

2013

Fire in Minnesota
Fire Reporting System



June 2014

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION
Bruce West
State Fire Marshal



From the State Fire Marshal

I want you to think about something. What does it mean to be a firefighter? There is no right answer. Being a firefighter means different things to everyone who wears the uniform. For some, it's about serving your community. Some love the adrenaline rush. For others, it's about saving lives and property.

Here's what else being a firefighter means: Stopping fires BEFORE they start. It's called fire prevention, and it means teaching people how to respect fire and use it safely.

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division's annual *Fire in Minnesota* report is key to fire prevention. It shows us the facts. It shows us the trends. It shows us that people — despite how hard we try — will die in fires every year because someone was careless.

Snapshot of Fire in Minnesota 2013

- 44 fire deaths — a 12 percent decrease from 50 deaths in 2012
- Careless smoking and cooking — the most common cause of fatal fires
- Cooking and heating — the most common cause of structure fires
- 73 percent of fatal fires occurred where people generally feel safest — at home

The above numbers fluctuate minimally each year. Some statistics creep down. Other numbers stay the same. That's not good enough. We need to drive those numbers down. We need to hit them with a Halligan bar. We need to do it NOW. We all say we want those numbers to plummet. They're not plummeting. That means we're doing something wrong.

We need to change. We must re-evaluate our fire prevention efforts if we want to save lives, if we want to educate people, if we want to influence careless behavior, if we want to reduce the number of fire deaths.

That — as members of the Minnesota fire service — is part of our job. We owe it to every Minnesotan to develop effective fire prevention programs and work together to make sure each citizen understands that year after year, careless behavior causes most fires.

Look at your fire prevention and fire safety program. You have one, right? Develop one immediately if you don't. Analyze the way you're educating your community. Think about what you can do differently. Consider using social media; it's free. Consider having more open houses. Show up at more community events. Knock on doors. Put up posters. Focus on what's killing people and ruining lives and property — cooking fires, open flames, supplemental heating sources and careless smoking.

Fire-and-life safety education will save lives and property in your community. My staff and I are ready to help in any way we can. Contact us any time.

Bruce West
State Fire Marshal
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**MINNESOTA FIRE CLOCK
FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES
AS REPORTED
2013**

**One Fire Department Response
Every 2 Minutes**

One fire reported in Minnesota
every 40 minutes

One structure fire reported in Minnesota
every 1.4 hours

One EMS/Rescue run reported in Minnesota
every 3 minutes

One arson fire reported in Minnesota
every 9.5 hours

Fire dollar loss in Minnesota is
\$627,593 dollars per day
\$26,150 dollars per hour
\$436 dollars per minute

These figures represent the collective incidents reported by 776 of Minnesota's 785 fire departments.

OVERALL INCIDENTS AND STRUCTURE FIRES BY PROPERTY TYPE

Total fires in 2013 decreased by 20% from 2012. The total number of incidents increased by 3%. Incidents are fire department fire and non-fire responses.

Structure fires showed a 2% decrease in 2013. Residential structure fires also decreased slightly.

TWO-YEAR OVERALL INCIDENT COMPARISONS

	2012	2013	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Structure Fires	6,436	6,330	(-2)
Vehicle Fires	2,613	2,485	(-5)
Other Fires	7,558	4,456	(-41)
Total Fires	16,607	13,271	(-20)
Overpressure Ruptures	436	482	11
Rescue/EMS Calls	147,100	154,771	5
Hazardous Condition Calls	10,950	11,712	7
Service Calls	14,426	14,749	2
Good Intent Calls	22,562	23,360	4
Malicious False Calls	1,367	1,296	(-5)
Other False Calls	23,286	24,987	7
Total False Calls	24,653	26,293	7
Mutual Aid Given	6,034	6,115	1
All Other	2,115	856	(-60)
Total Calls	244,883	251,609	3

STRUCTURE FIRES BY PROPERTY TYPE

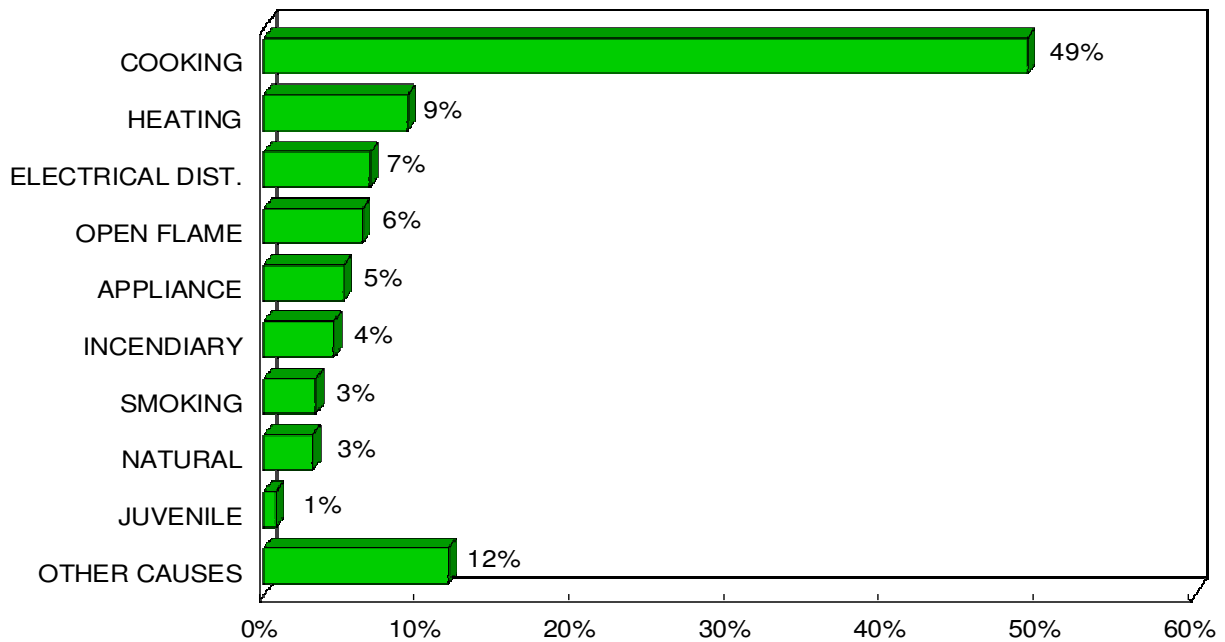
	2012	2013	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Residential	4,862	4,793	(-1)
Educational/Institutional	147	165	12
Public Assembly/Commercial	350	312	(-11)
Industrial/Manufacturing	231	261	13
Storage	556	563	1
Special/Other	228	193	(-15)
Unclassified	62	43	(-30)
TOTAL	6,436	6,330	(-2)

RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRE CAUSES AND DOLLAR LOSS BY PROPERTY TYPE

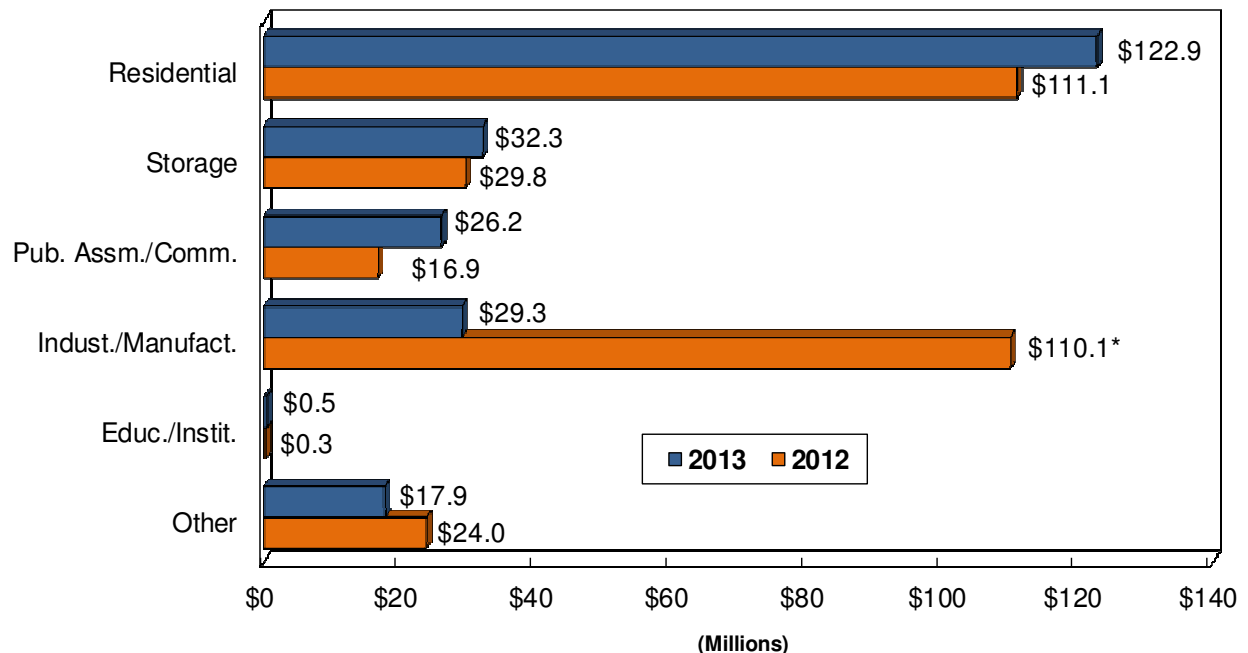
Cooking continues to be the leading cause of residential structure fires with known causes. The second is heating and electrical distribution is the third leading cause.

Total dollar loss in 2013 was over \$229 million, a 22% decrease from 2012, in part due to the Sartell Paper Mill fire in May 2012. Dollar loss in residential properties in 2013 increased 11% from last year.

RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRE CAUSES



DOLLAR LOSS BY PROPERTY TYPE



*Over \$100M loss to Sartell Paper Mill.

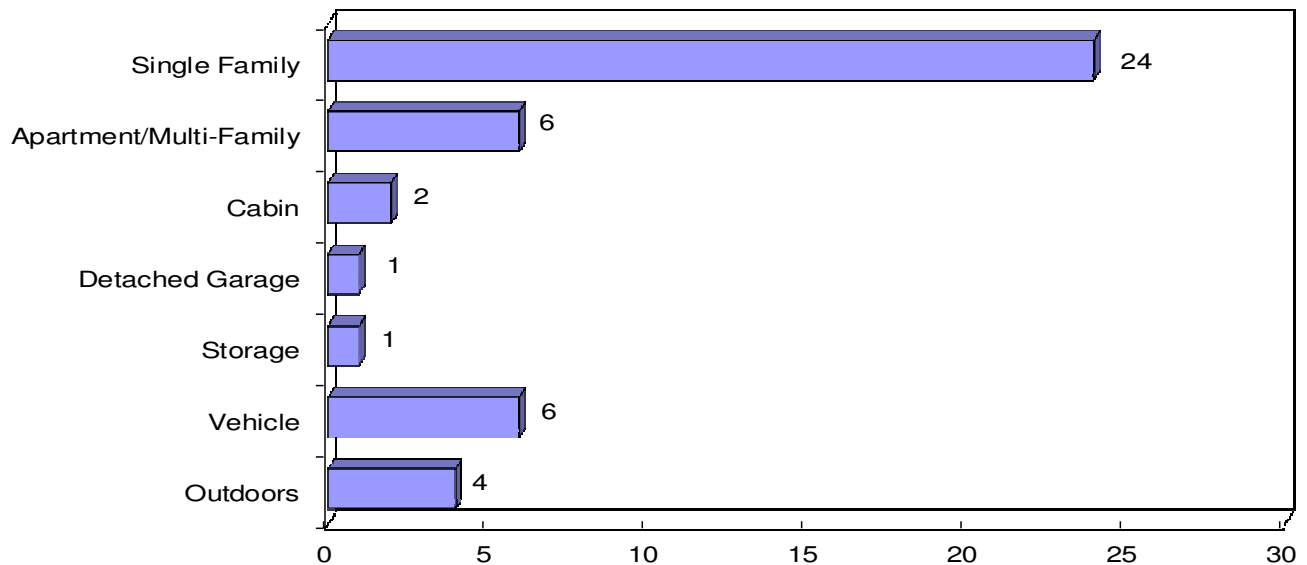
CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS

Seventy-three percent (73%) of the 2013 civilian fire deaths occurred where people generally feel safest – at home.

Careless smoking has historically been the most common cause of fatal fires. However, in 2013, careless smoking tied with unattended cooking as the leading cause of fatal fires (6 deaths).

Fourteen civilian fire deaths occurred in the metro area (35%) and thirty deaths (65%) occurred in greater Minnesota.

CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS BY LOCATION



CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS BY CAUSE

