\$585,454	1/1/19	AFG
Ocean City – Wright Fire Control District	FL	Operations and Safety	\$249,275	1/1/19	AFG
Citrus, County of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$407,636	1/1/19	AFG
St. Lucie, County of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$625,000	1/1/19	AFG
Palm Coast, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$142,014	1/1/19	AFG
Fort Walton Beach, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$202,857	1/1/19	AFG
South Daytona, City of	FL	Vehicle Acquisition	\$471,428	1/1/19	AFG
New Port Richey, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$171,000	1/1/19	AFG
Bronson, Town of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$94,595	1/1/19	AFG
West Palm Beach, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$803,709	1/1/19	AFG
St. Pete Beach, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$14,285	1/1/19	AFG
Liberty Fire District, INC	FL	Operations and Safety	\$29,299	1/1/19	AFG
Hallandale Beach, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$28,863	1/1/19	AFG
Seminole Tribe of Florida	FL	Operations and Safety	\$536,496	1/1/19	AFG
Fort Meyers, City of	FL	Operations and Safety	\$228,636	1/1/19	AFG





# 2019 FFIRS Reporting Fire Departments

The Following is a Listing of the Fire Departments that Reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) Section During 2019

## ALACHUA COUNTY

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

- Hawthorne Fire Dept.

Micanopy Fire Rescue {5.0}

## BAKER COUNTY

City of Macclenny Fire Dept. {5.0}

## BAY COUNTY

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

## BRADFORD COUNTY

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

## BREVARD COUNTY

Cape Canaveral Fire Rescue {5.0}  
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}  
Melbourne Beach VFD {5.0}  
Satellite Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Rockledge Fire & EMS {5.0}  
Titusville Fire & EMS {5.0}  
Brevard County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Scottsmoor VFD
- South Melbourne Beach VFD
- Bellwood VFD
- Four Communities Fire Dept.
- Mims VFD
- Merritt Island VFD
- Canaveral Port Fire Dept.

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

## BROWARD COUNTY

Hallendale Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Southwest Ranches VFR {5.0}  
Plantation Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Hollywood Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Lauderhill Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Margate Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Lauderdale by the Sea VFD {5.0}  
North Lauderdale Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Coral Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}

- Parkland Fire Dept.

Sunrise Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Oakland Park Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Fort Lauderdale Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Tamarac Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Miramar Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Davie Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue {5.0}  
Broward Sheriff's Office Dept. of Fire Rescue & EMS {5.0}

- Dania Beach Fire Dept.
- Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue
- Carver Ranches VFD
- Southwest Broward VFD
- Port Everglades Dept. of Public Safety
- Wilton Manors Fire Dept.

## CALHOUN COUNTY

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

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY

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

## CITRUS COUNTY

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

## CLAY COUNTY

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

## COLLIER COUNTY

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

## COLUMBIA COUNTY

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

## DESOTO COUNTY

Desoto County Fire Rescue {5.0}

## DIXIE COUNTY

Cross City Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Horseshoe Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Dixie County EMS {5.0}

- Suwannee VFD
- Old Town Fire Rescue
- Jena VFD

## DUVAL COUNTY

Jacksonville Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Jacksonville Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Jacksonville 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}  
Palm Coast Fire Dept. {5.0}  
Flagler County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Korona Fire Dept.
- St Johns Park VFD
- Hammock Community VFD
- Rima Ridge Fire Rescue
- Espanola VFD

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

**GADSDEN COUNTY**

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

**GILCHRIST COUNTY**

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

**GLADES COUNTY**

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

**GULF COUNTY**

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

**HAMILTON COUNTY**

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

**HARDEE COUNTY**

Hardee County Fire Rescue {5.0}

**HENDRY COUNTY**

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

**HERNANDO COUNTY**

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

- Springhill Fire Rescue
- Tri County VFD

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

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

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

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

**HOLMES COUNTY**

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

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

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

- Indian River County EMS
- Sebastian VFD

**JACKSON COUNTY**

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

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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

**LAKE COUNTY**

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

**LEE COUNTY**

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

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

**LEON COUNTY**

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

**LEVY COUNTY**

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

- Yankeetown VFD
- Fowlers Bluff VFD

 Levy County Fire Rescue {5.0}

**LIBERTY COUNTY**

Bristol VFD {5.0}  
 Hosford FD {5.0}

**MADISON COUNTY**

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

**MANATEE COUNTY**

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

**MARION COUNTY**

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

**MARTIN COUNTY**

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

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

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

**MONROE COUNTY**

Monroe County Fire Rescue {5.0}
 

- Big Coppitt VFD
- Big Pine Key VFD

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

Key West Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Ocean Reef Public Safety {5.0}  
 Key Largo VFD {5.0}  
 Islamorada Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Marathon Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### **NASSAU COUNTY**

Fernandina Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Nassau County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Nassau Oaks VFD
- Bryceville VFD
- Nassauville VFD

Callahan VFD {5.0}

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

#### **OKALOOSA COUNTY**

Destin FCD {5.0}  
 Crestview Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Baker Fire Dist. {5.0}  
 Fort Walton Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Ocean City-Wright FCD {5.0}

- Sylvania Heights Fire District

Valparaiso VFD {5.0}  
 Mary Esther VFD {5.0}  
 Niceville Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Okaloosa Island Fire District {5.0}  
 North Bay Fire District {5.0}  
 Almarante VFD {5.0}  
 North Okaloosa Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### **OKEECHOBEE COUNTY**

Okeechobee County Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Okeechobee Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### **ORANGE COUNTY**

Winter Park Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Apopka Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Reedy Creek Improvement District {5.0}  
 Maitland Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Ocoee Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Orlando Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Winter Garden Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Orange County Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### **OSCEOLA COUNTY**

Kissimmee Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 St. Cloud Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Osceola County Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### **PALM BEACH COUNTY**

Boynton Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Palm Beach Gardens Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Greenacres Dept. of Public Safety {5.0}  
 North Palm Beach Public Safety {5.0}  
 Boca Raton Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Delray Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Palm Beach Shores VFD {5.0}

Riviera Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 West Palm Beach Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Tequesta Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Palm Beach County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Pahokee Fire Rescue

#### **PASCO COUNTY**

New Port Richey Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Zephyrhills Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 City of Port Richey Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Pasco County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Land O'Lakes VFD

#### **PINELLAS COUNTY**

Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 South Pasadena Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Clearwater Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Oldsmar Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Largo Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Lealman Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Tarpon Springs Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Pinellas Park Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Gulfport Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Dunedin Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control {5.0}  
 Madeira Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Palm Harbor Special Fire Control {5.0}  
 Safety Harbor Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 St Petersburg Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 St Petersburg Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Seminole Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Treasure Island Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 St Pete/Clearwater Airport Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### **POLK COUNTY**

Auburndale Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Davenport VFD {5.0}  
 Lakeland Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Haines City Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Lake Alfred Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Bartow Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Fort Meade Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Lake Wales Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Polk County Fire Dept. {5.0}

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

Frostproof Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Winter Haven Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Dundee Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

Palatka Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Southwest VFD {5.0}  
 Interlachen Lake Estates Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### **SANTA ROSA COUNTY**

Allentown VFD {5.0}  
 Milton Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Bagdad VFD {5.0}  
 Berrydale VFD {5.0}  
 East Milton VFD {5.0}  
 Munson Vol Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Pace VFD {5.0}  
 Avalon Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Gulf Breeze VFD {5.0}  
 Jay VFD {5.0}  
 Midway Fire District {5.0}  
 Skyline Fire Prot & Rescue District {5.0}  
 Holley Navarre Fire Protection {5.0}  
 Harold VFD {5.0}  
 Navarre Beach Fire Dept. {5.0}

#### **SARASOTA COUNTY**

Englewood Area Fire Control District {5.0}  
 North Port Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Venice Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Sarasota County Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Sarasota-Bradenton Int'l Airport {5.0}

#### **SEMINOLE COUNTY**

Lake Mary Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Sanford Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Oviedo Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Seminole County Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Longwood Fire Dept. {5.0}

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
 St. Augustine Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 St. Johns County Fire Rescue {5.0}

#### **ST. LUCIE COUNTY**

St. Lucie County Fire District {5.0}

#### **SUMTER COUNTY**

Sumter County Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 The Villages Public Safety Dept. {5.0}

#### **SUWANNEE COUNTY**

Branford VFD {5.0}  
 Live Oak Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Suwannee County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Falmouth VFD
- Luraville VFD
- Wellborn VFD
- McAlpin VFD
- O'Brien VFD
- Ranchette VFD

#### **TAYLOR COUNTY**

Perry Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Taylor County Fire Rescue {5.0}

- Steinhatchee VFD
- Taylor Beach Fire Dept.
- West District VFD
- Athena VFD
- North District VFD
- Shady Grove VFD



**UNION COUNTY**

Union County Dept. of Emergency Services {5.0}

**VOLUSIA COUNTY**

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

Holly Hill Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Orange City Fire Dept. {5.0}  
 Port Orange Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Ponce Inlet Fire Rescue {5.0}  
 Volusia County Fire Services {5.0}
 

- Daytona Beach Int'l Airport Fire Dept.

**WAKULLA COUNTY**

Wakulla County Fire Rescue {5.0}

**WALTON COUNTY**

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

- Freeport Fire Rescue

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Chipley Fire Dept. {5.0}

The FFIRS Section would like to thank each of the fire departments responsible for making this report possible. In total **432** fire departments reported incidents for 2019. This annual report is the product of the compilation of information received from those departments. We appreciate your support which is essential to the production of the annual report. It is our goal to have all fire departments utilizing the reporting system. If your department is not currently participating in FFIRS and would like to, please contact our office at (850) 413-3632 or (850) 413-3749 or [FFIRS@MyFloridaCFO.com](mailto:FFIRS@MyFloridaCFO.com).



# 2019 FLORIDA FIRE SERVICE AWARDS RECEPTION

February 4, 2020, on the 22nd Floor of the Capitol at 5:30

and

## CABINET PRESENTATION

February 5, 2020

In the Cabinet Room of the Capitol

### Florida Fire Chief of the Year

Ryan Lamb – City of Cape Coral Fire Department  
(Cape Coral, FL)

### Florida Career Firefighter of the Year

Jacob Gercak - Winter Park Fire - Rescue Department  
(Winter Park, FL)

### Florida Forestry Firefighter of the Year

David Kent – Florida Forest Service (Bay County, FL)

### Florida Fire Marshal of the Year

Jennifer “Jeni” Pierce – City of Clermont Fire Department  
(Clermont, FL)

### Florida Fire Inspector of the Year

Lora Gugliemini – City of Cape Coral Fire Department  
(Cape Coral, FL)

### Florida Professional Firefighter of the Year

Matt Willhite – Palm Beach County Fire Rescue  
(Wellington, FL)

### Florida Fire Service Instructor of the Year

David Gates – Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

### Florida Fire Investigator of the Year

John McGrath – Lakeland Fire Department (Lakeland, FL)

### Volunteer Firefighter of the Year

Jack Eck – Union County Fire Department (Lake Butler, FL)

### Fire and Life Safety Public Educator of the Year

Claudia Faiola – East Lake Fire Rescue (Palm Harbor, FL)

### Florida Training Center of the Year

Eastern Florida State College – (Palm Bay, FL)

### Fire-based EMS Team of the Year

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue State ALS Team

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

– Jimmy Patronis, State Fire Marshal











# Fire Incident Reporting System

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

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

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

In 2019, fire departments responded to a total of 2,752,770 incidents, which generated 158,220 fewer requests for fire department services than in 2018. Total fire response incidents decreased by 5.44% and total dollar loss decreased by 6.03% based on 2019 data. The number of fire departments that reported to the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) was 432, which remains the same from the previous year, due to consolidation of numerous smaller agencies into one larger one rather than decreased participation in the reporting program. This is a continuation of the steady increase in reporting and data collection since the database was established in

1998, with approximately 775,000 incidents reported statewide that year. The division also uses privileged information obtained from the Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Florida Department of Health (DOH). Their data provides FFIRS information on Florida county wildfire statistics and fire related deaths.

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

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, [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/user\\_tools/](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/user_tools/). 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) 413-3632 or (850) 413-3749 or [FFIRS@MyFloridaCFO.com](mailto:FFIRS@MyFloridaCFO.com).



# FLORIDA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION UPDATE



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

Fire Chief: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_ FDID: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

FFIRS Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reporting Software: \_\_\_\_\_

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

What version is your fire department using: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you reporting On-Line or Off-Line: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

- Yes, name of department: \_\_\_\_\_
- No

The FFIRS Section offers courses on the following:

Please check any that would be beneficial to your department.

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

Contact Person (If different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS FORM IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

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

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





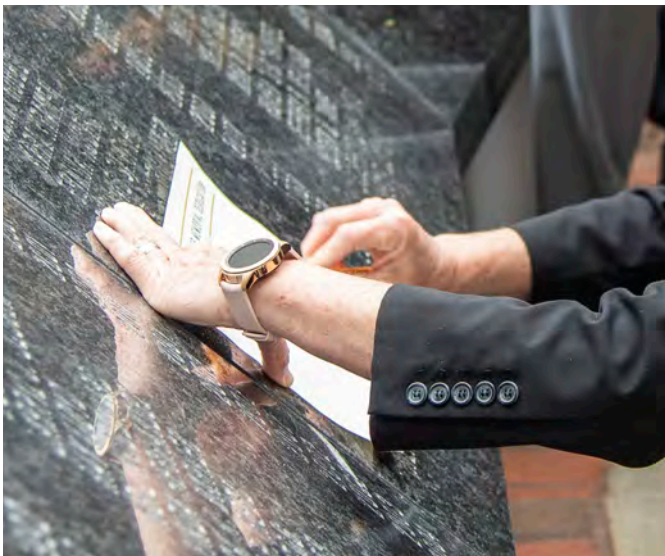
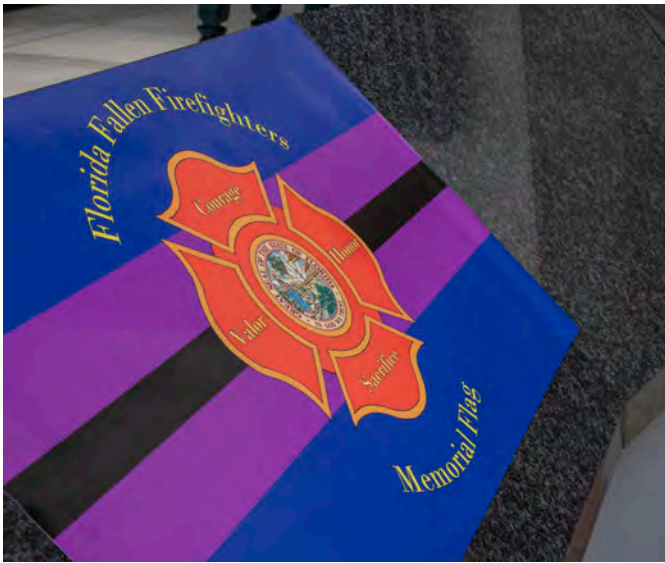
















# EVERYONE GOES HOME

[WWW.EVERYONEGOESHOME.COM](http://WWW.EVERYONEGOESHOME.COM)







# "Fighting Fires with Facts"

Florida Fire Incident Reporting System Section

