2024
Fire in Washington

Prepared by the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office

CONTRIBUTORS

Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal James Ross
NERIS Coordinator

Deputy State Fire Marshal Courtney Chambers
Public Information Officer / Community Risk Reduction Officer

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Gregory Baruso
Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section

Assistant State Fire Marshal Melissa Gannie
Fire Prevention Division Commander

Ellen Tombleson
Confidential Secretary

Adrienne Summers
Administrative Assistant 4

This report has been prepared by the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) with data provided by Washington State fire service agencies. The SFMO would like to thank our fire service partners for their continuous support in providing the data necessary for the generation of this report.

Washington State Patrol
State Fire Marshal's Office
Phone: (360) 596-3900
Email: firemarsh@wsp.wa.gov
www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/

@wafiremarshal

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FROM THE CHIEF

Fire Service Partners and Advocates:

The *2024 Fire in Washington* report highlights the emergency response activities of the Washington State Fire Service over the past year. Compiled by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), the report leverages data submitted by Washington's fire agencies to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). This system provides critical information, serving as a foundation for collaboration with fire agencies to address statewide needs.

The data within this report can be utilized to develop a comprehensive approach to risk mitigation and public education. The resulting Community Risk Assessment serves as a blueprint for implementing effective fire prevention programs and suppression strategies.

This initiative reflects the dedication and leadership of the Washington Fire Chiefs, Washington Fire Commissioners, and every member of our state's fire service. Together, we are committed to making Washington a safer place to live, work, and play.

CHIEF JOHN R. BATISTE
Washington State Patrol

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Service Partners:

The *2024 Fire in Washington* report details the emergency response information reported by fire agencies from across the state with an emphasis on fire incidents. Fire agencies in Washington provide critical fire and life safety services to the citizens of the state, and tracking these incidents is an essential part of implementing and sustaining the programs and services that are needed to safeguard life and property.

The information presented in the annual report shows that there were more than 30,000 fire incidents causing over $495 million in reported loss. In 2024, there were 72 fire fatalities reported to the SFMO. Structure fires were the leading incident type reported, followed by natural vegetation fires and outdoor rubbish fires.

The SFMO prepared this report to support fire service leaders, organizations, industry professionals, and the public. It provides valuable information to identify and prioritize statewide and regional risks while guiding fire service leadership in strategically allocating resources to mitigate those risks. Effective community risk reduction relies on thoroughly assessing the hazards facing local communities. Incident data offers critical insights into the fire service's emergency response experiences. By evaluating vulnerabilities, comprehensive plans and implementation strategies can be developed to safeguard lives and property in the event of a disaster. We commend the collaborative efforts of fire agencies across Washington State in reducing the impact of fire incidents.

State Fire Marshal Chad L. Cross
State Fire Marshal's Office

PREFACE

This report provides a summary of all reported incident categories, with a primary focus on fire-related data in 2024. The statistical reports are derived from the United States Fire Administration (USFA) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0, as submitted by the Washington State Fire Service. Where needed, secondary sources are incorporated to offer deeper analysis and additional context. Figures presented may vary slightly depending on the date the summary report was generated. Any data submitted after the report's generation is not included in this publication. Regional reporting has not been included in this report, allowing focus on the statewide level. As of June 27, 2025, this report has been updated to reflect a correction on page 12 regarding AES activations and related dollar loss.

NFIRS data is essential in identifying fire risks within Washington State communities. When combined with other data sources, this report serves as a key component in developing the Statewide Risk Assessment (SRA). The SRA provides fire service agencies and the communities they serve with data-driven insights into emerging and ongoing fire and life safety risks, helping to prioritize and allocate resources for risk mitigation and reduction.

Washington State faces distinct hazards due to its topography, population distribution, and infrastructure. In addition to well-known risks such as wildland fires, severe weather, and traffic disruptions, evolving regional hazards have emerged in recent years due to demographic shifts, political activism, residential construction trends, changing energy demands, and climate variability. A comprehensive SRA can guide the State Fire Marshal's Office, local fire agencies, and other stakeholders in directing resources, funding, and workforce efforts toward addressing the most significant risks in each region.

Washington State's 450 fire service agencies are staffed by career firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or a combination of both, working together to protect lives and property. This report is presented as part of our ongoing commitment to protecting both the residents and the resolute firefighters who serve our communities.

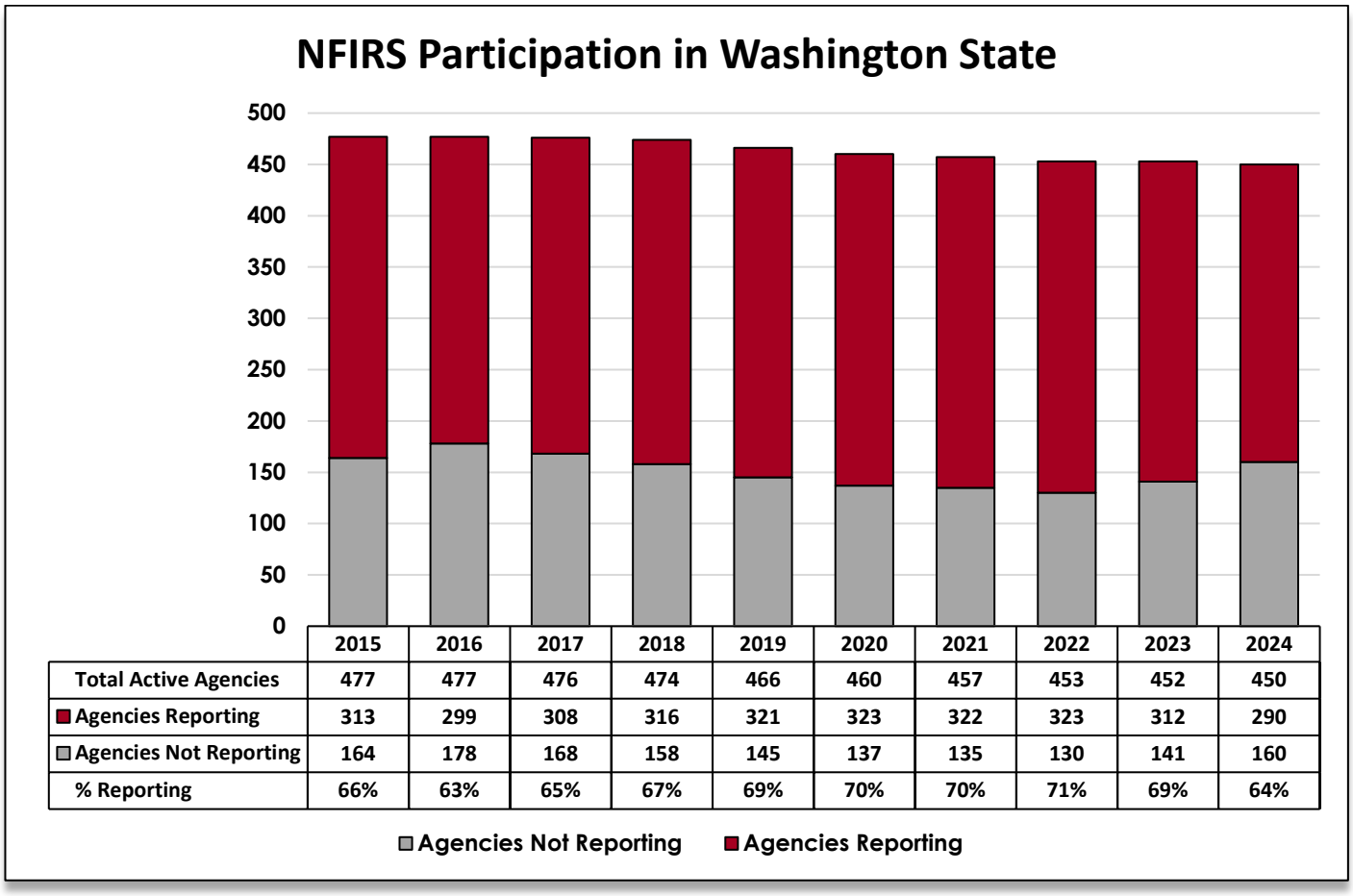
NFIRS Participation in Washington State

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.44.060 requires fire incidents to be reported to the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) in accordance with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

The SFMO maintains the statewide NFIRS database, which can accept any incident documented in accordance with the NFIRS 5.0 format. This program is an all-incident reporting system that enables every fire agency to document incidents electronically in a uniform format. Many agencies submit all incidents, while some agencies only report fires as required by statute.

The chart below provides the number of agencies that submitted data for inclusion in the *Fire in Washington* annual report since 2015. We encourage fire agencies to report monthly to the SFMO, so that reporting becomes a standard practice across every agency in the state.

In 2024, 290 of the state's 450 fire agencies reported to NFIRS, representing roughly 64 percent of all active fire agencies.



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Active Agencies	477	477	476	474	466	460	457	453	452	450
Agencies Reporting	313	299	308	316	321	323	322	323	312	290
Agencies Not Reporting	164	178	168	158	145	137	135	130	141	160
% Reporting	66%	63%	65%	67%	69%	70%	70%	71%	69%	64%

Washington Fire Clock

Washington fire agencies reported 989,988 incidents in 2024, including 673,016 emergency medical service calls, 132,371 good intent calls, 71,816 service calls, 61,357 false alarms, and 30,893 fire calls. Their ability to respond to the needs of the people of Washington at any time of day or night cannot be understated.

Overall, fires have resulted in nearly $500 million in fire losses in 2024. Structure fires accounted for over 26 percent of that amount. Fire incidents can have a devastating monetary impact on communities across the state, which can have long-term impacts on those affected by the loss.

FIRE DOLLAR LOSS

$1,353,202 LOSS EACH DAY

$56,383 LOSS EACH HOUR

$940 LOSS EACH MINUTE

$16 LOSS EACH SECOND

***Figures Rounded to Nearest Dollar**

2024 SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

Since NFIRS has been expanded to capture the full range of emergency incident response types, many fire agencies document and report every incident. This summary is an overview of all the incidents reported but is not all encompassing of the total incident experience.

In 2024, fire agencies in Washington State reported 989,988 incidents to NFIRS. There were 30,893 **Fire** incidents reported resulting in 72 fatalities and over $495 million in property and content loss. Fire agencies are encouraged to be as accurate as possible when documenting dollar loss. The figures are intended to provide insight into the monetary impact fire has on our communities. Dollar loss estimates are calculated by fire service personnel and are not reflective of insurance settlements or actual total loss.

Rescue and Emergency Medical Service was the leading incident type category reported, representing 69 percent of the total number of incidents. **Good Intent Calls** were second at 12.1 percent. **Service Calls** were third at over seven percent of the total incidents. **False Alarms and False Calls** were the fourth most common incident at nearly six and a half percent. This category includes all malicious or mischievous false alarms, as well as fire protection system malfunctions and unintentional false fire protection activations.

The *Fire in Washington* annual report emphasizes **Fire** incidents.

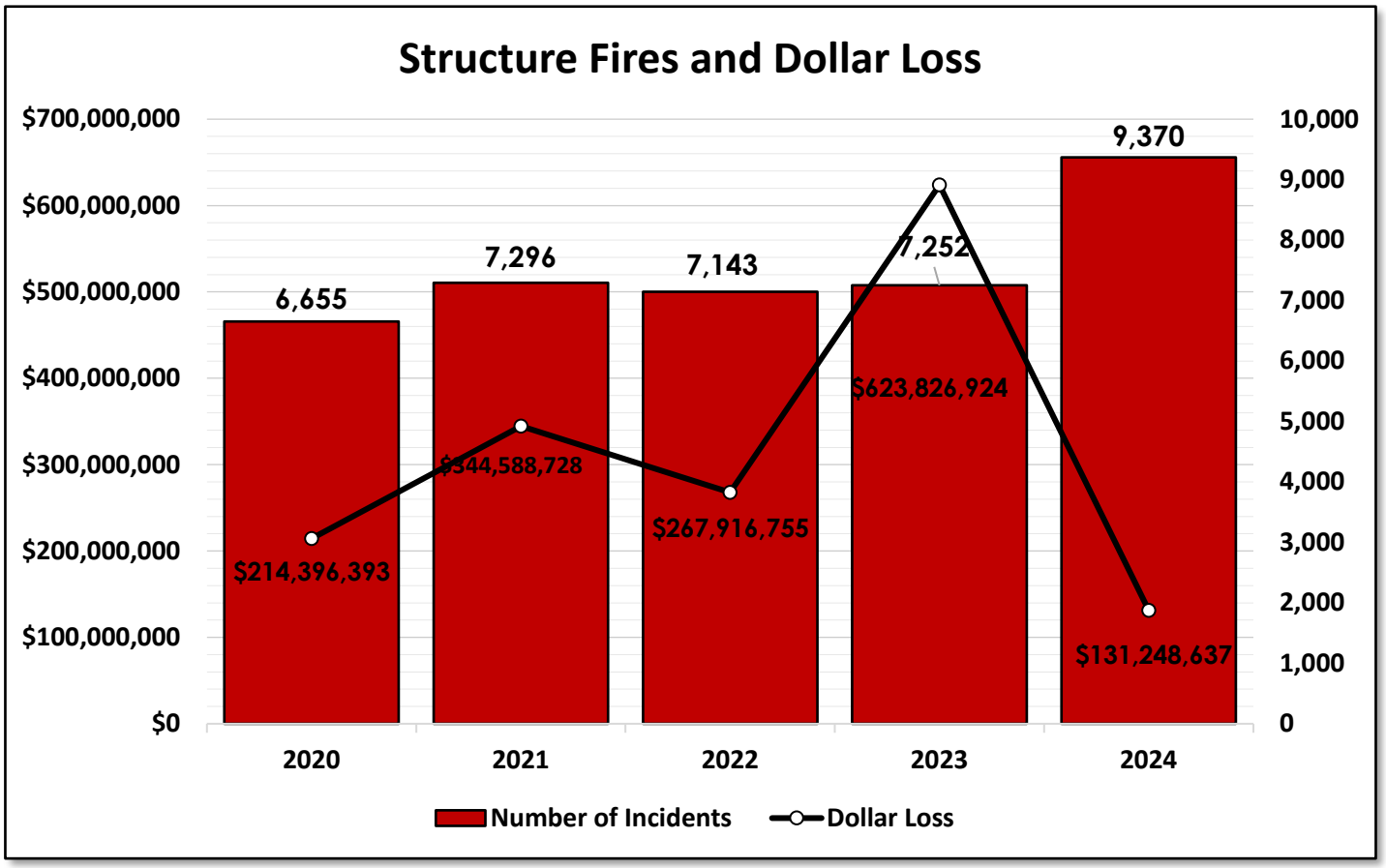
2024 Incident Type Category Summary	Number of Incidents	% of Total Incidents	Total Reported Property and Content Loss	% of Total Loss Reported
Fire	**30,893**	**2.90%**	**$495,277,877**	**98.77%**
Structure Fires (including confined fires)	9,370	26.50%	$131,248,637	26.50%
Natural Vegetation Fires	6,928	21.87%	$108,317,271	21.87%
Special Outside Fires	1,207	4.33%	$21,445,532	4.33%
Vehicle Fires (Mobile Properties)	3,297	11.13%	$55,124,427	11.13%
Fire, Other	1,897	6.36%	$31,499,672	6.36%
Fixed Mobile Property Fires	453	1.27%	$6,319,745	1.28%
Outside Rubbish Fires	7,605	28.15%	$139,420,722	28.15%
Cultivated Vegetation Fires	136	0.38%	$1,882,055	0.38%
Rescue and Emergency Medical Services	**673,016**	**69.00%**	**$4,399,179**	**0.88%**
Service Calls	**71,816**	**7.50%**	**$478,171**	**0.10%**
False Alarms and False Calls	**61,357**	**6.40%**	**$408,039**	**0.08%**
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	**14,076**	**1.42%**	**$90,533**	**0.02%**
Good Intent Calls	**132,371**	**12.10%**	**$771,450**	**0.15%**
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	**579**	**0.10%**	**$6,375**	**0.00%**
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	**1,002**	**0.10%**	**$6,375**	**0.00%**
Other Types of Incidents	**4,338**	**0.42%**	**$26,777**	**0.01%**
Undetermined Incident Type	**540**	**0.06%**	**$3,825**	**0.00%**
Grand Total	**989,988**	**100.00%**	**$501,468,601**	**100%**

*** Totals exclude Mutual or Automatic Aid Given.**

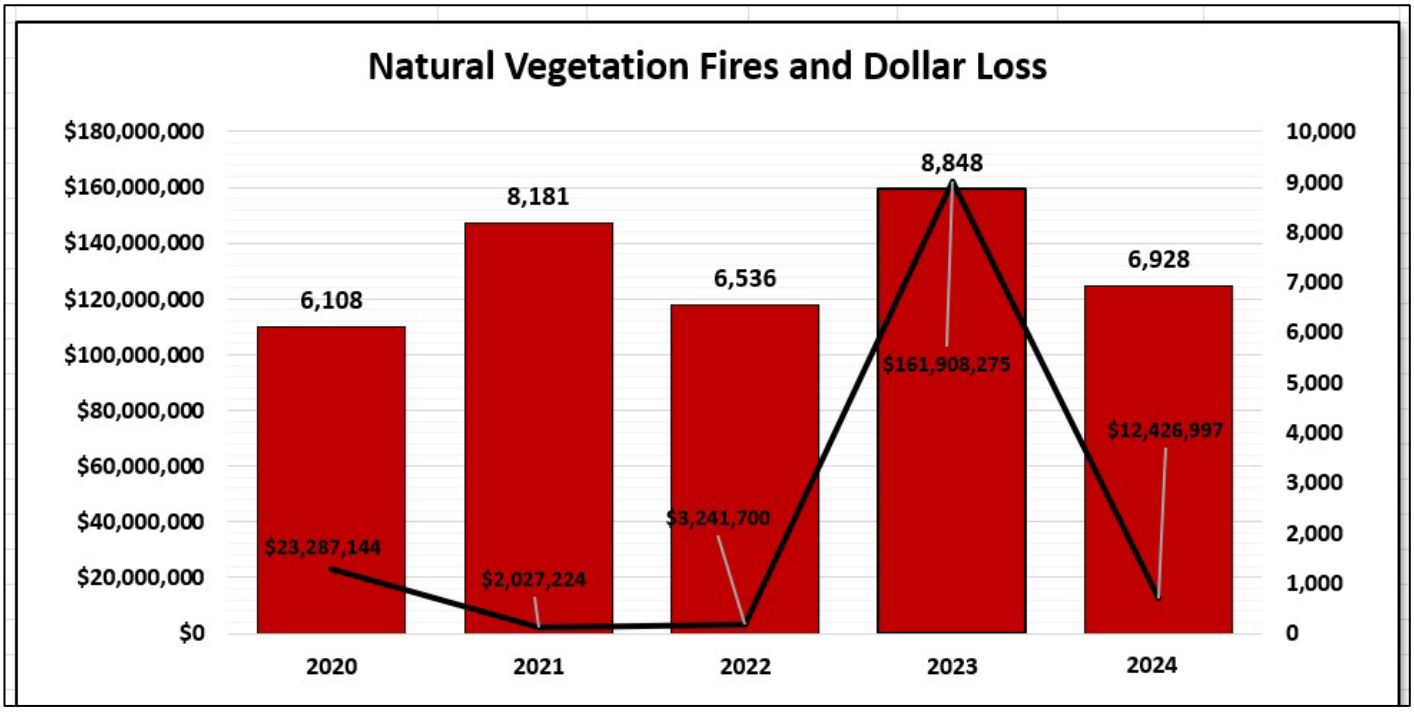
Categories of Fire Incidents

Fire service agencies have reported more than 160,000 fire incidents to the SFMO over the past five years. In these fires, 427 people have lost their lives and more than $2 billion in property and contents have been lost.

Structure Fires were a leading type of fire incident type reported in 2024. Structure fires accounted for approximately 26.5 percent of the fire incidents reported and 70 percent of the estimated fire related dollar loss. **Structure Fires** include buildings or other types of structures, and fires confined to non-combustible containers such as food on stoves, chimneys or flues, boilers, trash receptacles, or commercial compactors.



Natural Vegetation Fires were another notable leading type of fire incident reported over the past five years, accounting for approximately 22 percent of the total fire incidents for 2024. Dollar loss is estimated at nearly $203 million during this time.



Outside Rubbish Fires have resulted in over 35,000 incidents and just over $3 million in loss over the past five years.

Cultivated Vegetation Fires include grain, crops, orchards, vineyards, trees or nurseries, and other cultivated vegetation fires. The occurrence of these fires is low relative to other fire types, but the monetary impact can be devastating to the property owner. Estimating dollar loss for cultivated vegetation fires can be a challenge for fire service personnel because the market value may not be known.

Vehicle Fires were the fourth leading type of fire incident reported to NFIRS in 2024. These incidents include mobile properties such as passenger vehicles, trains, mobile recreational vehicles, planes, and off-road vehicles. Throughout 2024, vehicle fires accounted for 7.94 percent of the total fires reported and more than $3 million in loss.

Outside Storage and Equipment Fires include mailboxes, gas or vapor combustion explosions without sustained fire, and other types of special outside fires. These fires account for approximately 4.5 percent of the fires reported over the past five years and resulted in more than $100 million in loss.

Fire, Other is used when a more specific fire incident type is not available to describe the incident. Nearly 7 percent of the fires over a five-year period have been included in this category.

Fixed Mobile Property Fires include mobile homes, recreational vehicles (RV) or trailers used as residences, and other portable buildings used in a fixed location. These fires account for approximately 1.5 percent of all fires and 1 percent of the dollar loss reported over the past five years.

2020 – 2024 Fire Incident Type by Category

Fire Incident Type Categories	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Total
Structure Fires (including Confined Fires)						
Number of Incidents	6,655	7,296	7,143	7,252	9,370	37,716
Dollar Loss	$214,396,393	$344,588,728	$267,916,755	$623,826,924	$131,248,637	$1,581,977,437
Natural Vegetation Fires						
Number of Incidents	6,108	8,181	6,536	8,848	6,928	36,601
Dollar Loss	$23,287,144	$2,027,224	$3,241,700	$161,908,275	$108,317,271	$298,781,614
Vehicle Fires						
Number of Incidents	3,260	3,819	3,932	3,593	3,297	17,901
Dollar Loss	$22,914,100	$46,036,180	$37,918,026	$42,286,069	$55,124,427	$204,278,802
Outside Storage and Equipment Fires						
Number of Incidents	1,712	2,316	1,817	1,557	1,207	8,609
Dollar Loss	$932,092	$3,474,336	$4,263,248	$46,894,002	$21,445,532	$77,009,210
Fire, Other						
Number of Incidents	1,292	1,595	1,972	1,686	1,897	8,442
Dollar Loss	$1,124,786	$8,328,927	$4,114,260	$9,339,238	$31,499,672	$54,406,883
Fixed Mobile Property Fires						
Number of Incidents	319	375	408	388	453	1,943
Dollar Loss	$2,067,626	$4,193,889	$5,491,965	$5,012,731	$6,319,745	$23,085,956
Outside Rubbish Fires						
Number of Incidents	5,124	7,534	8,792	8,423	7,605	37,478
Dollar Loss	$411,041	$965,956	$980,943	$894,229	$139,420,722	$142,672,891
Cultivated Vegetation Fires						
Number of Incidents	120	121	133	121	136	631
Dollar Loss	$614,900	$1,313,815	$525,427	$431,764	$1,882,055	$4,767,961
tal Number of Incide	**24,590**	**27,418**	**30,733**	**31,868**	**30,893**	**145,502**
Total Dollar Loss	**$265,748,082**	**$410,929,055**	**$324,452,324**	**$890,593,232**	**$495,277,877**	**$2,387,000,570**

Fires by Heat Source

The table below provides a five-year overview of the heat source information reported in the Fire Module only. Confined fires, which do not require a Fire Module to be completed, and heat sources reported through the optional Wildland Module, are not included in the analysis.

Heat Source by Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Total
Undetermined						
Number of Incidents	7,281	9,877	9,101	9,518	6,440	42,217
Dollar Loss	$126,668,813	$241,787,790	$185,340,700	$476,844,695	$325,859,850	$325,859,850
Operating Equipment						
Number of Incidents	3,423	3,237	3,322	3,007	2,377	15,366
Dollar Loss	$45,382,764	$54,937,350	$73,990,604	$62,953,981	$83,287,570	$320,552,269
(Blank)						
Number of Incidents	7,363	8,360	11,192	12,683	N/A	39,598
Dollar Loss	$1,810,346	$19,779,294	$2,350,423	$2,224,992	N/A	$26,165,055
Open Flame or Smoking Material						
Number of Incidents	2,104	1,957	2,373	2,010	1,173	9,617
Dollar Loss	$19,101,077	$18,949,694	$28,351,433	$21,191,855	$16,719,385	$104,313,444
Hot or Smoldering Object						
Number of Incidents	1,780	1,685	2,064	1,759	1,201	8,489
Dollar Loss	$15,603,709	$15,453,612	$23,534,654	$19,029,897	$24,715,371	$98,337,243
Heat Source Other						
Number of Incidents	832	798	810	882	731	4,053
Dollar Loss	$5,909,688	$17,685,007	$21,435,319	$14,301,353	$14,016,465	$73,347,832
Heat Spread from Another Fire						
Number of Incidents	514	496	486	423	298	2,217
Dollar Loss	$5,552,541	$4,354,812	$10,991,538	$10,240,323	$8,812,838	$39,952,052
Chemical or Natural						
Number of Incidents	323	198	273	212	147	1,153
Dollar Loss	$4,322,067	$3,023,817	$2,921,093	$4,836,030	$2,386,262	$17,489,269
Explosives and Fireworks						
Number of Incidents	516	521	796	584	329	2,746
Dollar Loss	$2,545,586	$3,541,083	$4,433,590	$4,041,093	$2,472,190	$17,033,542
Multiple Heat Sources						
Number of Incidents	47	57	44	72	40	260
Dollar Loss	$137,515	$1,354,600	$1,132,611	$292,100	$421,050	$3,337,876
Total Number of Incidents	**23,819**	**24,590**	**31,237**	**30,733**	**12,736**	**123,115**
Total Dollar Loss	**$219,429,854**	**$265,748,082**	**$410,929,055**	**$324,452,324**	**$478,690,981**	**$1,699,250,296**

Operating Equipment remains the leading known heat source, accounting for 11 percent of the fires and a little over 16 percent of the dollar loss reported between 2020 and 2024. Operating equipment includes sparks, embers, or flames from operating equipment, radiated or conducted heat from operating equipment, and electrical arcing.

Fires by Area of Origin

Area of origin identifies the primary location where a fire started within a property. Fires that started in **Functional Areas** are the highest known area of origin resulting in the greatest amount of dollar loss to property and contents at over $335 million since 2020. **Functional Areas** accounted for over 23 percent of the fires and over 12 percent of the dollar loss reported between 2020 and 2024. Bedrooms, dining or eating areas, kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, office spaces, and other functional areas are included in this category.

Area of Origin by Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Total
Undetermined						
Number of Incidents	2,023	3,107	3,236	4,004	2,730	15,100
Dollar Loss	$41,670,710	$131,703,868	$63,885,741	$338,161,432	$78,331,777	$653,753,528
Functional Areas						
Number of Incidents	1,982	2,020	1,908	1,815	19,786	27,511
Dollar Loss	$61,921,668	$57,052,435	$75,502,949	$73,213,397	$68,069,911	$335,760,360
Structural Areas						
Number of Incidents	863	984	840	825	636	4,148
Dollar Loss	$30,895,491	$53,613,406	$39,279,932	$63,871,500	$45,243,405	$232,903,734
Left Blank by Reporting Agency						
Number of Incidents	8,360	11,192	12,683	14,093	N/A	46,328
Dollar Loss	$19,779,294	$2,350,423	$2,224,992	$161,555,939	N/A	$185,910,648
Storage Areas						
Number of Incidents	780	954	939	936	718	4,327
Dollar Loss	$22,724,777	$38,627,545	$41,414,947	$56,413,561	$183,174,915	$342,355,745
Outside Areas						
Number of Incidents	6,255	7,874	6,234	5,644	3,515	29,522
Dollar Loss	$36,223,131	$26,581,687	$17,814,809	$82,427,265	$22,739,217	$185,786,109
Vehicle Areas						
Number of Incidents	2,696	3,142	3,190	2,820	2,365	14,213
Dollar Loss	$22,037,348	$26,422,511	$31,977,895	$40,296,917	$42,849,465	$163,584,136
Areas of Groups of People (Assembly)						
Number of Incidents	237	256	213	263	235	1,204
Dollar Loss	$8,996,253	$15,803,045	$15,550,547	$29,458,560	$15,405,843	$85,214,248
Service or Equipment Areas						
Number of Incidents	325	381	349	277	156	1,488
Dollar Loss	$8,378,283	$14,861,399	$15,676,820	$18,221,362	$8,311,697	$65,449,561
Means of Egress/Exit Access/Exit Areas						
Number of Incidents	191	242	213	208	160	1,014
Dollar Loss	$3,579,108	$14,532,157	$9,653,356	$12,043,620	$6,160,993	$45,969,234
Other Areas of Origin						
Number of Incidents	840	1,040	887	939	659	4,365
Dollar Loss	$4,751,591	$15,256,162	$5,971,686	$7,907,979	$6,506,543	$40,393,961
Technical Processing Areas						
Number of Incidents	38	45	41	44	28	198
Dollar Loss	$4,790,428	$14,124,417	$5,498,650	$7,021,700	$2,316,004	$33,751,199
Total Number of Incidents	**24,590**	**31,237**	**30,733**	**31,868**	**30,988**	**118,428**
Total Dollar Loss	**$265,748,082**	**$410,929,055**	**$324,452,324**	**$890,593,232**	**$479,109,770**	**$1,891,722,693**

Fire Incidents at Residential Properties

Over the past five years, roughly 31 percent of the fires in Washington State have occurred in residential properties. As categorized by NFIRS, residential properties include **One- and Two-Family Dwellings**, **Multi-Family Dwellings**, and **Other Residential Uses** (board and care facilities, hotel/motels, college housing, barracks, and dormitories).

Fires by Residential Property Uses	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Total
1 or 2 family dwelling						
Number of Incidents	6,499	6,819	6,212	6,878	2,809	29,217
Dollar Loss	$113,884,746	$150,002,337	$156,088,062	$390,774,481	$125,487,834	$936,237,460
Multifamily dwellings						
Number of Incidents	2,011	2,439	2,458	2,717	1,530	11,155
Dollar Loss	$43,455,248	$44,306,456	$49,173,322	$57,406,684	$36,074,726	$230,416,436
Other Residential Uses						
Number of Incidents	654	815	805	776	302	3,352
Dollar Loss	$4,419,526	$9,083,437	$11,186,058	$9,757,006	$6,048,503	$40,494,530
Total Number of Incidents	**9,164**	**10,073**	**9,475**	**10,371**	**4,641**	**43,724**
Total Dollar Loss	**$161,759,520**	**$203,392,230**	**$216,447,442**	**$623,381,724**	**$167,611,063**	**$1,372,591,979**

Fires with Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES)

AES are a proven way to help protect lives and property against fires at home. These systems respond quickly to reduce heat, flames, and smoke from a fire, giving occupants valuable time to evacuate the area. Each individual sprinkler head is designed and calibrated to activate when it senses a significant heat change. Only the sprinkler head closest to the fire will activate to spray water directly on the fire.

In 2024, there were 278 AES activations reported at properties with full or partial automatic extinguishing systems present. Approximately $162 million in property and contents loss was reported.

No fire fatalities occurred in a building that was equipped with AES in 2024.

Automatic Extinguishing System (AES) Presence* by Property Use Category	Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss
Residential	166	$12,586,007
Assembly	30	$4,628,781
Mercantile and Business	26	$2,634,314
Manufacturing and Processing	20	$2,128,000
Health Care, Detention, and Corrections	9	$80,515
Outside or Special Properties	8	$976,188
Educational Uses	7	$25,200
Storage	7	$137,032,290
Industrial, Utility, Defense, Agriculture, and Mining	3	$2,000,000
Other Property Uses	2	$7,000
Grand Total	278	$162,098,295

***Data is based on full or partial AES presence**

Fires by Cause of Ignition

The cause of ignition is useful in determining the factors that result in a fire incident. The table below illustrates the causes of ignition reported through the NFIRS Fire Module over the past five years. **Unintentional** was the leading known cause of ignition, accounting for approximately 39 percent of the incidents and 26 percent of the property and content loss. Fire prevention measures and product safety features can be tailored to address the causes of fires reported through NFIRS.

Fires by Cause of Ignition	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Total
Cause Under Investigation						
Number of Incidents	1,856	2,026	1,843	1,990	1,318	9,033
Dollar Loss	$104,789,699	$168,577,566	$110,342,419	$444,264,159	$231,210,920	$1,059,184,763
Unintentional						
Number of Incidents	7,150	8,036	6,661	6,883	5,126	33,856
Dollar Loss	$80,051,266	$140,091,422	$122,165,543	$147,070,577	$120,245,203	$609,624,011
Cause Undetermined						
Number of Incidents	2,908	4,062	3,859	4,285	2,940	18,054
Dollar Loss	$28,352,866	$68,577,566	$62,861,517	$72,333,828	$70,213,656	$302,339,433
Failure of Equipment						
Number of Incidents	1,786	1,854	1,743	1,431	1,205	8,019
Dollar Loss	$29,513,710	$28,663,492	$22,553,238	$26,914,092	$35,362,788	$143,007,320
Intentional						
Number of Incidents	3,283	4,295	3,919	2,793	1,950	16,240
Dollar Loss	$17,486,619	$28,578,424	$17,905,072	$33,577,760	$21,967,041	$119,514,916
Cause, Other						
Number of Incidents	160	82	97	87	44	470
Dollar Loss	$2,525,017	$4,780,187	$2,626,975	$4,229,240	$1,524,873	$15,686,292
Act of Nature						
Number of Incidents	283	339	272	302	171	1,367
Dollar Loss	$486,854	$514,214	$1,734,328	$612,637	$499,500	$3,847,533
Total Number of Incidents	**17,426**	**20,694**	**18,394**	**17,771**	**12,709**	**74,285**
Total Dollar Loss	**$263,206,031**	**$439,782,871**	**$340,189,092**	**$728,389,958**	**$480,524,652**	**$1,771,567,952**

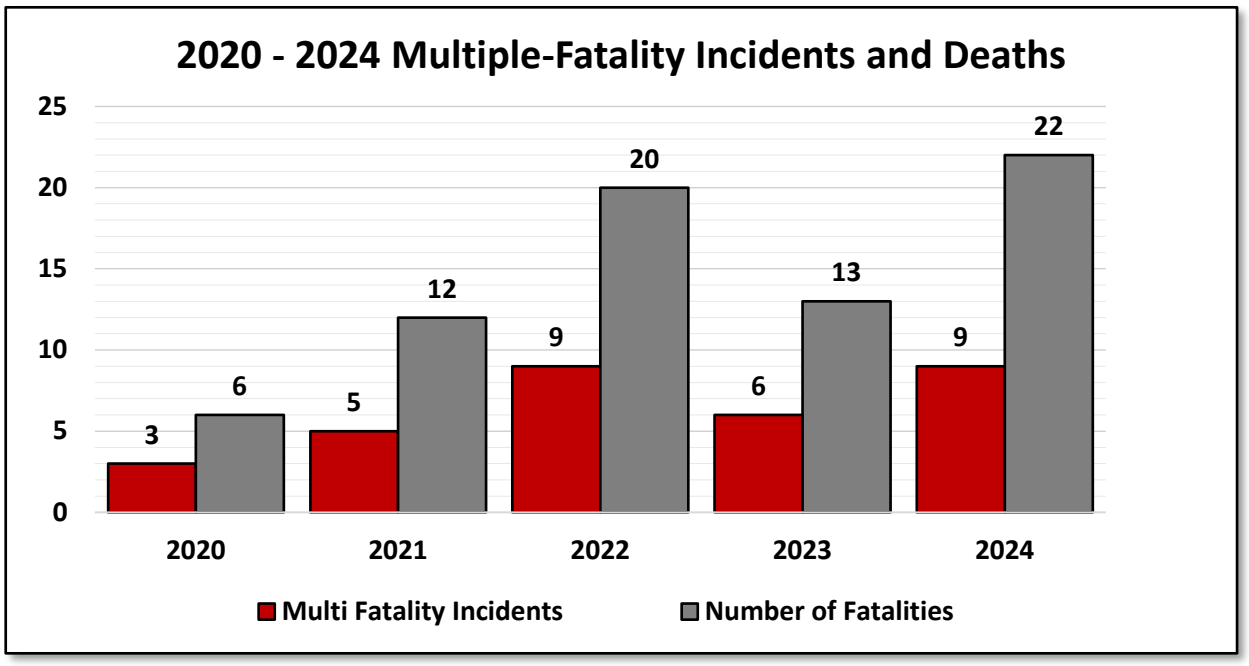
***Data is based on fire incidents with listed causes of ignition.**

2024 Fire Fatalities

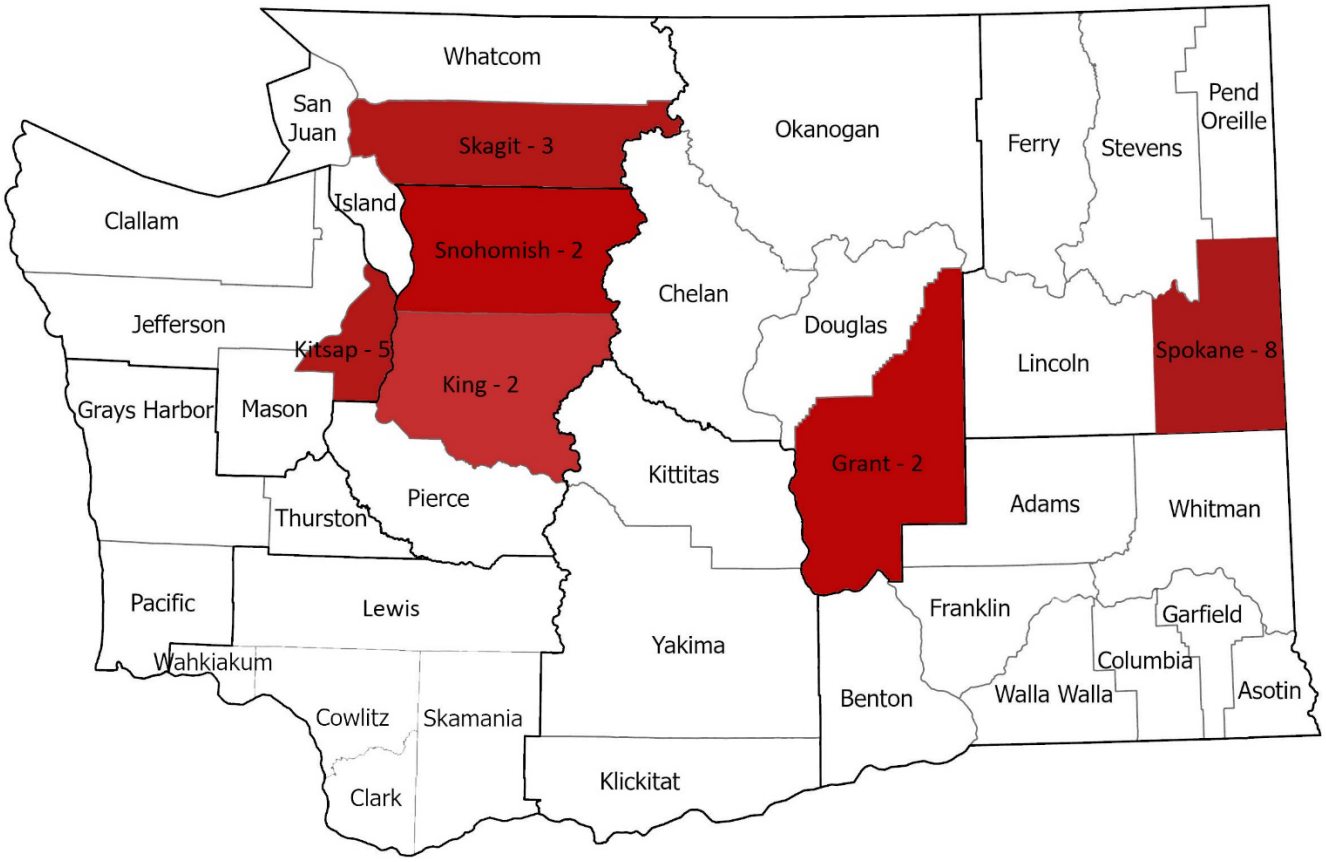
In 2024, 72 fire fatalities were reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Compared to 2023, fire fatalities increased 7.5 percent. Washington State's 2024 fire fatality rate was 9.1 per million people. According to the latest available statistics from the USFA (2021 figures), the national fire death rate was 11.2 per million people. Washington State ranked 11th lowest in the nation.

Multiple-Fatality Fire Incidents Reported in 2024

In 2024, there was a 1.7 percent increase in multiple fatality incidents compared to 2023, resulting in a 1.5 percent increase in fatalities from this type of incident.



January – In Grant County, two adults died in a manufactured home fire.
April – In Spokane County, two adults and two children died in a single-family home fire. Seven days later, two adults died in another single-family home fire.
June- In Snohomish County, two adults died in a single-family home fire.
July – In King County, two adults died in a multi-family home fire.
August- In Skagit County, three adults died in a single-family home fire.
September – In King County, one adult, one child and one newborn died in a multi-family home fire.
October – In Spokane County, two adults died in a recreational vehicle fire.
November – In Kitsap County, two adults died in a vehicle fire.



The following pages provide further details on the incidents that resulted in fatalities across Washington State.

Fire Fatalities by Cause of Fire

Smoking and/or Smoking Materials fires have historically been the leading known cause for fire fatalities in Washington State. Over the past five years, 12 percent of the fire fatalities have been smoking-related. In 2024, 4 percent of the fire deaths were reported as due to smoking-related fires. Smoking in sleeping areas, while using medical oxygen systems, or while under the influence of alcohol or mind-altering drugs increases the risk of a fire occurring.

Fires that were **intentionally set** are the second leading known cause of fire fatalities, accounting for 9 percent of fatalities over the last five years.

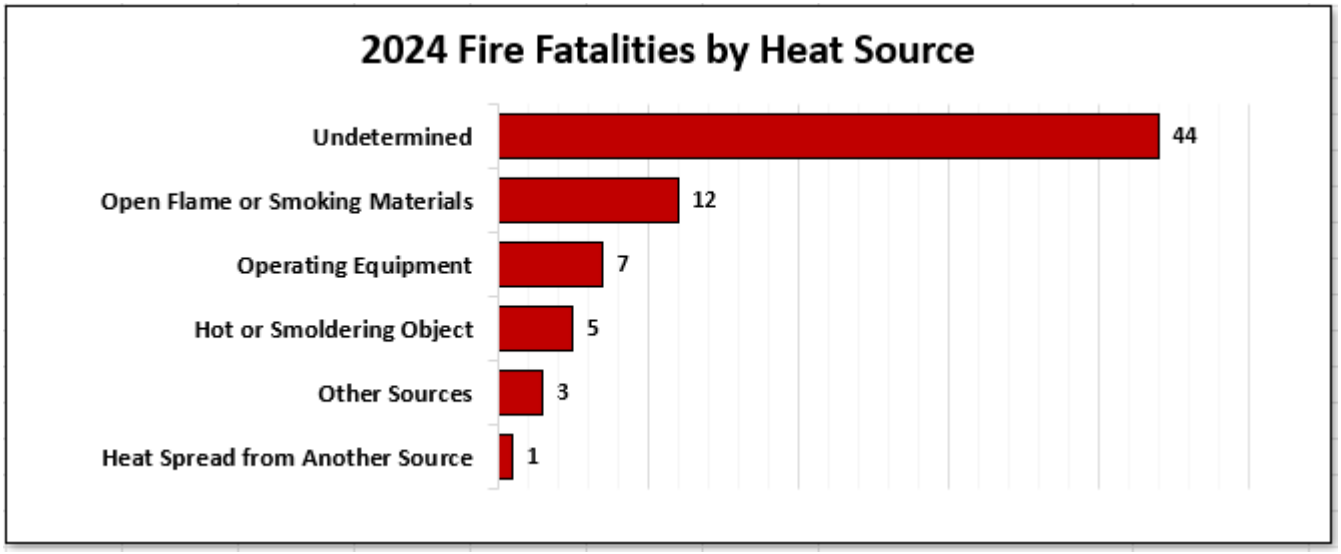
Fires started by **home heating** are the third leading known cause for fire fatalities on a five-year average, resulting in 6 percent of the total.

Cause Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Total	5-Year % of Total
Undetermined	27	15	35	16	14	107	29%
Smoking and/or Smoking Materials	12	14	10	4	4	44	12%
Under Investigation	1	20	8	1	11	41	11%
Intentionally Set (Self-inflicted or by Another Person)	10	6	8	5	5	34	9%
Home Heating	5	4	6	2	4	21	6%
Unknown	3	0	0	16	7	26	7%
Heat from Powered Equipment	3	4	0	5	2	14	4%
Cooking	2	6	4	2	0	14	4%
Open Flame	2	3	5	0	4	14	4%
Electrical Related	0	1	3	4	6	14	4%
Electrical Appliance	1	3	0	2	3	9	2%
Spark/Ember	4	0	1	2	0	7	2%
Vehicle Collision	2	0	1	0	3	6	2%
Fireworks	1	0	0	0	0	1	0%
Failure of Equipment	0	1	0	1	1	3	1%
Multiple Heat Sources	1	1	0	2	0	4	1%
Heat Source Failure	0	0	0	5	8	13	3%
Wildfire	1	0	0	0	0	1	0%
TOTAL	74	78	81	67	72	373	100%

Fire Fatalities by Heat Source

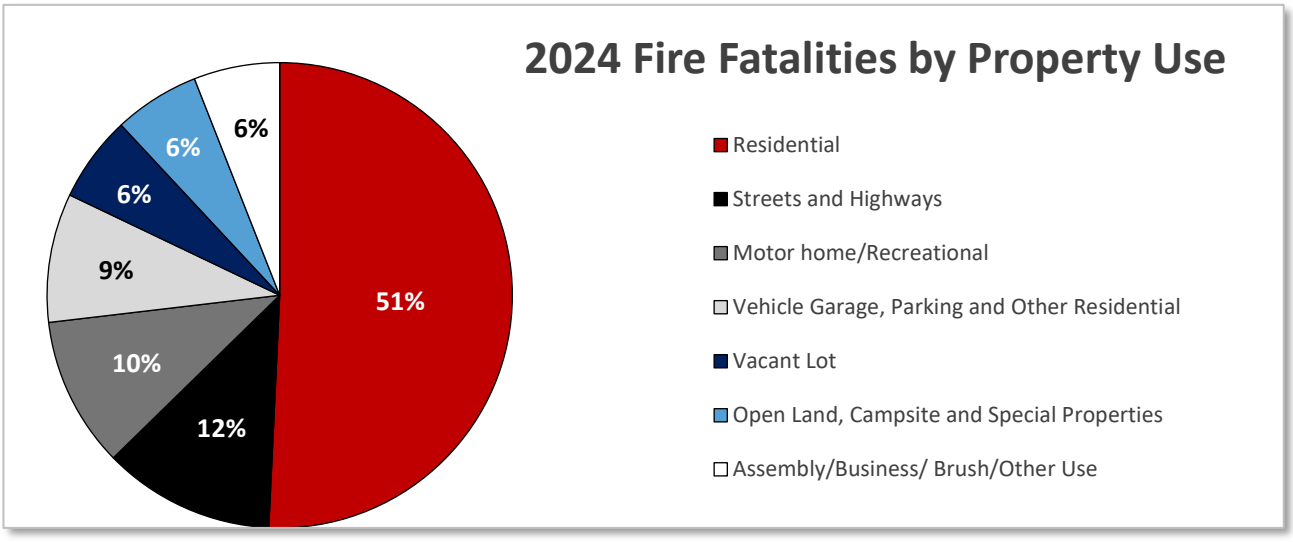
Of the 72 fire fatalities reported in 2024, the most known heat source was **Open Flame and Smoking Materials,** resulting in 12 deaths and 16 percent of the total number of deaths.

High risk behaviors, such as smoking in sleeping or lounging areas; smoking while using medical oxygen; and smoking while under the influence of mind-altering drugs or alcohol should be avoided. These fires can also occur due to improper disposal of smoking materials. For **Undetermined** fire causes, the exact fire cause cannot be clearly identified by the fire investigator or was left blank by the reporting agency.



Fire Fatalities by Property Use

In 2024, 51 percent of reported fire fatalities occurred in Residential Occupancies (**Single Family**, **Multi-Family**, and **Manufactured**). The second most common property use location was **Streets and Highways** making up 12 percent of the fatalities. **Motor Home/Recreational** was the third leading property use location accounting for approximately 10 percent of the fatalities.



***Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number**

Fire Fatalities by Age and Gender

Children are at significant risk in fire situations. In 2024, four children under age 10 died in fires, representing five and a half percent of the fatalities. Young children may not be capable of escaping or know the dangers of fire exposure. Their ability to escape may be dependent on other occupants. Infants cannot save themselves, and young children may have limited fire escape skills or knowledge. In 2024, 64 percent of fire fatalities were age 50 or older. As age increases so does the risks of fire fatalities due to numerous factors.

Age Group	Female		Male		Unknown		Grand Total	% of Total
	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total		
10 and Under	1	1.4%	2	2.8%	1	1.4%	4	5.6%
11 - 19	1	1.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.4%
20 - 29	2	2.8%	5	6.9%	0	0.0%	7	9.7%
30 - 39	4	5.6%	3	4.2%	0	0.0%	7	9.7%
40 - 49	3	4.2%	4	5.6%	0	0.0%	7	9.7%
50 - 59	3	4.2%	7	9.7%	0	0.0%	10	13.9%
60 - 69	2	2.8%	13	18.1%	0	0.0%	15	20.8%
70 - 79	4	5.6%	5	6.9%	0	0.0%	9	12.5%
80 - 89	3	4.2%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%	4	5.6%
90 and Up	2	2.8%	2	2.8%	0	0.0%	4	5.6%
Unknown Age	2	2.8%	0	0.0%	2	2.8%	4	5.6%
Grand Total	27	37.5%	42	58.3%	3	4.2%	72	100.0%

Fire Fatalities by Cause of Ignition

Investigations into fire fatalities to determine cause of ignition found that 57 percent of fatalities were due to **Unintentional** fires and 7 percent of fatalities were due to **Intentional** fires. **Failure of Equipment** made up 4 percent of fatalities. The remaining 32 percent of fatalities were due to fires that are still **Under Investigation** or **Undetermined.**

Cause of Ignition	Fatalities	%
Unintentional	41	57%
Under Investigation	12	17%
Undetermined	11	15%
Intentional	5	7%
Failure of Equipment or Heat Source	3	4%
Grand Total	**72**	**100%**

Fire Fatalities and Fire Protection Devices

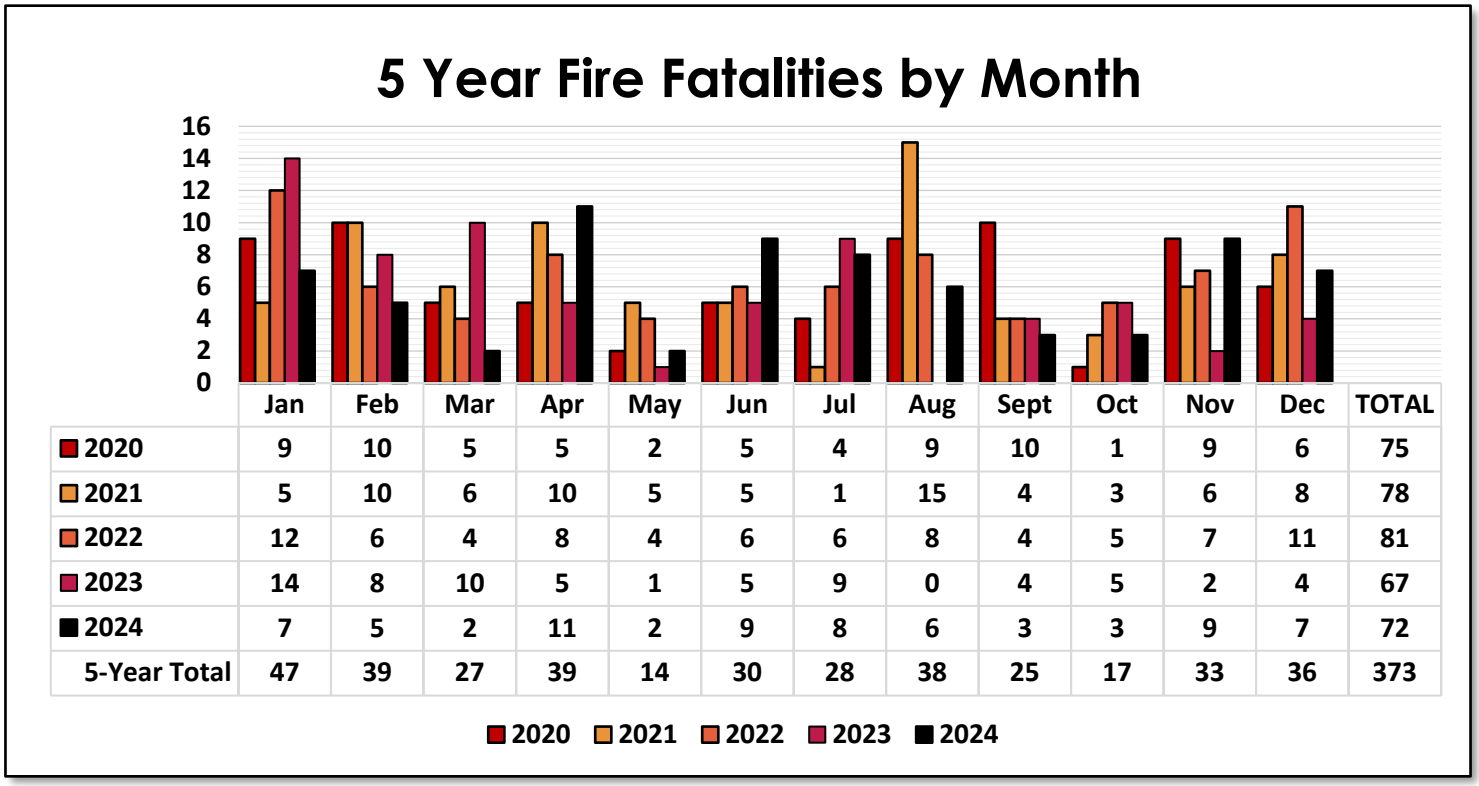
Smoke alarms detect smoke and provide early notification to building occupants, potentially reducing the loss of life in fires. In 2024, approximately 60 percent of the reported fire fatalities occurred in locations where smoke alarms should be installed. Of these fatalities, only 25 percent could confirm that smoke alarms were present, and only 8 of these confirmed smoke alarms were operational. Fatalities that occurred in areas where smoke alarms are not required and would not normally be located (such as Motor Vehicles) are not included in this section of data.

Smoke Alarms	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Total Fatalities	75		78		81		67		72	
Alarm Presence*	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Present	18	24%	20	26%	17	21%	23	34%	18	25%
Not Present	18	24%	14	18%	20	25%	15	22%	25	35%
Unknown	24	32%	32	41%	35	43%	23	34%	17	24%
Alarm Operation When Present	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Operated**	6	33%	6	30%	6	7%	14	61%	8	44%
Did not Operate	6	33%	5	25%	5	6%	2	9%	2	11%
Unknown	6	33%	9	45%	6	7%	6	26%	8	44%

***Fatalities that occurred at/in properties where a smoke alarm would not be present are not included.**
****Percentages are based only on the total number of fire fatalities where a smoke alarm was confirmed to be present.**

Fire Fatalities by Month

Over the last five years, 373 people have died in fires in Washington State. On average, approximately six people die each month in fire incidents. In 2024, April had the highest concentration of fire fatalities at 11 deaths.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2020	9	10	5	5	2	5	4	9	10	1	9	6	75
2021	5	10	6	10	5	5	1	15	4	3	6	8	78
2022	12	6	4	8	4	6	6	8	4	5	7	11	81
2023	14	8	10	5	1	5	9	0	4	5	2	4	67
2024	7	5	2	11	2	9	8	6	3	3	9	7	72
5-Year Total	47	39	27	39	14	30	28	38	25	17	33	36	373

Fire Fatalities by County

The chart below provides the number of fire fatalities in each county and rate per 100,000 people for the past five years. From 2020 to 2024, Columbia, Ferry, Jefferson, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Wahkiakum, and Whitman counties have not reported any fire fatalities.

County	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		5-Year Fatality Total
	# of Deaths	Rate*	# of Deaths	Rate*	# of Deaths	Rate*	# of Deaths	Rate*	# of Deaths	Rate*	
Adams	0	0.0	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Asotin	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.4	0	0.0	1
Benton	5	2.4	5	2.4	3	1.4	1	0.5	0	0.0	14
Chelan	2	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.2	1	1.2	4
Clallam	0	0.0	3	3.9	0	0.0	4	5.2	2	2.6	9
Clark	5	1.0	6	1.2	5	1.0	4	0.8	3	0.5	23
Columbia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Cowlitz	1	0.9	2	1.8	1	0.9	0	0.0	3	2.6	7
Douglas	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Ferry	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Franklin	1	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Garfield	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grant	2	2.0	0	0.0	5	4.9	2	2.0	4	3.8	13
Grays Harbo	2	2.6	1	1.3	4	5.2	2	2.6	0	0.0	9
Jefferson	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Kennewick	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	1
King	17	0.7	18	0.8	9	0.4	13	0.6	15	0.6	75
Kitsap	0	0.0	2	0.7	2	0.7	3	1.1	2	0.7	9
Kittitas	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Klickitat	1	4.4	0	0.0	2	8.6	1	4.3	0	0.0	4
Lewis	1	1.2	0	0.0	1	1.2	0	0.0	1	1.2	3
Lincoln	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Mason	1	1.5	2	3.0	3	4.5	1	1.5	1	0.0	8
Okanogan	4	9.5	2	4.7	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Pacific	1	4.3	0	0.0	3	12.7	1	4.2	1	0.4	6
Pend Oreille	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Pierce	6	0.7	7	0.8	4	0.4	14	1.5	8	0.8	39
San Juan	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	1
Skagit	2	1.5	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.8	4	3.0	8
Skamania	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	8.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Snohomish	9	1.1	4	0.5	8	0.9	6	0.7	6	0.7	33
Spokane	4	0.7	8	1.5	6	1.1	5	0.9	13	2.3	36
Stevens	0	0.0	2	4.3	0	0.0	1	2.1	1	2.1	4
Thurston	5	1.7	4	1.3	6	2.0	3	1.0	0	0.0	18
Wahkiakum	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Walla Walla	0	0.0	1	1.6	1	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Whatcom	2	0.9	3	1.3	7	3.0	3	1.3	2	0.8	17
Whitman	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Yakima	4	1.6	7	2.7	3	1.2	0	0.0	3	1.1	17
STATE TOTAL	**75**	**1.0**	**78**	**1.0**	**78**	**1.0**	**67**	**0.9**	**72**	**0.9**	**370**

2024 FIREWORKS REPORT

The State Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for licensing fireworks importers, wholesalers, pyrotechnic operators, and retail stands. The goal of these efforts is to maintain the safe and legal transport and sale of consumer fireworks within the state. The SFMO also conducts annual public education campaigns that focus on the safe purchase, storage, and discharge of consumer fireworks.

Data utilized in this section of the report is compiled from two sources. Injury details are generated from fireworks injury reports submitted directly to the SFMO by local fire agencies and hospitals. This gives the SFMO direct access to specific local details on the types of fireworks and extent of injuries. Fireworks fire incident data is derived from NFIRS reporting. NFIRS data has been cross-referenced with these submitted reports to provide additional detail.

Fireworks Incidents Summary

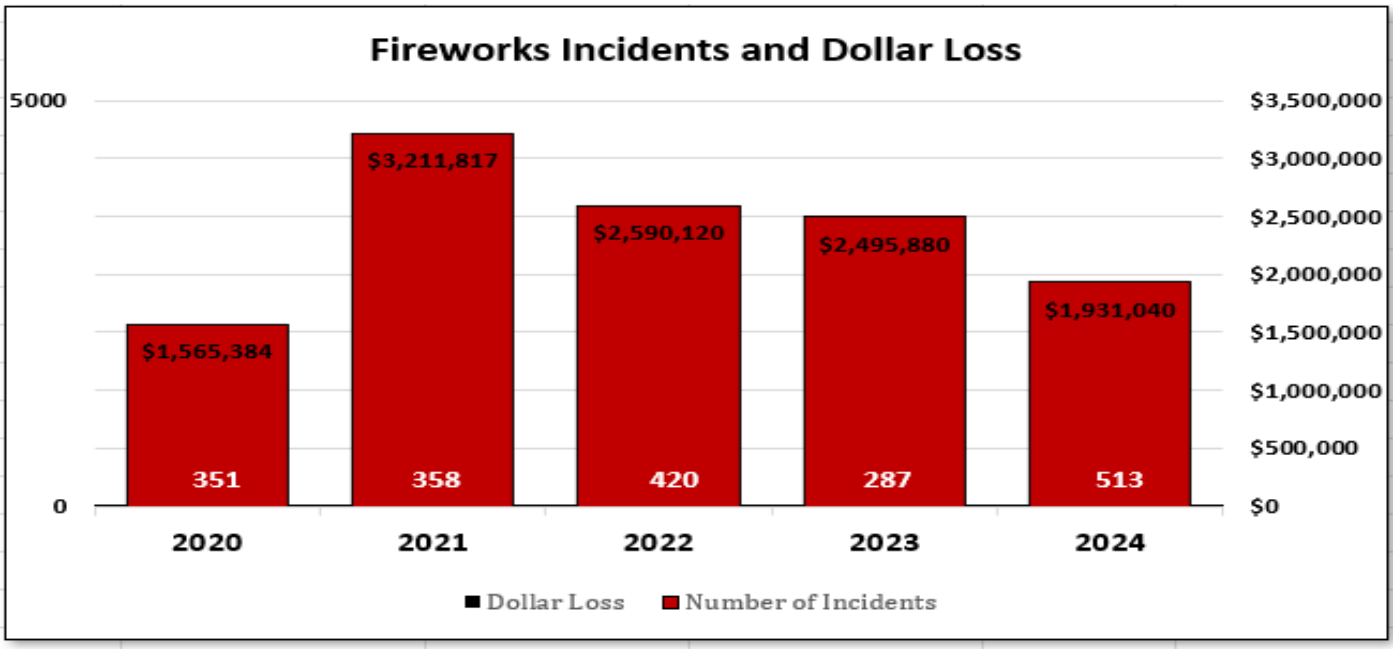
There were 427 fireworks-related injuries and/or fires reported to the SFMO in 2024 by fire departments and hospital emergency rooms. This is a 9 percent decrease from the previous year's total of 508. Of the 427 reports received, there were 271 fires and 156 injuries.

Fireworks Incidents*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Fires	588	842	310	203	271	2,214
Injury	237	70	198	255	156	916
Total	825	912	508	458	427	3,130

***Fireworks fire data as reported to NFIRS. Injury data as reported to the SFMO via the Fireworks Injury Report form.**

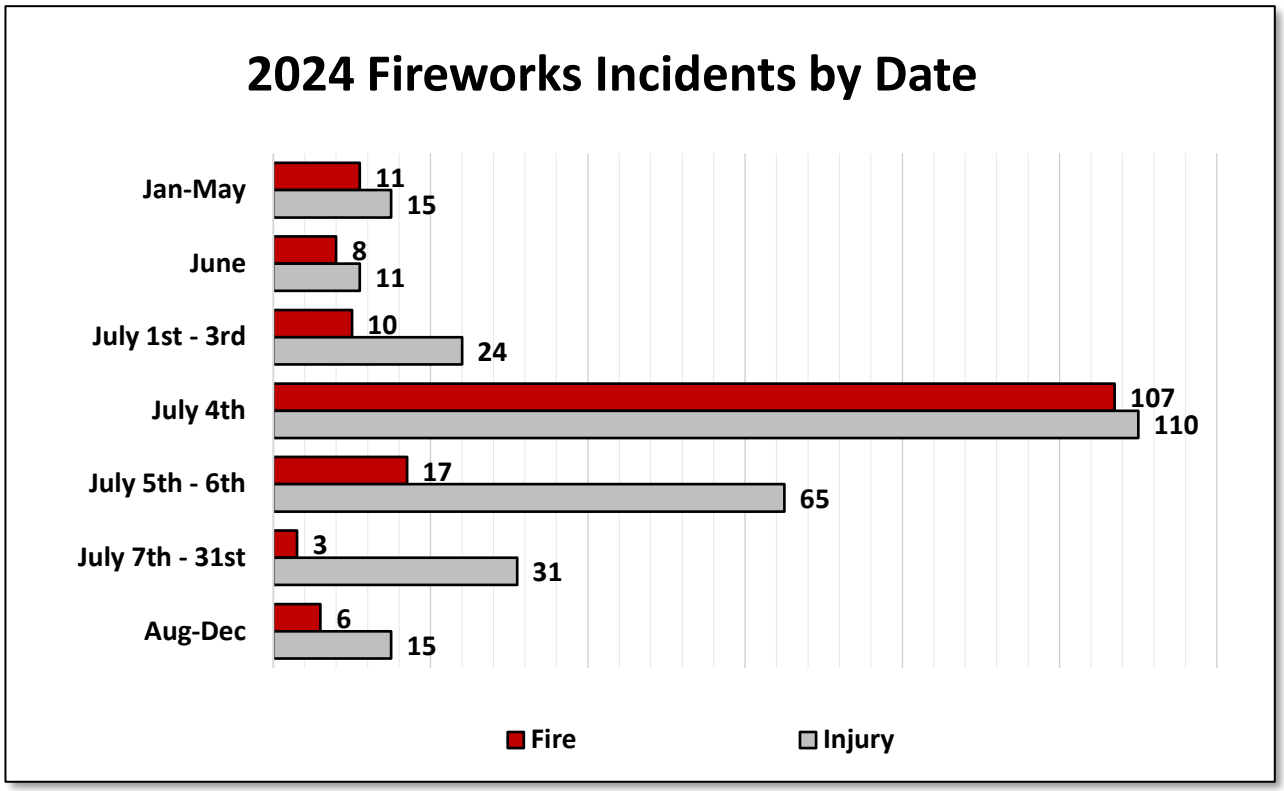
Fireworks Incidents and Dollar Loss

Fireworks-related fires resulted in just under $2.5 million in total loss in 2024 which is a 4 percent decrease from the prior year.



Fireworks Incidents by Date

Per RCW 70.77.395, legal sale and discharge of consumer fireworks is restricted to periods around the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve. According to local agency reporting, fireworks-related incidents most often occur on July 4th. This has remained constant over the past ten years.



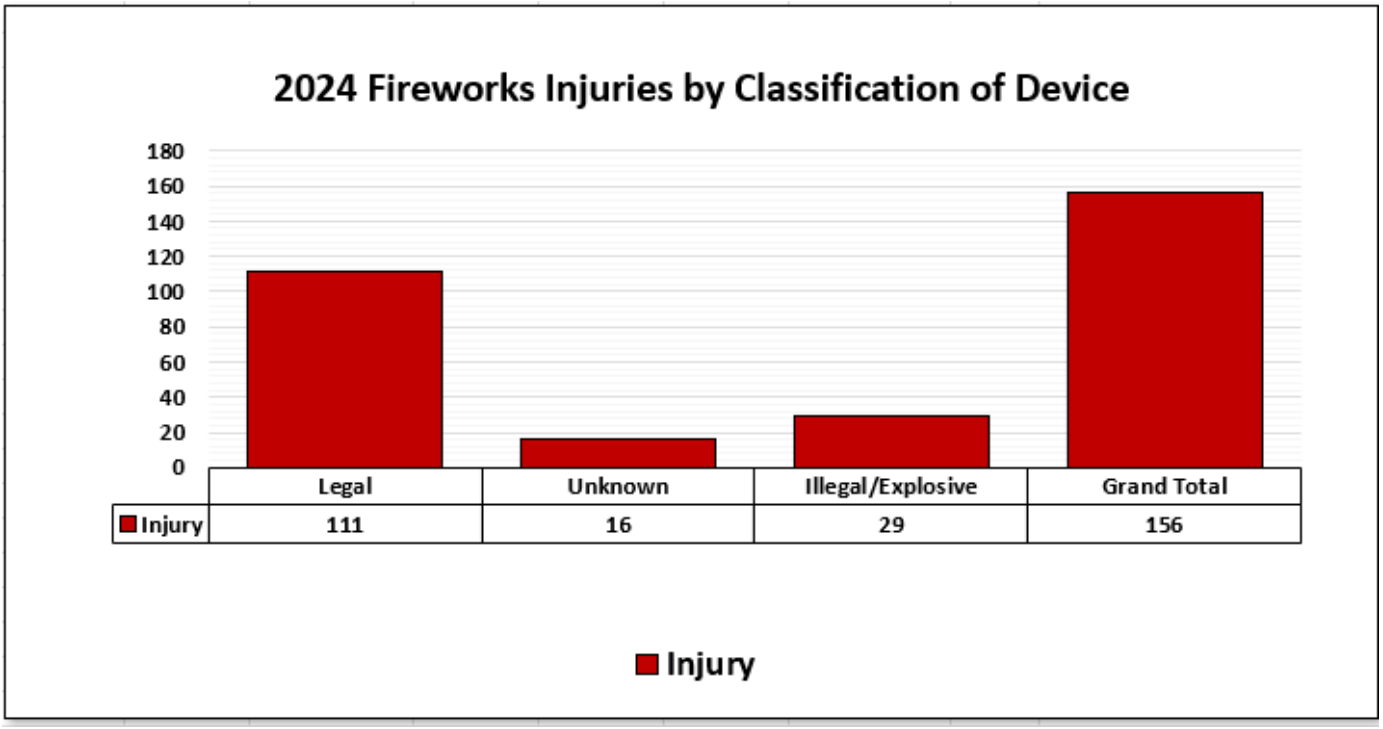
Fireworks Fires by Property Use

Fireworks-related fires most frequently occurred in **Residential Properties** and accounted for 50 percent of the total incidents. Fireworks-related fire incidents in the **Residential** category had the highest total loss of almost 2 million, accounting for 95 percent of the losses.

Property Use Category	Number of Incidents	Percent of Incidents	Dollar Loss	Percent of Dollar Loss
Residential	136	50%	$1,835,150	95%
Vehicle Lots	40	15%	$85,890	4%
Left blank by reporting agency or Other	95	35%	$10,000	1%
Grand Total	**271**	**100%**	**$1,931,040**	**100%**

Fireworks Incidents by Classification of Device

In 2024, **Legal** fireworks were identified in 60 percent of the reported fires and accounted for 70 percent of total injuries. **Illegal and Explosive** types of fireworks were identified as the cause in 3 percent of the fires and 8 percent of the injuries. **Unknown** fireworks devices accounted for 37 percent of the fires and 23 percent of the injuries.



Fireworks Injuries by Type of Device

Of the 156 reported fireworks injury incidents, 102 involved **Legal** devices which equates to 65 percent of the injures. Injuries from **aerial shells/mortars** were the most common, accounting for 31 percent of the incidents. The known device with the second highest injures is **roman candles** accounting for 8 percent, followed by sparklers accounting for 6 percent. Of the 13 injury incidents involving known **Illegal** devices, injuries from **M-80 Devices** were the most common, at 3 percent of the overall incidents.

Injuries by Device Type	Legal	Unknown	Illegal/Explosive	Grand Total
Unknown	0	41	0	41
Aerial Shell/Mortar	45	0	4	49
Sparkler	10	0	0	10
Roman Candle	13	0	0	13
Public display mortar	6	0	2	8
Firecracker/Chaser	5	0	0	5
Cake/Multi-Aerial	7	0	0	7
Novelty	3	0	2	5
M-80	0	0	5	5
Bottle Rocket	4	0	0	4
Missile/Rocket	3	0	0	3
Cone/Fountain	6	0	0	6
Grand Total	**102**	**41**	**13**	**156**

Fireworks Injuries by Cause of Injury

32 percent of the reported fireworks-related injuries are due to **Holding Fireworks**. The second highest cause of injury is **Hit by Fireworks/Debris** which makes up 31 percent of the of the injuries.

Cause of Injury		
Hit by Fireworks and/or debris	48	31%
Holding Fireworks	50	32%
Leaning over fireworks	6	4%
Lighting/Relighting	6	4%
Unknown	2	1%
Other	40	26%
Unsafe Surface for Lighting	4	3%
Grand Total	**156**	**100%**

Primary Injury by Type of Device

61% of fireworks related injuries were burns in 2024. The burns category includes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns. 78% of the 95 total burns were from **legal** fireworks.

Primary Injury	Legal	Unknown	Illegal/Explosive	Grand Total
Trauma	14	4	3	21
Amputation/Avulsion	3	2	4	9
Burns- Two or more severities	20	0	6	26
Burns- 1st Degree ONLY	14	2	1	17
Burns- 2nd Degree ONLY	20	5	1	26
Burns- 3rd Degree ONLY	4	0	1	5
Burns (Unspecified)	16	3	1	20
Hearing/Sight Loss or Injury	4	2	0	6
Other/Unknown/Left Blank	10	2	3	15
Laceration	8	1	2	11
Grand Total	**113**	**21**	**22**	**156**

***Trauma includes contusions, abrasions, lacerations, fractures, and other trauma injuries.**

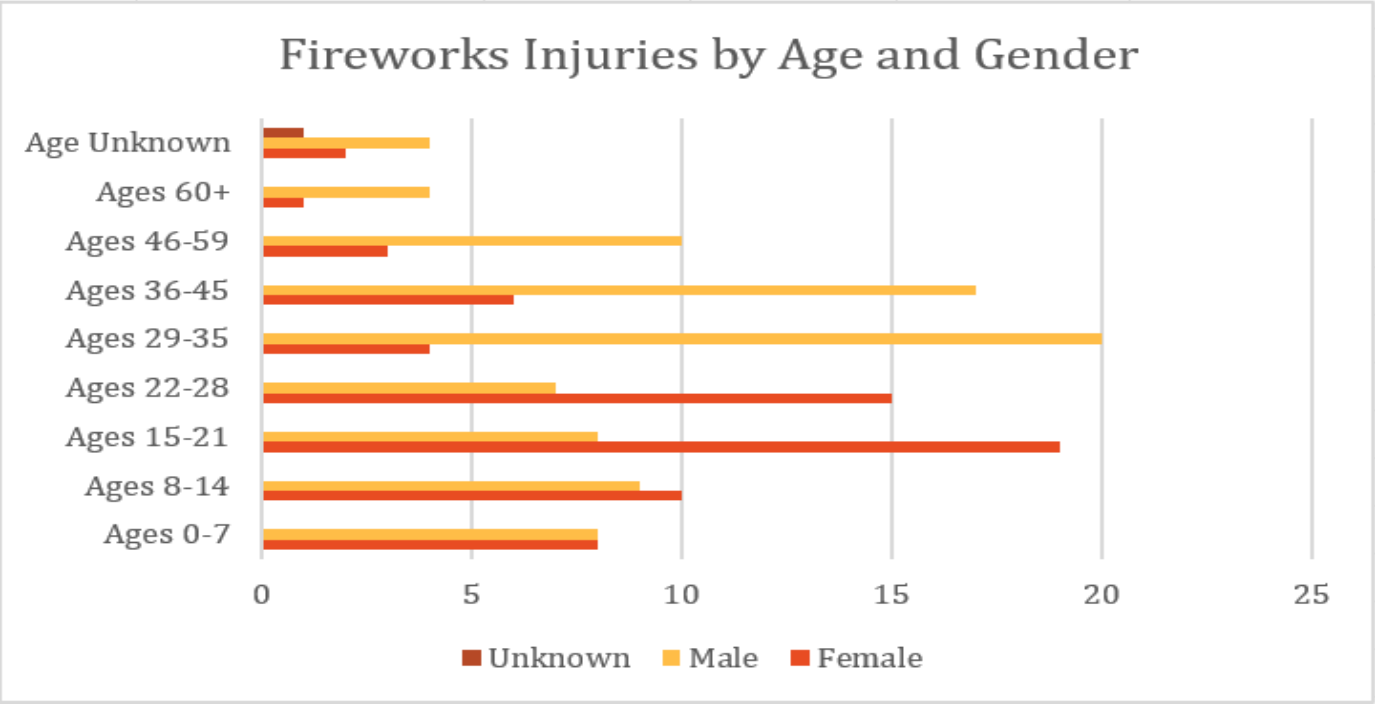
Primary Injury Location and Device

Of the 156 injuries from fireworks in 2024, 66 occurred to the **Face/Head**. 71% of these **Face/Head** injuries were caused by **legal** fireworks, and 12 of the 66 injuries involved alcohol or another drug.

Primary Injury Location	Legal	Unknown	Illegal/Explosive	Grand Total
Face/Head	53	11	2	66
Hand/Arm	34	8	9	51
Foot/Leg	9	5	3	17
Torso	11	4	1	16
Multiple Locations	4	1	1	6
Grand Total	**111**	**29**	**16**	**156**

Fireworks Injuries by Age and Gender

The group with the highest recorded injuries is 15-21 years old, accounting for 17 percent of the injuries reported. Followed by 29-35 years old, accounting for 15 percent of the injuries. According to the Center for Disease Control, teens are 3 times more likely to be injured by fireworks when they are unsupervised.



STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE CONTACTS

STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Chad Cross
Chad.Cross@wsp.wa.gov
(360) 596-3902

Fire Prevention Division

Assistant State Fire Marshal
Melissa Gannie
Melissa.Gannie@wsp.wa.gov
(360) 596-3903

Inspection Section
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Barbara Maier
Barbara.Maier@wsp.wa.gov
(509) 969-4536

Plan Review Section
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Cozetta Christian
Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov
(360) 596-3906

Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Gregory Baruso
Gregory.Baruso@wsp.wa.gov
(360) 596-3929

Professional Development and Response Section
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Bill Slosson
William.Slosson@wsp.wa.gov
(360) 596-3928

Fire Training Division

Assistant State Fire Marshal
Kelly Merz
Kelly.Merz@wsp.wa.gov
(425) 453-3000 ext. 102

Chief of Instruction
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Brian Smith
Brian.Smith@wsp.wa.gov
(425) 453-3000 ext. 104

Regional Direct Delivery
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Howard Scartozzi
Howard.Scartozzi@wsp.wa.gov
(425) 401-7732