
NEVADA STATE FIRE MARSHAL 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)



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STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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2003 Fire Statistics

In 2003 only 16 departments of 145 statewide reported data to the State Fire Marshal's NFIRS Program Office. All of the statistics in this report reflect these few departments that reported for the year.

Incidents/Cost for Year

Structure Fires	222
Vehicle Fires	166
All Other Fires	<u>269</u>
Total Fires Reported	657

EMS	8416
Malicious Calls	26
Other False Calls	582
Special Intent Calls	59
Rupture/Explosion (no fire) Calls	7
Hazardous Conditions (no fire)	394
Service Calls	967
Severe Weather/Natural Disasters	4
Good Intent	1001
Unknown	<u>1</u>
Total Non-Fire Activities	11457

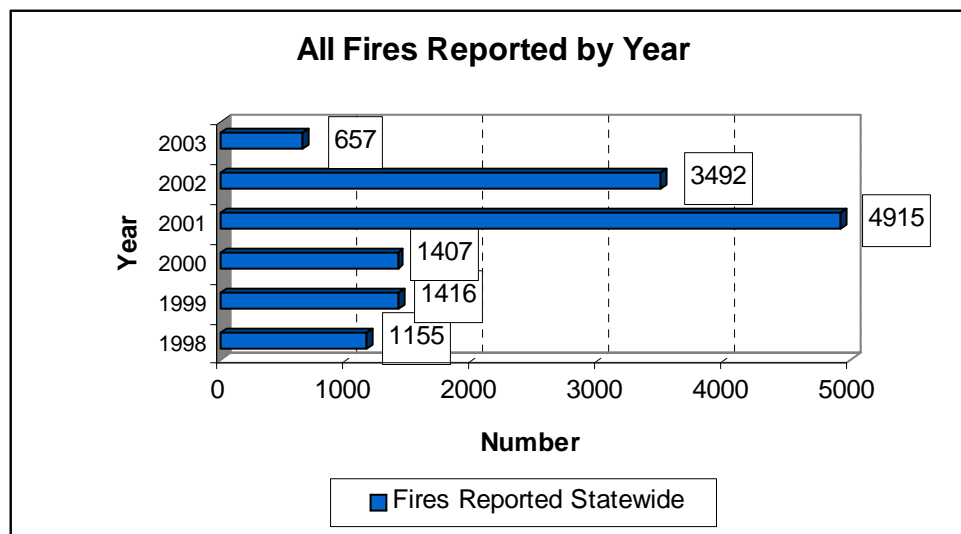
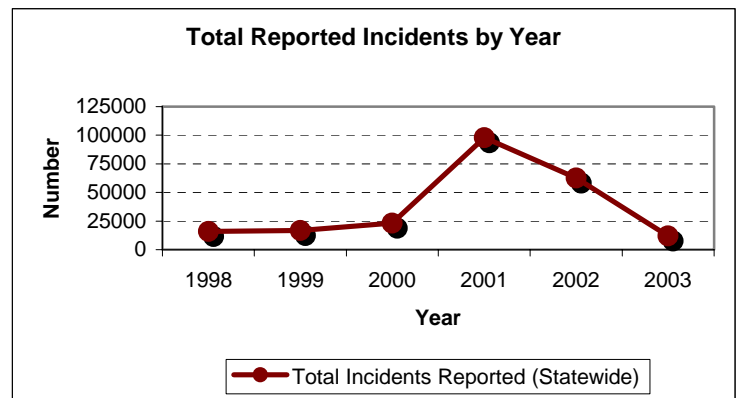
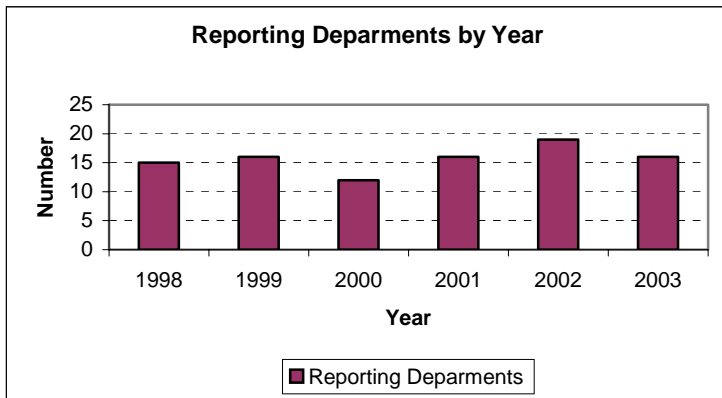
Total Reported Activities	12114
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Estimated Dollar Loss Due to Fire (Residential)	\$2,664,472
Estimated Dollar Loss Due to Fire (Mercantile)	\$13,004,239
Estimated Dollar Loss Due to Fire (Industry)	<u>\$12,108</u>
Total Reported Estimated Dollar Loss	\$15,680,819

Civilian Fatalities	5	Civilian Injuries	11
Fire Service Fatalities	0	Fire Service Injuries	4

Six-Year Trends

YEAR	NUMBER FD's REPORTING	TOTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED	NON-FIRE ACTIVITIES	ALL FIRES	STRUCTURE FIRES	VEHICLE FIRES	OTHER FIRES
1998	15	15855	14700	1155	284	254	617
1999	16	16722	15306	1416	297	275	844
2000	12	23349	21942	1407	498	258	651
2001	16	97802	92887	4915	1696	1083	2136
2002	19	62691	59200	3492	1184	811	1497
2003	16	12114	11457	657	222	166	269



Places of Fire Origin In Residential Structures

In 2003, the most common place in a home for a fire to start continues to be the Kitchen. There were 97 kitchen fires, which equal 56.7% of the total residential fires reported. The second leading area was the chimney with 24 fires. The remaining top three locations included the bedroom with 16 fires, the living room with 14 fires and the exterior wall surface with 8 fires. These top five categories represent 92.9% of all reported residential fires statewide for 2003.



Some Words from the Nevada NFIRS Program Officer

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all of the Nevada Fire Fighting community and have enjoyed a warm welcome from every fire department I have had the privilege to visit so far. My background is primarily statistics and database management of large computer data depositories. I spent 20 years doing this same type of work in the US Air Force, retiring from service in August 2003.

Since being hired by the State Fire Marshal back in February 2004 a lot has had to be done in a very short time for the NFIRS program to get back on track after the position being vacant for almost a year. All records that were being stored awaiting input into the national database were done and verified, followed by myself attending the NFIRS course at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. An introductory NFIRS training program has been created and used several times in the past few weeks throughout the state getting more and more departments reporting this important lifesaving data.

After reviewing the NFIRS data for 2003, it is very apparent that we are far behind the curve in collection and participation versus the other states. As of this moment Nevada ranks, 47 out of the 48 reporting states including the District of Columbia. Of the 145 reportable departments in the state, only 16 are currently reporting (11.0%) and of those 16, only 5 have reported for a full 12 months. My plan is to get Nevada to the national participation level of 63% of departments reporting as soon as possible.

The Fire Administration uses NFIRS for many purposes. Among these are:

- Prioritizing the many fire issues that exist in the U.S. and setting agency goals and objectives;
- Identifying aspects of the fire problem that require continued monitoring, additional research or administrative action;
- Quantifying the costs of fire, both in terms of lives and property and educating the public and political leaders about the need for improved fire safety;
- Preparing Congressional testimony and justifying budget requests to support the work of USFA and all grant programs.

In short, NFIRS provides fire service professionals and many others with vital information on the nature and scope of the fire problem in the U.S., State and local levels. In the private sector, manufacturers concerned about safety of their products use NFIRS data. In the public sector, government and other organizations responsible for monitoring the safety of consumer products including upholstered furniture, cigarettes, portable space heaters, kerosene heaters, chimneys, cigarette lighters and smoke detectors use NFIRS data. NFIRS data is used for setting budgets for fire service agencies, allocating priorities among protection issues and evaluating the effectiveness of programs and initiatives. It has also helped identify emerging trends in fire protection issues faster than ever before by aggregating millions of records of fire data and allowing the comparison of data from one year to another.

I look forward to meeting and visiting all of the 145 State Agency Fire Departments throughout Nevada in the coming year, providing training and answering all of your NFIRS questions.

Danny M. Brennan
Nevada State Fire Marshal Office
NFIRS Program Officer

NFIRS – Nevada and Federal Rules of Engagement

State of Nevada Statutes that mandate NFIRS use

NRS 477.030, Duties; powers (State Fire Marshal), paragraph 7

The State Fire Marshal shall put the National Fire Incident Reporting System into effect throughout the state and publish at least annually a summary of data collected under the system.

NAC 477.905 National Fire Incident Reporting System: Reporting requirements. (NRS 477.030)

For the purposes of the National Fire Incident Reporting System to be put into effect throughout this state as required by NRS 477.030:

1. All local fire jurisdictions in this state shall report to the State Fire Marshal such statistics and data required to publish a summary of fire incident information that is compatible with the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Any fire service within this state may obtain a copy of the annual report from the State Fire Marshal at no charge.
2. The State Fire Marshal will report the statistics, which he/she collects pursuant to this section to the National Fire Information Council semiannually. Because the State of Nevada has been designated as an “all-incident reporting state,” local fire jurisdictions shall report their statistics in a timely manner and in accordance with reporting deadlines established by the State Fire Marshal. (**Note: See page 9 of this report for deadlines).
3. A local fire jurisdiction that is facing technical difficulties in providing information pursuant to this section will receive assistance from the State Program Manager for the National Fire Incident Reporting System within the State Fire Marshal division.
4. A local fire jurisdiction may use computer-aided programs in reporting its information if the programs have been certified for such use by the National Fire Information Council.

Federal Statutes that mandate NFIRS use

Excerpt from the Department of Homeland Security’s Program Guidance for the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program;

Page 26, Grantees’ Responsibilities, paragraph 8: Agree to provide information, through established reporting channels, to the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the period covered by the assistance. If a 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 system for a twelve-month period commencing as soon as they develop the capacity to report. AFG program grantees from previous years will not be allowed to close out 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.

Excerpt from the Program Guidance for the 2004 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant;

Page 10, Grantees’ Responsibilities, paragraph 7: If applicant is a fire department they must agree to provide information, through established reporting channels to the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the period covered by the assistance. If a fire department 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 system for a twelve-month period commencing as soon as they develop the capacity to report.

NFIRS – Deadlines, Commitments and Other Items

Deadlines

All NFIRS reports should be submitted NLT the first Friday following the end of a month. If that day is a holiday, then the following Monday is the deadline.

Send all NFIRS Files to the NFIRS mailbox at: NFIRS@dps.state.nv.us

Send all files in a “.txt” format as the state system will not allow “.zip” files through their email system.

Commitments

The NFIRS Program Office is available Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, except Federal and State Holidays.

All data submitted will be transferred to the USFA in a timely manner and will be included in the National Database each year.

Statistical data requests will be handled as quickly as possible for all fire agencies. Please plan ahead and get your request in as soon as possible so we have the maximum amount of time to work your very important request.

Each year this Annual NFIRS Report will be published and circulated throughout the state NLT March of each year for the previous 12-month period. This year was an exception, as we did not have a Program Officer in place until February 2004 and formal training could not be accomplished until June 2004.

Training, NFIRS Client software installation and all support by the State NFIRS Program Office is provided free of charge to any and all fire departments and their employees. Please call the NFIRS Program Officer to set-up training and installation at: (775) 684-7526.

Other Items

The NFIRS Program Office is constantly pursuing any and all options to make reporting easy and painless as possible at all levels. We are working to rid the state of the dozen or so different reporting methods currently in use, and trying to make a one-program-fits all system available.

This is definitely a difficult undertaking and we are listening to everyone’s concerns with the current methods versus the new programs available out there today. Please forward any and all comments you may have on making the NFIRS reporting system better for all of Nevada’s firefighting elite!

Send your questions and comments to: dbrennan@dps.state.nv.us