



President's Message – Kip LaMotte

FMAM members,

As I'm writing this, the snow flurries are accumulating and it reminds me my scraper and brush are not in my truck yet. I'm not as prepared as I should be for winter but here it comes.

This makes me realize other winter fire safety initiatives are on the way and we need to do our due diligence to get the word out to the people we help protect. Even if they don't realize it, we are tasked with helping protect all who live, work or play in our respective jurisdictions.

What have you done to get the word out? Check out the Pub-Ed newsletter put out by the SFM, the US Fire Administration or NFPA for ideas and information. All are great resources to help you in the education efforts for your jurisdictions. Never miss an opportunity to help educate the commercial or residential community. It may be the best information they've had all day.

FMAM website: It appears our new and improved website is actually useable and improved after all. Check out the member's only section and remember to change the password that Gary Schroeder assigns.

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MnFAC: As you know, our representative for the Minnesota Fire Associations Coalition (MnFAC) is Steve Zaccard. Steve has indicated to me that he is interested in stepping down from this committee.

FMAM has a representative for this group that meets every week (in St. Paul) while our state government is in legislative session. The purpose is to have our fingers on the pulse of every fire related bill or initiative coming across the desks of our state leaders. Please reply to me if you have an interest in service on MnFAC.

Residential Sprinklers: As you know, the IRC has in it code language for inclusion of residential sprinklers in one and two family structures. The fire service is meeting with stakeholders regarding this issue. Our state did not adopt the latest model code with this language in it.

The home builder folks are resisting this language and want to make sure it is not adopted. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a copy of the letter that FMAM has sent to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry reflecting our position on residential sprinklers. More work and education needs to be done. More to follow. We will use our website for an email blast to keep members informed of developments in this arena.

Happy Holidays: May you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year. I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

Yours in Prevention and Safety,

Kip LaMotte
President
Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report was received when this edition of the Post Indicator was published. See November Board Meeting minutes for most current financial information.

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2011
New Brighton Public Safety Center**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Kip LaMotte.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- TenKsolar – Tim Johnson – Fire Concerns with Solar Panels.
- KBS AutoMist – Dave Kellogg, Joshua Hadrava & Ryan Bruns – Automatic Hood and Duct Cleaning System.
- FireLink Wireless Notification Devices.

CALL TO ORDER:

The business meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by President LaMotte:

- Introductions of members and guests were made.
- Motion by Jeff Schadegg / Tom Pitschneider to approve the minutes for the June, 2011 meeting – PASSED.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balances: E-mail from Treasurer John Powers – unable to attend the meeting:

- Checking: \$5,200
- Savings: \$26,000
- Recent expenses: Twins Game (Social event) & MN Fire Service Memorial
- Motion by Pitschneider / Wiese to approve the Treasurer's Report – PASSED.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

2nd notices have gone out for those who have not renewed their memberships for 2011.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL (SFM) REPORT:

State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl provided the following information:

SFM Certificate given to Jay O'Connell for NASFM "Faces if Fire Prevention Image" (1st runner-up)

SFM Recognition Plaque presented to Gordy Bates for his years of service to FMAM, Minneapolis Fire Department, and citizens of Minnesota (through his work supporting sprinklers and fire safety).

State Fire Marshal Division is back in full operation following the state shut-down in June; two investigators were called back due to New Ulm multi-fatality fire and worked through most of the shut-down. Some of the sections are still working through the backlogs due to the state shut-down.

Department of Public Safety (DPS) Assistant Commissioner Mark Dunaski was introduced to the group.

There have been 35 fire fatalities to date; there were a total of 39 last year.

The Fire Safety Account brought in more than expected last year. Legislature did not fully appropriate and was going to take all of the balance. In conference committee, not all money was transferred to state budget deficit so there will be a larger fund balance next year. The balance has not been appropriated so it will remain in the fund account.

Shared services studies: Eight reports have been received; there is no money at this time for additional studies.

Kevin McGinty briefed the association on current SFMD training opportunities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Fire Safety Education (Connie Forster):

Cooking fire safety demonstration trailers will be arriving soon:

- Purchased with grant from MN Fair Plan to MSFCA,
- One trailer will be in Hopkins; other in Fergus Falls,
- Training on the use of the trailers has been scheduled and sent out,
- Information on reserving the trailers will be sent out soon.

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) Conference will have public fire safety education sessions.

Jeff Schadegg announced that a video produced by Regions Hospital on burn injury prevention will be free and available for download on YouTube and various websites.

Becki White announced upcoming training on Autism Awareness for Emergency Responders. There will be two sessions in late-February, 2012 (one on awareness and second targeted on educating and intervention with autistic firesetters).

Training & Education (Angie Wiese):

- The December FMAM meeting will feature a representative from the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) on fire safety recalls and information on fire safety concerns with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL).

Governor's Council on Fire Prevention & Control (Jeff Schadegg):

- No recent meetings; white papers available.

MSFCA Code Committee (Angie Wiese):

- Have received copies of 2009 and 2012 code books; beginning analysis of 2012 edition of the IFC.

Certification (Bob Fiske):

- A copy of the recent report was distributed,
- Looking at continuing education hours – inspectors went from having to complete 24 hours for 3 year period to 24 hours per year. Should inspection-related activity count toward some of those hours?

Commissioner's Fire Service Committee (Kip LaMotte):

- Met yesterday (9/13/2011); next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2011.

Legislative (Kip LaMotte):

- FMAM needs replacement for Steve Zaccard,
- Kip is the alternate,
- Non-appropriated funds from the fire safety account is a priority.

Fire Service Advisory: No report.

MnSCU Curriculum: No report

IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition (Roy Kingsley):

- Have not met recently; display is available contact Jeff Schadegg.

State Fair (Chris Hearden):

- Moved from quizzes to hand-outs (coloring books),
- Suggested banner for fair booth.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None due to time

MERCHANDISE: No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roy Kingsley report on IFMA meeting; much of discussion focused on financial issues for both code enforcement officials and property owners (no money for repairs).

The FMAM Board authorized a \$2,000 donation to Minnesota Fire Service Memorial.

Social event: Twins outing scheduled for 9/27 at Target Field @7:10 pm. \$34 each, section 126 rows 25-31

A suggested by-Law change was included in the September Post Indicator newsltter

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Gary Schroeder is working on the final pieces, including the ability to do financial transactions online and establish a "members only" section.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Recognition of Gordy Bates for his years of service to the association and best wishes on his retirement in July.

Pamphlets on FireLink system were made available to members in attendance.

Angie Wiese (St. Paul) is researching temporary LP gas permitting issues; anyone with information is asked to contact her.

ADJOURN:

- Motion by Bob Fiske / Kathi Osmonson to adjourn at 3:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Nisja, Secretary

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 9, 2011
New Brighton Public Safety Building**

Members Present: President Kip LaMotte, Vice President Angie Wiese, Secretary Jon Nisja, Treasurer John Powers, Public Education Chair Connie Forster, Director Tom Pitschneider, Director Roy Kingsley, Director Kris Skow-Fiske, State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl, Past President Phil Owens. Guest: Website Editor Gary Schroeder

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by President Kip LaMotte;

- Motion Tom Pitschneider / Phil Owens to approve minutes from August meeting - Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer John Powers reported that membership income is down for 2011; reminders were sent out (if everyone renewed, we would have 221 members).

Income / Expense report to date:

Income:

- \$4,435.00 membership
- \$4,965.00 training
- \$73.11 interest

Expenses:

- \$21,574.16

Balances:

- \$3,788.46 (checking)
- \$16,722.67 (savings)
- \$20,577.13 (total)

Powers also updated the FMAM Board on some recent changes:

- \$35 / month processing fee for credit card transactions through the revamped website.
- We recently found out that the FMAM credit cards are limited to \$500 unless the card is presented; this is a security measure.

REPORTS:

Merchandise: our new website is linked to www.4alarmclothing.com through the members only tab. FMAM Board members can order a shirt.

State Fire Marshal Report (Jerry Rosendahl): Fire fatalities are up for 2011 over 2010. We can do better on reducing the number of fire fatalities. The majority appear to be human factors and the lack of personal responsibility.

Training: four sprinkler update classes are in the process of being given. In addition there have been

three classes on basic fire code inspections provided this fall. For the foreseeable future, all State Fire Marshal training classes will be free of charge unless there are expenses for outside speakers.

Current staff vacancies: Doug Ackerman's school inspector in southern Minnesota (due to retirement); JV Firesetter Specialist; Fire Service Specialist (new position).

Public Fire Safety Education (Connie Forster): MSFCA to receive two cooking fire safety demonstration trailers (Hopkins has agreed to house one; other to go outstate). Training manuals have been developed. Training to be given at a couple of locations in the metro area soon.

FITOAM Conference: certification test will be given.

A grant request has been submitted on behalf of FMAM to the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training & Education (MBFTE) for \$3,000 for public fire safety education speaker.

This training is to be offered in conjunction with a conference on autism. Look for more information in the Post Indicator as the details on this training are finalized.

Training & Education:

December: CPSC on compact Fluorescent lamps (Steve Putz-CPSC) and recent recalls (CFL and other products). Tom Pitschneider will be the contact person as Angie will be on leave.

Nothing lined up for March meeting yet; the FMAM Board decided to focus this meeting's training on public education. Connie Forster will be asking for FMAM members to submit proposals for presentations at this meeting

December meeting cannot be in New Brighton due to a scheduling conflict; the meeting will be held at Bloomington Fire Station #1.

FMAM is looking for a new representative for U of MN Building Officials Institute to replace Joe Berg.

Nisja reported on possible future training topics for FMAM: JV Firesetter; Vision 20/20 Performance Measures; The New Norm (John Gunyou).

Legislation: no report.

IRC Chapter 1309 Committee: A joint MSFCA / FMAM representative has been requested for this Department of Labor & Industry (DOLI) committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gary Schroeder, Jon Nisja, and Kip LaMotte briefed the FMAM Board about a recent meeting with Bitwise Logic (FMAM Website contractor) on October 28, 2011. There was a lengthy discussion on the website and related issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phil Owens: St. Paul fire inspector asked why no fire representative on state elevator code committee. Suggested to contact Scott McLellan at CCLD.

ADJOURN:

- Motion by John Powers / Phil Owens to adjourn at 10:20 am

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Nisja, FMAM Secretary

Public Education Report

By Connie Forster

Request For Speakers:

Do you have fire prevention program that is working? Share your success story with other members. The FMAM Board is requesting proposals for presentations for the FMAM March meeting which will be focused on prevention.

The Board is looking for model presentations that are representative of all disciplines of fire prevention: Engineering (plan review programs, new technologies etc.), Enforcement (adoption, administration or enforcement of fire codes), Education, Fire Investigation, and Infrastructure (training, data collection and analysis, use of resources etc.).

Presentations will be in a round table format. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes to share their story. There will be a half hour at the end of the round table discussion for questions and answers. In addition to the round table discussion, Fire Safety Educator Becki White will be sharing information on effective education techniques and resources available to departments including

information about the different prevention groups and what they do.

- **Date:** March 14, 2012
- **Place:** New Brighton Public Safety Building
- **Time:** 9:00 am -12:00 noon
 - Break at 10:00 am.
 - Lunch after presentations, general business meeting to follow.

Contact: Connie Forster @sbmfire.com or 763-767-4003 for more information. Proposals for presentations are due February 1, 2012.

Training:

Fire & Life Safety Educator: There will be a Fire & Life Safety Overview course offered at the FITOAM conference in St. Cloud on January 27-29th, 2012. Certification testing will take place on Sunday for those interested.

This is an overview course. Students will need to read the book before class if taking the certification test. Go to www.fitoam.org and click on the conference link to get more information about the conference.

Save the Date: FMAM in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal Division will be hosting training February 27-28, 2012. There will be two classes offered:

- **Autism Awareness for First Responders** presented by Bill Canatta. Autism Spectrum Disorder is now believed to occur in one out of every 110 births. It touches nearly everyone's life at some point. Make certain that you and your organization have the knowledge that you need to protect and communicate with people with ASD.
- **It Takes More than Plastic Fire Hats!** presented by Daniel Byrnes. This class is designed to motivate participants to rethink the current approaches to public education and communication.

On Monday evening, participants can choose to attend either session. On Tuesday, 2/28 the Autism Awareness class will be offered in the morning and the Public Education class will be offered in the afternoon. Details regarding location, time and registration information will be released soon.

Look for more information on the FMAM website, email list serves, and the Public Educator Newsletter. This training will be free and is made possible through a grant from the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training & Education.

Resources:

MSFCA Kitchen Fire Safety Trailers are available to fire departments to use at community events. Go to www.msfc.org for rental information. Reserve them early for your community events.

NFPA has some great holiday safety tip sheets to distribute in your community. Go to: http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Winter_Holiday_Safety.pdf for the winter holiday safety sheet.

Suggested Changes to FMAM Constitution
by Tom Ptischneider, FMAM Director

The FMAM Board is recommending some changes to the FMAM Constitution concerning membership in the association. There are several changes included in this proposal:

- Remove a requirement for associate members to be voted into the association by secret ballot. We have not enforced this requirement for many years.
- Remove a requirement that persons desiring Life Member status apply for this type of membership. Life Member status is given to those members who have distinguished themselves through active participation in FMAM as a committee member or association officer for several years.
- Remove a requirement that persons desiring Retired Member status apply for this type of membership.

These recommended changes, once finalized, will likely be voted on by the membership at the March annual meeting.

Article III
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.

ACTIVE MEMBER - any public official of the state, county, city, or organized fire department in Minnesota who is engaged in the prevention of fire through property inspection, enforcement of fire laws and regulations or through public education.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - any person not qualifying for active membership may apply for associate membership. An associate member shall have no voting power, nor be able to hold any office within the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota. ~~Application shall be in writing and shall state why the applicant has an interest in joining the organization. Approval of the membership shall be by 2/3rds majority of members present. Vote shall be by secret ballot.~~

LIFE MEMBER – any person may apply be eligible for life membership who has met the following requirements:

- A. Been an active member of FMAM in good standing for ten years.
- B. Has retired from the fire service.
- C. Rendered distinctive service to the association through participation on committees and/or has held office for a minimum of five years.

Life Members shall have all rights and privileges of an active member. Life Members shall have voting power and shall be able to hold any office within FMAM. ~~Application shall be in writing to the Board of Directors stating their eligibility to become a Life Member.~~

The Board of Directors shall ~~review the application at the next scheduled board meeting and take action and advise the applicant in writing within 30 days. vote on whether or not to approve~~ Life Member status at a scheduled board meeting and shall advise the Life Member of their status in writing within 30 days of approval.

RETIRED MEMBER – any person may apply be eligible for retired membership who has met the following requirements:

- A. Been an active member of FMAM in good standing for five years.
- B. Has retired from the fire service.

Retired Members shall have the privilege to vote but shall not be eligible to hold any office. ~~Application shall be in writing to the Board of Directors stating their eligibility to become a Retired Member.~~

The Board of Directors shall ~~review the application at the next scheduled board meeting and take action and advise the applicant in writing within 30 days. vote on whether or not to approve~~ Retired Member status at a scheduled board meeting and

shall advise the Retired Member of their status in writing within 30 days of approval.

Pilot Class: Fire Protection Engineering Basics for the AHJ (Jon Nisja):

We have finalized the details for the pilot offering for the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) class entitled: Fire Protection Engineering Basics for the A.H.J.

Class information:

- **Dates:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012 and Thursday, January 19, 2012.
- **Location:** MSP MAC Fire Department – 6920 34th Avenue S – Minneapolis, MN 55450.
- **Times:** 08:00 (start) – 16:30 (end).
- **Fee:** No charge.

Space is limited; to register, go to:

https://lapp.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/FM_Training/FM_HmPgViewCrs.aspx

This is not an entry-level code class; it is intended for persons with 3-5 years of experience with fire prevention inspection or code enforcement experience who desire a further understanding of the engineering, science, and research that has gone into the codes and systems intended to protect lives and property against fires.

Vision 20/20's Webinar Series on Model Measures for Fire Prevention

Vision 20/20 has completed a series of five, free, webinars that looked at Model Measures for Fire Prevention, hosted by the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

These webinars provided invaluable information in evaluating and justifying the impact that fire prevention programs have in your community. Learn more information at the links below.

Each one-hour webinar focused on a different topic including:

- **#1 An Overview of Model Measures for Fire Prevention** (Completed!) Download the [PDF of the webinar](#) and listen to the [full webinar](#).

- **#2 Formative Measures for Fire Prevention Programs** (Completed!) Download the [PDF of the webinar](#) and listen to the [full webinar](#)
- **#3 Process Evaluation for Model Fire Prevention Programs** (Completed!) Download the [PDF of the webinar](#) and [listen to the full webinar](#)
- **#4 Impact Evaluation for Model Fire Prevention Programs** Download the [PDF of the webinar](#) and [listen to the full webinar](#)
- **#5 Outcome Measures for Model Fire Prevention Programs** Download the [PDF of the webinar](#) and [listen to the full webinar](#)

Successful Minnesota Fire Prevention Programs Featured on National Webinar (Jon Nisja)

On December 7, 2011, I participated in a Webinar sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Vision 20/20 called: "Outcome Evaluation Examples for Plans Review, Code Enforcement, Fire Investigation, and Public Education Programs". The webinar provided examples of inspection and public education programs that are having favorable outcomes (reducing fires, injuries, or deaths).

I was so proud to see that many of the examples given were from Minnesota:

- St. Paul FD's Safe Haven program,
- St. Paul FD's Juvenile Firesetter Program,
- Spring Lake Park – Blaine – Mounds View (SBM) FD's home inspection program,
- Minnesota State Fire Marshal's school inspection program.

If you did not have the opportunity to participate in this webinar, it is available (along with the other two related webinars) at: <http://www.strategicfire.org/> (click on "Download Webinars #3" near top of screen).

It was nice to see Minnesota get recognized for some of the innovative programs we are undertaking with positive outcomes. Of the 6-7 examples discussed, four were from Minnesota.

High-rise Fires Cause Quarter Billion Dollars of Property Damage a Year

December 2, 2011 – According to a new report released by the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA), in 2005-2009, there were an average of 15,700 reported structure fires in high-rise buildings per year with an associated \$235 million in direct property damage.

The report, “[High-Rise Building Fires](#),” (PDF, 499 KB) cites apartments, hotels, offices, and facilities that care for sick as accounting for roughly half of all high-rise fires. Structure fires in these four property classes resulted in \$99 million in direct property damage per year.

There is a downward trend in high-rise fires. In the last few decades, a range of special provisions have migrated into the codes and standards for tall buildings. At NFPA’s upcoming Fire & Life Safety Conference, Division Manager of Building Fire Protection Robert Solomon will explore code changes related to high-rise building construction, configuration, systems, planning and evacuation procedures.

More information on Solomon’s session and the conference can be found at: www.nfpa.org/FLSCONF.

Other findings from the report:

- In 2005-2009, high-rise fires claimed the lives of 53 civilians and injured 546 others, per year.
- The risks of fire, fire death, and direct property damage due to fire tend to be lower in high-rise buildings than in shorter buildings of the same property use.
- An estimated three percent of all 2005-2009 reported structure fires were in high-rise buildings.
- Usage of wet pipe sprinklers and fire detection equipment is higher in high-rise buildings than in other buildings of the same property use.
- Most high-rise building fires begin on floors no higher than the 6th story. The risk of a fire is greater on the lower floors for apartments, hotels and motels, and facilities that care for the sick, but greater on the upper floors for office buildings.

Editor's Note: See page 13 of this edition of the Post Indicator for a fact sheet on high-rise building fires (courtesy of NFPA).



Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota

www.fmam.org



785 Old Highway 8 · New Brighton, MN 55112

December 6, 2011

Ken Peterson
Commissioner
Dept. of Labor and Industry

Dear Commissioner Peterson,

Please accept this letter as an “official position” on behalf of the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota (FMAM) specific to the adoption of the 2012 IRC or International Residential Code.

The comments herein are a starting point for discussions aimed solely at the safety of residents and/or occupants of the properties. We at FMAM are cognizant of the economic challenges this day holds and we have worked in the past to come to some sort of resolution. FMAM has historically worked to foster positive working relationships with all disciplines within the model code industry.

As you know, former Commissioner Sviggum had worked tirelessly to come to a common ground with the all disciplines but those actions never quite came to fruition.

Some discussion points and proposed amendments could be:

- A- A phasing in of the requirement. Specifically, a graduated 4 year progression that could be YR-1, homes over 5,000 SF with a garage exception, YR-2, homes over 4,000 SF with the same garage exception, YR-3, 3,000 SF and YR-4 all other non-seasonal homes
- B- Exclusion of Season Recreational Properties Classifications
- C- Trade Off's could be elimination of egress windows, lightweight truss protection, hydrant spacing, road width, or others based on civil discussion on a number of possibilities.
- D- Single Head Design (except for great rooms or extremely large living spaces)
 - 1- This concept would need considerable discussion to determine thresholds but a National Fire Protection Association Standard 13-D could be a starting point.

Both the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association have had discussions trying to gauge interest with other fire safety stake holders. We are open to further discussions, please advice of the avenue we can proceed with.

Yours truly,

Kip LaMotte
President
Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota



Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota

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Home Fires Involving Christmas Trees or Holiday Lights Fact Sheet

Christmas Tree Fires

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 240 home¹ structure fires that began with Christmas trees in 2005-2009. These fires caused an annual average of

- 13 civilian fire deaths,
- 27 civilian fire injuries, and
- \$16.7 million in direct property damage

On average, one of every 18 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 141 total reported home fires.

Home Structure Fires
in Which Christmas Trees Were First Ignited
by Month: 2005-2009



Five of every six Christmas tree fires occurred in December or January. Forty-two percent of home Christmas tree structure fires occurred on the twelve days from December 23 through January 3.

Electrical problems were factors in one-third (33%) of home Christmas tree structure fires.

A heat source was too close to the Christmas tree in one of every five (20%) of these fires.

Thirteen percent of home Christmas tree fires involved decorative lights.

Candles started 11% of home Christmas tree structure fires.

Two of every five (39%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.

Eighteen percent of home Christmas tree structure fires were intentionally set. Half of the intentional Christmas tree fires occurred in January and may have been related to disposal.

Fires Involving Holiday Lights or Other Decorative Lighting with Line Voltage

Holiday or other decorative lights with line voltage were involved in an average of 150 home structure fires per year, resulting in an average of

- 8 civilian deaths,
- 14 civilian injuries, and
- \$8.5 million in direct property damage.

Almost half (45%) of these fires were reported in December and 13% occurred in January.

In one of every six (17%) of these fires, Christmas trees were the item first ignited.

Electrical problems were factors in three-quarters (73%) of these fires. Something that could burn was too close to the lights in 15% of the fires.

Leading Items First Ignited
in Holiday Light Home Structure Fires



Falls are also a problem. A study found that roughly 5,800 people per year were treated at hospital emergency rooms for falls associated with holiday decorations during November to January.²

¹Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, and rowhouses.

²J.A. Stevens and M Vajami. "Fall-Related Injuries During the Holiday Season -- United States, 2000-2003," *MMWR Weekly*, December 10, 2004, 53(48); 1127-1129, online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5348a1.htm>.

Home Structure Fires Originating with Christmas Trees

On average, 240 home structure fires began with Christmas trees per year.

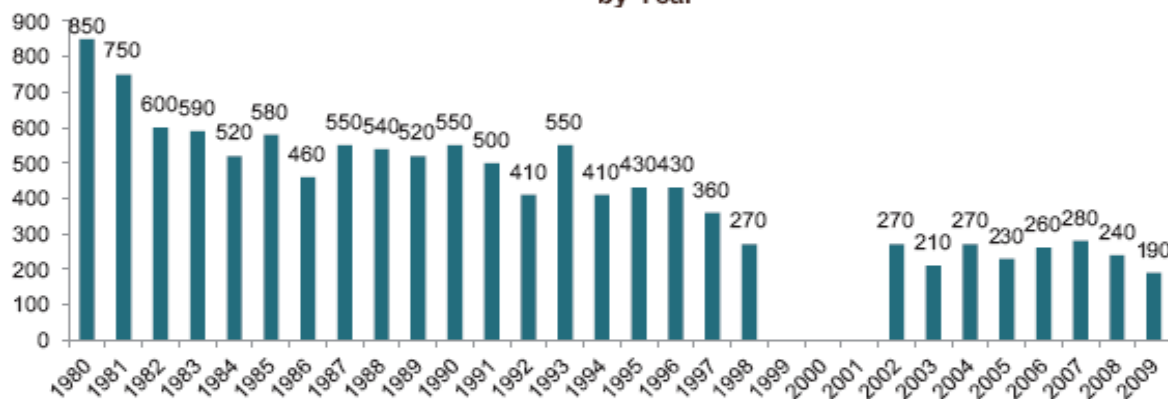
During 2005-2009, Christmas trees were the items first ignited in an estimated average of 240 reported home structure fires per year. These fires caused an estimated average of 13 civilian deaths, 27 civilian injuries, and \$16.7 million in direct property damage per year.

Christmas tree fires accounted for 0.1% of the reported home fires, 0.5% of home fire deaths, 0.2% of home fire injuries, and 0.2% of the direct property damage resulting from home fires.

Home Christmas tree structure fires have declined fairly steadily over the past decades.

Table 1 and Figure 1 show that the number of Christmas tree fires declined fairly steadily from 1980 through the late 1990s. Overall, these fires fell a total of 78% from a high of 850 in 1980 to a low of 190 in 2009. Home structure fires overall fell 51% over the same period.¹ In recent years, the estimated number of reported home fires starting with Christmas trees has hovered between 190 and 300, with no clear trend, although the latest total was the lowest ever reported.

Figure 1. Home Structure Fires in Which Christmas Trees Were First Ignited by Year



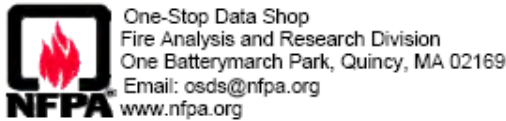
Note: See Note and Source on Table 1. In 1999-2001, participation in NFIRS Version 5.0 was low, which means estimates for these years are highly uncertain and is why those estimates are not shown here.

Source NFIRS 5.0 and NFPA Survey

Deaths from Christmas tree fires peaked in the mid-1980s to early 1990s.

Over the 30-year period of 1980 to 2009, the projected number of Christmas tree fire deaths ranged from a low of zero to a high of 54. Because these statistics are projections and not a complete census of all fire deaths resulting from these fires, it is possible to have an estimate of zero deaths in a year when some deaths actually occurred. A fire that kills several people, when projected, can result in an artificially high estimate of deaths. If only data reported to NFIRS were included, the statistics would always underestimate the fires because of different reporting requirements and practices.

¹ Marty Ahrens. *Home Structure Fires*, Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association, 2011, p. 3.

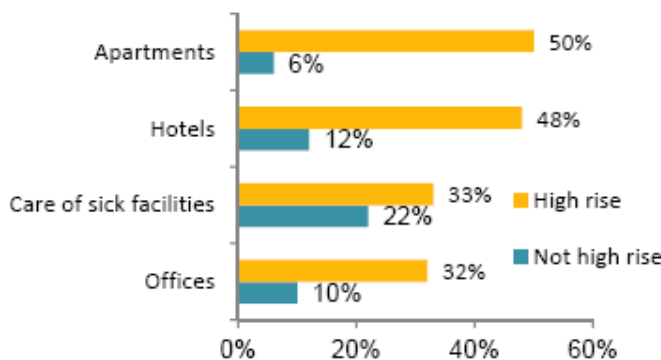


U.S. High-Rise Building Fires Fact Sheet

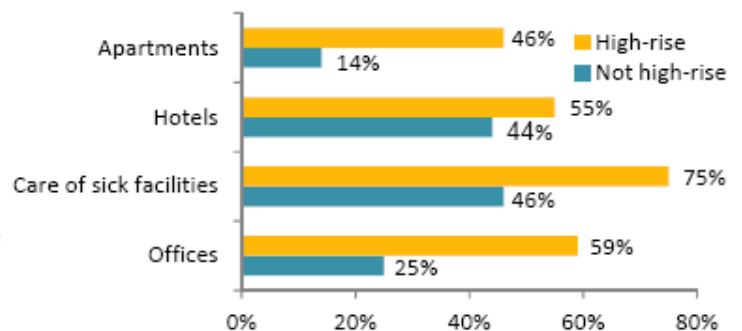
In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of **15,700** structure fires in high-rise buildings.¹ These fires caused an annual average of

- 53 civilian fire deaths
 - 546 civilian fire injuries
 - \$235 million in direct property damage
- Four property use groups account for roughly half of high-rise fires:
 - Apartments (44% of all high-rise fires, 55% of deaths, 18% of damages)
 - Hotels (2% of high-rise fires, 2% of deaths, 21% of damages)
 - Facilities that care for the sick (2% of high-rise fires, 0% of deaths, 1% of damages)
 - Offices (2% of high-rise fires, 0% of deaths, 2% of damages)
 - The rest were nearly all property uses found in mixed-use residential or office buildings (such as restaurants, stores, and parking garages) or probable miscodes of properties that cannot be high-rise (such as dwellings and sheds)
 - By most measures, the risks of fire and of associated losses are **lower** in high-rise buildings than in other buildings of the same property use.
 - A major reason why risks are lower is probably the much greater use of fire protection systems and features² in high-rise buildings as compared to shorter buildings.
 - Further evidence of greater impact from fire protection systems and features in high-rise buildings is in *percentage of fires with flame damage beyond room of origin*:
 - Apartments (7% of high-rise fires vs. 10% in shorter buildings)
 - Hotels (7% of high-rise fires vs. 10% in shorter buildings)
 - Facilities that care for the sick (16% of high-rise fires vs. 19% in shorter buildings)
 - Offices (4% of high-rise fires vs. 7% in shorter buildings)

Presence of Fire-Resistive Construction in Fires, 1994-1998



Presence of Wet-Pipe Sprinklers in Fires Excluding Partial Systems and Buildings Under Construction, 2005-2009



Additional information can be found at www.nfpa.org/highrise

¹ "High rise" is defined here as 7 stories above grade. This is roughly consistent with the Life Safety Code definition of high rise as 75 feet (23 meters) in height, measured from the lowest level of fire department vehicle access to the floor of the highest occupiable story.

² Construction type of building involved in fire is not reported after 1998.

FMAM Meeting Notice & Calendar

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
Bloomington Fire Station #1 - 95th & Nicollet Avenue - Bloomington, MN

1:00 pm - Educational Session - CPSC Fire Safety Recalls & Concerns

Business Meeting to Follow

Important Dates - 2012:

January 9-13, 2012 - Building Officials Institute - University of Minnesota

January 18 & 19, 2012 - Fire Protection Engineering Basics for the AHJ (IFMA Pilot Class)

February 6-10, 2012 - ICC Region III Educational Institute - Oak Ridge Conference Center - Chaska

February 27 & 28, 2012 - Training (Autism Awareness for First Responders & It Takes More than Plastic Fire Hats!)

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 - FMAM Annual Business Meeting & Elections

Wednesday, June 13, 2012 - Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2012 - Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 - Quarterly Meeting