



# Post Indicator



## President's Message – Phil Owens

Fellow FMAM Members:

We are entering the summer season and I am sure that inspections, activities and other impacts on our time will pick up a great deal for all of us. We can expect increases in construction projects, inspection requests and public education events among others. Each of your inspection contacts is important, not only for code compliance, but also because each of these contacts is an opportunity to educate your client about fire and life safety issues.

Please remember in your busy day that it is important to take the extra time needed to fully answer the questions of your clients and to help them toward compliance.

The best allies we have in fire prevention are educated building owners, managers and occupants who understand the hazards and work with us to provide and maintain a safer built environment.

**Elections Held:** We recently held our elections, and I am honored to have been re-elected to serve as your President. I will once again endeavor with the able assistance of the Board, to chart a path for FMAM that will maintain our position as a leader in code development, training and safety education not only in Minnesota but regionally and nationally as well.

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I welcome our new board members: Secretary John Swanson, DSFM, State Fire Marshal Division, and Board Member Roy Kingsley, Fire Marshal, Apple Valley. I look forward to working with both of these members as well as the returning Board Members in the interests of FMAM. They each bring vision, insight and experience and work hard on your behalf.

As new board members arrive, others depart. I must give a very special thank you to Past Secretary Robbie (Floyd) Bartholomew, Fire Marshal, Andover, for her dedicated six years of service as Secretary. Robbie's administrative skills were most valuable in keeping our membership files and records in order and providing a smooth transition for Secretary Swanson. As well, a big thanks to Past Board Member Chris Hearnden, Fire Technician, Vadnais Heights, for his service to the board and especially for his leadership on the State Fair Committee which he intends to continue.

**Legislation Update:** Once again FMAM legislative representatives Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal, Saint Paul, and Kip LaMotte, Fire Marshal, New Brighton, along with our associates at MnFAC have had a fairly successful legislative session.

Several of the bills in which we had interest passed into law including:

- Fire Resistive Cigarettes,
- Reimbursement of nursing facilities for life safety upgrades,
- Increased spending authority for the Fire Safety Account,
- Technical language changes to Fire Safety Account to allow disbursement of funds,
- Increased funding for completion of public safety communications (800 Mhz),
- Safety window screens in residential buildings,
- Public assembly smoking ban,
- Removing the Fire Protection Advisory Council from elimination list, and
- Stalling the Expanded Fireworks Bills in committee, among others.

Special thanks once again to Sherry Munyon and Capitol Hill Associates for their able assistance in this process.

Due to the positive financial condition of FMAM we were able to provide additional dollars to MnFAC in the 2007 legislative session to assist in funding our legislative agenda.

**Code Adoption Slated:** State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl has announced that the adoption of the 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code has been pushed back to July 10, 2007. This will actually help us in providing a more realistic publication date for the Minnesota Edition of the IFC which FMAM is working with the ICC to provide. The Minnesota Edition will be published complete with all state amendments in the text of the document.

**Degree Program Planned:** FMAM along with the State Fire Marshal Division, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the U.S. Fire Administration and other groups are working to develop a curriculum for Associates and Bachelor Degrees in Fire Inspection. These degrees will focus on the needs of inspectors and fire code enforcement professionals. They will differ markedly from the Fire Science degrees now offered which concentrate on fire suppression aspects.

**Fire Inspector Certification Review:** I have appointed John Powers, Fire Marshal, Farmington, to chair a committee of members to do the required assessment and to validate the questions in the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board's Fire Inspector I & II examinations. This is needed in order for the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress to re-accredit our examination program.

**Training:** FMAM, in cooperation with our friends at MSFCA, the State Fire Marshal's Division and the National Fire Sprinkler Association recently provided four days of training on fire sprinkler systems.

The training, held at the Fire Museum in Minneapolis, was well attended and provided a wonderful training opportunity for our members. We anticipate continuing these important training relationships.

The ICC, Upper-Midwest Region III, Educational Committee has begun plans for their 2008 Code

Institute to be held in February. Kip LaMotte, Fire Marshal, New Brighton, serves as the FMAM representative on this committee.

FMAM will, of course, continue to participate in the development of the fire curriculum for the U of M Building Officials Institute to be held in January 2008.

**Membership:** I hope that you enjoy this edition of the FMAM Post Indicator, unfortunately this is the last copy that some of you will receive because you have failed to renew your membership for 2007. Your names will be purged from our lists after the June membership meeting. Please take a few moments to insure that you have renewed your memberships and continue your vital support of FMAM.

Remember... There is no secret to success... It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from your failures.

Yours in the Fire Service;

Phillip Owens, CFPS  
President

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### **Financial Report: 2007 Budget**

No budget report was received from the Treasurer at the time this edition of the Post Indicator went to press.

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### **Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota MEMBERSHIP MEETING Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2006**

9:00 a.m. – Training & Education: NFPA 13 – 2007 Edition Changes – Presented by Rich Pehrson

#### **I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 1306

- Motion by Jeff Schadegg / John Swanson to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2006 Membership Meeting. Passed unanimously.

Pat Coughlin from the ICC was in attendance:

- He reported that there is going to be a vote in May in Rochester, NY for approval of the 2009 International Residential Code. There is a motion to move sprinklers from appendix into code. You must be a registered government official to vote at the meeting.
- ICC also has a certified fire marshal program.

## II. Treasurer's Report:

\$10,477.35 Checking account

\$20,802.23 Savings account

\$31,279.58 Total

Membership Report: Renewal notices have been sent out; 161 renewals back to date. If you have not renewed, please do so as soon as possible.

## III. Committee Reports

### Public Fire Safety Education:

Connie Forster presented some new fire prevention education tools available on the market.

### Training & Education:

Classes will be offered in April by NFSA and AFAA on sprinklers and fire alarm systems.

### Governors Council on Fire Prevention & Control:

Jeff Schadegg gave an update on the committee. Projects include implementation of a state-wide building code and "fire zone" at the Mall of America.

**Code Committee:** no report given

**Certification:** Preparing for review of certification program by IFSAC and NFPA.

**Commissioner's Fire Service Committee:** no report given.

### Legislation:

The following is an update on the items proposed in the legislature affecting the fire service:

- Fire resistive cigarette legislation is gaining momentum in the House and Senate.
- Legislation to make a negligent fire a misdemeanor penalty.
- Implementation of state-wide building code.
- Add a requirement in the building code about child resistant screens.
- Proposal to exempt all electric homes from the requirements of the CO alarm Statute (299F.50).

- Legislation requiring occupants to stay with their vehicle while refueling.
- Proposal to expand the use of fireworks.

Fire service day at the capitol was a huge success with over 150 people showing up to meet with their legislators. Thank you to all who showed up to support the fire service initiatives.

### Fire Safety Account:

State Fire Marshal, Jerry Rosendahl has suggested what positions will be replaced when the fire safety surcharge revenue starts being collected.

### State Fire Marshal Report:

- 2006 IFC will be adopted on May 31, 2007. One more step to go thru before it's final.
- State Fire Marshal, Jerry Rosendahl has established a list of needs/priorities once the fire safety surcharge becomes active. The list includes additional code help, residential inspectors, and investigators to name just a few.
- The SFMD applied for a USFA grant for an on-line fire reporting system.
- Deputy State Fire Marshal, Dan Kaiser will be giving an in-depth training on sprinkler hydraulic calculations in the upcoming months.
- Working with ICC to develop a "2007 Minnesota State Fire Code" with the amendments printed in the document. ICC states they need no more than 60 days to print the books once they receive our amendments.
- Deputy State Fire Marshal, James Anderson gave an update on the State Fire Marshal corrections inspection program. Jim can be used as a resource for corrections facilities questions.

### IV. Election of Officers:

The nominating committee recommended the following for election:

- President: Phil Owens (incumbent).
- Board Seat: 2 persons were interested for the single open Board position: Roy Kingsley and John Swanson.
- Motion by Jon Nisja / Gordy Bates to pass a white ballot for President. Passed unanimously.

Ballots were distributed for the Board Seat; Roy Kingsley received more votes.

John Swanson agreed to run for Secretary; a white ballot was passed for Secretary John Swanson.

- Motion by Tom Pitschneider / Lyle Felsch to destroy ballots. Passed unanimously.

#### **V. New Business:**

President Phil Owens thanks the outgoing board members for their service and hard work. They will be missed.

Gordy Bates stated there is movement to add fire inspectors to PERA police/fire pension.

FMAM board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. Old Business:** No action.

**VII. Good & Welfare:** No action.

**VIII. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 15:15 hrs.

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### **Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2007**

The May, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting was held at the New Brighton Public Safety Facility. The following members were present: Phil Owens, Kip LaMotte, John Swanson, John Powers, Butch Gervais, Roy Kingsley, Jerry Rosendahl, and Jon Nisja

#### **I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Phil Owens at 9:00 am:

- Motion by Gervais / LaMotte to approve the minutes from February Board Meeting - Motion passed unanimously.

Additional agenda items to be added. Breaks will be at approximately 10:30 am.

#### **II. Treasurer's Report (John Powers):**

Financial report current balances: \$32,763.11.

- \$90 interest earned.
- Paid NFPA membership for President Owens.

A discussion was held to finalize and approve the 2007 Budget including a discussion ensued as to whether FMAM should increase the contribution to MnFAC.

- Motion by Nisja to approve budget with an amendment to increase MnFAC funding by reducing code development budget from \$3,000 to \$2,000 and increase MnFAC funding by \$1,000. The \$1,000 is a one-time gift that will be reevaluated every year. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership report / renewals: Membership is now at 181 paid to date.

FMAM Credit Card – The board directed Treasurer Powers to obtain credit cards for Nisja and LaMotte.

#### **III. Merchandise (Butch Gervais):**

The Board discussed current merchandise sales and is interested in reducing the amount of product on hand.

Discussed having FMAM change businesses (vendors) for ordering of merchandise. Butch will look into it.

Nisja reported on his research into purchasing lanyards.

- Motion by Powers / LaMotte to purchase 500 lanyards not to exceed \$1,000. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

**Public Fire Safety Education** (report from Connie Forster): Next meeting is in Coon Rapids on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Public Fire Educators Conference is January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center in Alexandria.

President Owens reported that members had inquired about where to purchase the flameless candles that were demonstrated at the March quarterly meeting; three sources were identified:

- [www.flamelesscandles.org](http://www.flamelesscandles.org)
- [www.candleimpressions.net](http://www.candleimpressions.net)
- [www.cfsi.org/candles](http://www.cfsi.org/candles)

#### **Training & Education:**

Quarterly Meetings (Kip): June FMAM meeting will pursue the elevator inspector and the changes to

the elevator code or a speaker on 3M's Novec extinguishing system.

2007 Classes and Seminars (Jon): Working on a seminar with Rich Pehrson doing a class on NFPA 13 and Dave Stringfield doing a class on NFPA 72. Date is yet to be determined.

2007 Training Needs: The board feels FMAM should pursue training for volunteer fire chiefs on basic code/inspection training. Other future needs or ideas were discussed.

#### **Legislation:** MnFAC Updates

- Fire resistive cigarette bill signed by the governor on 5/7/07.
- Nursing home reimbursement for sprinkler systems sent to governor.
- Omnibus public safety bill signed by the governor.
- Implementation of state-wide building code; no bill was introduced.
- Building codes to require window screens; located in the Omnibus Housing Bill.

#### **Certification** (Phil Owens) –

John Powers will chair a committee to review the inspector I and II tests for accuracy. This must be done by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Efforts are underway to develop a 2 and 4 year fire prevention degree done by MNSCU.

#### **IV. Old Business:**

##### A. Codes: Up-date on Schedule

Fire Code Adoption-Changed to 7/10/07. Memo just came out from CCLD and SFMD changing date from 5/31/07 to 7/10/07.

Fire Code Amendment – Amendments have been submitted to ICC to publish a “2007 Minnesota State Fire Code”.

Fire Code Classes – Will be done by the SFMD, however, dates and times have not been determined.

B. By-Law Changes – Anything needed? No changes identified.

C. Web-site (Jon Nisja) – No report.

D. Other:

#### **V. New Business:**

Social Events – any ideas for 2007:

Boat cruise is an option for a summer outing. Kip will look into minimum number of people and cost.

#### **VI. Good & Welfare:**

New NFSA regional representative. Dan Gengler is available by looking at the NFSA web site under regional representatives.

**VII. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Swanson, Secretary

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#### **Recent Sprinkler Saves**

Within the past 2 months, there have been several sprinkler saves in buildings inspected by the State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD). Here is a summary of these saves based on information from SFMD:

DATE: Friday, May 11, 2007  
 LOCATION: Thief River Falls  
 OCCUPANCY: Residential Facility for Juveniles  
 IGNITION: Intentional (resident)  
 SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler  
 LOSS: Minor fire and water; No injuries. Smoke limited to that wing or area of the facility.  
 TRIVIA: SFMD was called to investigate this fire; no smoke smell was evident until the investigator got close to the room of origin.

DATE: Thursday, May 10, 2007  
 LOCATION: Hibbing  
 OCCUPANCY: Adult Foster Care (Alzheimer's Facility)  
 IGNITION: Unknown – exterior of entrance and spread into attic  
 SUPPRESSED: Sprinkler contained; final extinguishment by fire department  
 LOSS: Water & smoke damage to south and west buildings. Smoke damage only to east and north buildings.  
 TRIVIA: Sprinkler system had recently been finalized 2 weeks prior to the fire. SFMD has worked with the facility for years and convinced them to sprinker.

DATE: Friday, April 27, 2007  
 LOCATION: Duluth  
 OCCUPANCY: Elementary & Middle School  
 IGNITION: Accidental (plastic fan placed on top of open kiln)  
 SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler

LOSS: Minor fire and water; No injuries. Smoke contained to room of origin. Building successfully evacuated.

TRIVIA: Several years ago, Duluth Schools retrofitted all their buildings with sprinkler protection following some school fires that occurred in Minnesota

DATE: Friday, April 20, 2007

LOCATION: Proctor

OCCUPANCY: High School

IGNITION: Intentional (two students) ignited piano cover and piano

SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler

LOSS: Smoke and water damage limited to the area of origin; Building successfully evacuated. No injuries.

TRIVIA: SFMD advised school that they needed to sprinkler when an addition was proposed a few years ago. The district originally balked at sprinklering and appealed via SFM variance (which was denied).

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2007

LOCATION: Duluth

OCCUPANCY: Hotel (in water park)

IGNITION: Accidental (plastic volcano structure shot flames from the top)

SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler contained until fire department finalized extinguishment

LOSS: No injuries. Extensive smoke spread in the large recreation area. Building successfully evacuated.

TRIVIA: Quote from Duluth Fire Chief John Strongitharm: "This sprinkler success answers two age old questions. Yes; a fire can start in the middle of a swimming pool and a properly designed sprinkler system can extinguish a volcano!"

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**Meet New FMAM Secretary John Swanson**

I started with the State Fire Marshal Division in 2002 as a Deputy State Fire Marshal-Fire Code Specialist. In this role I answered code questions from architects, engineers, fire officials, building officials and the general public. It was a great opportunity to learn the 'ins and outs' of the fire code in a relatively short amount of time. In January, 2004 I became a part-time school inspector for the Twin Cities area in addition to the fire code specialist responsibilities. On top of that, due to short staffing in our office I became a day care/foster care Inspector for southern Minnesota in August, 2004 until January, 2006. I am now

currently the School Inspector/Plan Reviewer for the school inspection program. A couple things I enjoy most about this job is working with great people (both at the state and city level) and ending the day knowing I've made a difference by making our schools more fire safe.

One of my goals is to see FMAM get more exposure to the small towns in out-state Minnesota. Fire prevention is not something we just practice in large cities that have the capability of having full-time personnel. Fire prevention should be a vital part of every fire department's mission statement. A person does not need to be a certified fire inspector to practice fire prevention. It's important for volunteer and paid-on-call fire officials to take a more pro-active approach when it comes to fire prevention. I would love to see FMAM reach out to these fire officials who have a desire to learn more but aren't sure where to go or where to start.

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**Meet New FMAM Board Member Roy Kingsley**

I have been a firefighter from Mendota Heights Fire Department for 17 years. During my career with MHFD I have held the positions of Captain, Training Officer, and Fire Investigator. I have also taken leadership roles in our Fire Prevention activities and many public outreach committees. I spent 18 years in the fire sprinkler business, 12 years in Minnesota and 6 years in Oklahoma City, before coming to Apple Valley as the Fire Inspector. I was promoted to Fire Marshal for the City of Apple Valley in 2006 and continue to bring my commitment to fire prevention to all of our new and existing construction. I am married and have two adult daughters, one of whom is married and has blessed us with a beautiful grand-daughter and is due with our second grandchild any day now.

As a board member I am committed to fire prevention and have a strong belief in Fire sprinkler systems. I am excited to be a part of the FMAM team as we work together to get fire sprinkler systems in all buildings. I have never lost a building that had a fire sprinkler system in it, but have lost three buildings that did not have them. I don't believe cost can be a factor in the argument against sprinkler systems as the cost of construction continues to climb and the cost of human lives is beyond measure. I believe my strong commitment to fire prevention and fire

sprinkler systems is a solid match with the goals and priorities of this great group.

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### Meet FMAM Public Education Chair Connie Forster

Public Fire Safety Education Committee Chairperson Connie Forster was interviewed for this edition of the Post Indicator. She describes her background and experience and shares some of the vision she has for fire safety education and FMAM.

**Post Indicator Editor Jon Nisja (PI):** *What do you view as the big fire prevention and fire safety education challenges of the near future?*

**FMAM Public Education Chair Connie Forster (Forster):** As the pace of life gets faster, the culture more diverse and the world more technological, we need to find new ways to reach audiences.

**PI:** *Can you describe some of the fire safety education projects that your fire department is involved with?*

**Forster:** We focus on two areas for our educational efforts: Home safety and children. During a home safety survey, an educator walks through the home with the resident and gives suggestions on making the home safer. Smoke alarms are also installed if needed. Our school program focuses on prevention education for all grade levels. We support the Risk Watch program and are active members of the Anoka County Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program. Some new projects we are working on include developing a partnership with Saint Cloud State to incorporate technology into our programming and developing interactive learning stations at Fire Station 3. These stations will allow participants to learn injury prevention through exploration-much like you would see at a science or children's museum.

**PI:** *How have you seen fire prevention and fire safety education change during your tenure in the fire service?*

**Forster:** Departments are becoming more diverse in their programming. I have seen the shift from focusing only on fire safety/prevention to focusing

on injury prevention. Because of the web, it is also easier to find free quality materials for programming.

**PI:** *What is your advice to new fire inspectors or fire safety educators who may be coming into this line of work?*

**Forster:** There are so many departments doing good things in prevention. My advice for everyone-education veterans as well as new inspectors and educators-is to seek help from colleagues. Find out what is working in other communities. Learn from their successes and failures. We all have a lot to learn from each other.

**PI:** *You have been active in FMAM as a member and a Board Officer for a few years; what do you view as the strengths of the organization?*

**Forster:** The strengths of FMAM are the networking, support and educational opportunities it provides.

**PI:** *Many FMAM members focus most of their attention on fire code inspection and enforcement issues; you have the luxury of working for a fire department that employs persons whose primary focus is public fire safety education. What advice do you have for FMAM members who perform fire safety education as a relatively small part of their job duties?*

**Forster:** Find out what the biggest fire/injury problem is in your community and then develop educational programs focusing on that problem. Start small with a focus. Tap into strengths of department members. Many times people would like to help but are not sure what to do or are uncomfortable with public speaking. These are the folks that might be able to help make props or write news releases. They just need to be asked.

**PI:** *How do you measure the success of fire safety education in your department? Do you have any suggestions for others on how to implement performance measures or successful outcomes?*

**Forster:** Success of prevention education is not always easy to measure. It is difficult to know if the candle that "Mr. Smith" removed from his bedroom because of education prevented a fire. Our department looks at fire and injury trends over a period of time; five and ten year trends. We track

addresses where home surveys have occurred and cross reference this list when there is a residential fire. We are in the process of developing a program to track behavior changes from the home survey. We do subjective evaluations after programming. We do pre and post testing to measure knowledge gain after some of our programs. To measure performance measures, I think it is important to look at more than statistics. Try to measure behavior and knowledge change for individual participants.

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**Groundbreaking Study Of Smoke Characterization Could Change The Face Of Fire Safety**

Please read the news release below.  
<http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryID=488&itemID=34042>

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**Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial Association Coin Challenge Fundraiser**



Commemorative coin honors the selfless heroism of our firefighters. It is dedicated to the Minnesota fire service, our hometown heroes who died while rescuing people in their own community and honored by fellow firefighters left behind who continue to watch over our homes and families 24 hours a day.

**Why Coins?**

Soldiers in active combat originally popularized the tradition of the challenge coin, which served as an identifying token signifying membership in an elite combat or flying unit. Now, nearly every squadron or unit possesses such coins and each member

receives one. That tradition spread to many police departments and elsewhere as a natural extension to express pride and belonging. Unlike other types of gifts, a coin is a permanent and valuable object that will remain prized for generations. It can appreciate in value and be sought by collectors.

Coins can be purchased at \$10.00 each through the Minnesota MFFMA website: [www.mffma.org](http://www.mffma.org) or by contacting Brenda Lodermeier, MFFMA member at St. Cloud Fire Department at (320) 333-4424.

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**Public Safety Bill Ceremonial Bill Signing with Governor Pawlenty**

Several members of the MnFAC Group were present when Governor Pawlenty conducted a ceremonial bill signing of the Omnibus Public Safety Bill yesterday. The specific provision in the bill was the fire safe cigarette; this was MnFAC's primary initiative for the session this year. The bill also contained the language and funding for the Fire Safety Account, funding for the ARMER system, and language to allow the training board to hire staff.



Pictured (let to right): Sherry Munyon of Capitol Access (MnFAC Lobbyist), New Brighton Fire Marshal Kip LaMotte (FMAM), Chief Nyle Zikmund (SBM), Chief Bill Mund (St. Cloud), Governor Tim Pawlenty, Chief Marty Scheerer (Edina), Chief Bruce West (Elk River & President MSFCA), Training Chief Jim Hansen (SBM), and Senator Linda Higgins and in the ceremony.



### Smoke Alarms in Reported U.S. Home\* Fires

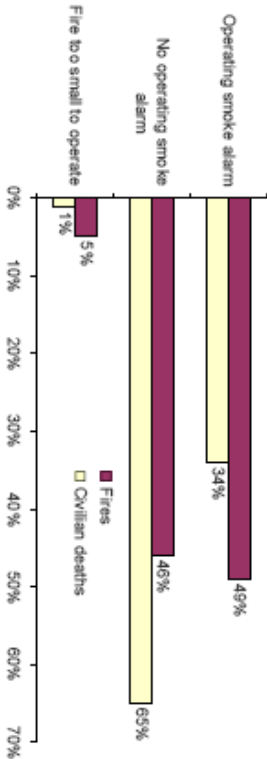
Based on a telephone survey done in 2004, 96% of all homes have at least one smoke alarm. Overall, three-quarters of all U.S. homes have at least one working smoke alarm.

The 2000-2004 statistics derived from the Version 5.0 of the U.S. Fire Administrator's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey show that

- Smoke alarms sounded in roughly half of the home fires reported to U.S. departments.
- 65% of reported home fire deaths in 2000-2004 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
  - In 22% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.



Home Structure Fires and Deaths by Smoke Alarm Status  
2000-2004 Annual Averages



- The death rate per 100 reported fires is twice as high in homes without working smoke alarms (1.13) as homes with working smoke alarms (0.55)
- An estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms.

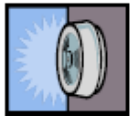
Other studies, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Smoke Detector Project, and the study of homes in rural Iowa by Peek-Asa et al., found that many homes do not have a smoke alarm on every level.

\*Homes include one- and two-family dwellings, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms, 04-07

IX

NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA

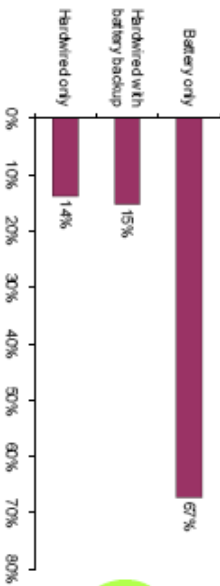


### Home Smoke Alarm Power Sources

Two-thirds of the smoke alarms in non-confined home structure fires were battery-operated. Homes built since 1980 were more likely to have hardwired smoke alarms.

Hardwired smoke alarms tend to be interconnected so that if one sounds, all will sound. This can provide earlier warning throughout the home regardless of the location of the fire and the location of the people.

Leading Smoke Alarm Power Sources  
in Non-Confined Home Structure Fires  
2000-2004 Annual Averages

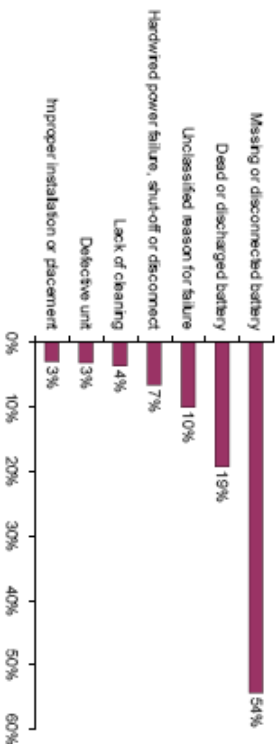


### Reasons for Smoke Alarm Failure

In more than half of the reported fires in which the smoke alarms did not operate, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms.

Roughly one of every five smoke alarm failures was due to dead batteries. Only 7% of the failures were due to hardwired power source problems.

Reason Smoke Alarm Failed to Operate  
in Non-Confined Home Structure Fires  
2000-2004 Annual Averages

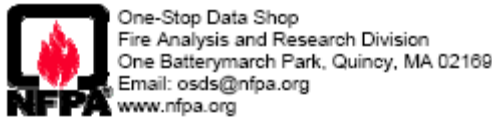


Source: Ahrens, Marty. U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Detection Equipment, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, April, 2007.

U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms, 04-07

X

NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA



## U.S. Home Structure Fires

U.S. fire departments responded to 381,000 home<sup>1</sup> structure fires in 2005. These fires caused:



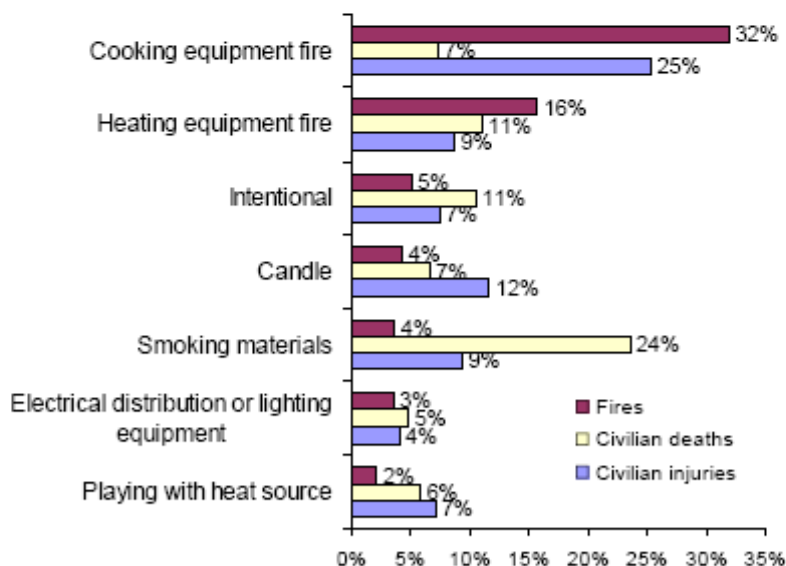
- 3,030 civilian fire deaths
- 13,300 civilian fire injuries
- \$6.7 billion in direct damage
- 82% of all civilian fire deaths in 2005 resulted from home structure fires.
- On average, a home fire killed one person every three hours.

### Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System show that

- Cooking is the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking is the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.

Major Causes of Home Structure Fires  
2000-2004 Annual Averages



**FACT:** Children under five and adults over 65 face the highest risk of fire death.



65% of reported home fire deaths in 2000-2004 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Based on a telephone survey done in 2004, 96% of all homes have at least one smoke alarm.

<sup>1</sup>Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

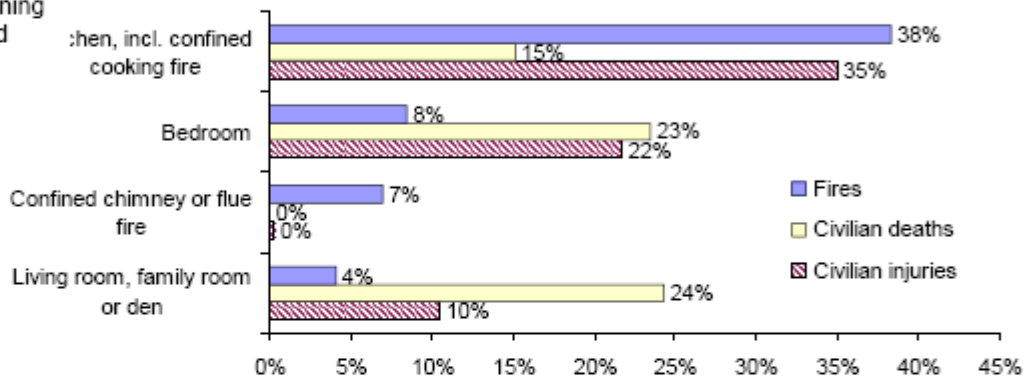
**Kitchens were the leading area of origin.**

- 38% of home structure fires and 35% of civilian home fire injuries resulted from kitchen fires. (Kitchen fires also include confined cooking fires.)
  - 15% of home fire deaths also resulted from kitchen fires.
- 4% of home fire deaths started in the living room, family room, or den; these fires caused 24% of home fire deaths and 10% of the home fire injuries.
- 8% of reported home fires started in the bedroom. These fires caused 23% of home fire deaths and 22% of home fire injuries.
- Confined chimney or flue fire fires accounted for 7% of all reported home fires. These fires caused very few casualties.



Fact: 21% of home fire deaths resulted from fires beginning with upholstered furniture.

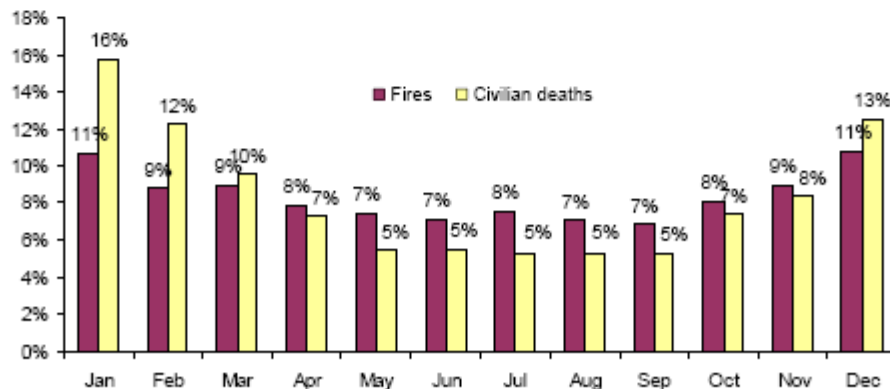
**Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Fires  
2000-2004 Annual Averages**



**January and December were the peak months for home structure fires and home fire deaths.**

- Home fires, fire deaths and fire injuries are more common on Saturday and Sunday.
- 20% of reported home fires occurred between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM; these fires caused 54% of all home fire deaths.
- Home fires peaked around the dinner hour between 6:00 and 7:00 PM.

**Home Structure Fires and Fire Deaths by Month  
2000-2004 Annual Averages**



Sources: Karter, Jr., Michael J., *Fire Loss in the United States during 2005 Abridged Report*, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, September, 2006. Ahrens, Marty. *Home Structure Fires*, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, February, 2007.

**FMAM Meeting Notice & Calendar**

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

New Brighton Public Safety Center - 785 Old Highway 8

12:30 p.m. – Legislative Update

1:00 p.m. – Education Program: 3M Novec Fire Suppression Systems

2:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

**Other Important Dates:**

Wednesday, September 12, 2007 – Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 – Quarterly Meeting

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota  
Post Indicator; Jon Nisja - Editor  
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