

MAY 2017

Theme: Arson Awareness

Week 1 – Arson Awareness

Week 2 – Sky Lantern Information

Week 3 – Building Safety/Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 – Hotel/Motel Safety

Events:

National Arson Awareness Week May 1st-17th

WV Safety Summit at Safety Expo May 12th

Educator Tip: Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings throughout your community. Present the leading fire causes for that specific area and provide tips on how those types of fires can be prevented.

Artifacts: Have you been to a house fire recently where you found artifacts that clearly show the thermal layers? Sooty smoke alarms with no batteries? A burned door with charring and heavy soot at the top and less damage at the bottom? There are safety messages you can develop based on each of these artifacts. Messages about the charred door include keeping bedroom doors closed at night, the engineering of the door, why you need smoke alarms inside and outside of bedrooms, why you should stay low and crawl, using secondary exits, etc.

National Fire Service History

- May 4, 1901 - Jacksonville FL Conflagration (1,700 buildings burn)
- May 6, 1925 - Atlanta Floor Collapse (6 FF's Deaths)
- May 28, 1977 - KY Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire (165 deaths)

Arson and intentional fires

During 2007-2011, an estimated 282,600 intentional fires were reported to U.S. fire departments each year, with associated annual losses of 420 civilian deaths, 1,360 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage. Outside or unclassified fires accounted for three-quarters (75%) of these incidents, while 18% involved structures, and 7% were vehicle fires.



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Facts and figures

Based on 2007-2011 annual averages: Although three of every four intentional fires are started outside most of the intentional fire casualties and property loss resulted from structure fires.

- Intentionally set home structure fires are more likely to be set in the afternoon and evening hours, between 3 pm and midnight.
- The bedroom is the leading area of origin for intentional home structure fires, while bathrooms are the leading areas in public properties such as stores, offices or schools.

CHAPTER 61. CRIMES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT. ARTICLE 3. CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY.

§61-3-1. Burning, etc., of a dwelling or outbuilding; first degree arson; penalty; definitions. (a) Any person who willfully and maliciously sets fire to or burns, or who causes to be burned, or who aids, counsels, procures, persuades, incites, entices or solicits any person to burn, any dwelling, whether occupied, unoccupied or vacant, or any outbuilding, whether the property of himself or herself or of another, shall be guilty of arson in the first degree and, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than two nor more than twenty years. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of two years of his or her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, whichever is greater.

(b) As used in subsection (a) of this section: (1) "Dwelling" means any building or structure intended for habitation or lodging, in whole or in part, regularly or occasionally, and shall include, but not be limited to, any house, apartment, hotel, dormitory, hospital, nursing home, jail, prison, mobile home, house trailer, modular home, factory-built home or self-propelled motor home; (2) "Outbuilding" means any building or structure which adjoins, is part of, belongs to, or is used in connection with a dwelling, and shall include, but not be limited to, any garage, shop, shed, barn or stable.

§61-3-2. Burning, etc., of other buildings or structures; second degree arson; penalty. Any person who willfully and maliciously sets fire to or burns, or who causes to be burned, or who aids, counsels, procures, persuades, incites, entices or solicits any person to burn, any building or structure of any class or character, whether the property of himself or herself or of another, not included or prescribed in the preceding section, shall be guilty of arson in the second degree and, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than one nor more than ten years. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of one year of his or her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, whichever is greater.

§61-3-3. Burning personal property of another of the value of five hundred dollars or more; third degree arson; penalty. Any person who willfully and maliciously sets fire to or burns, or who causes to be burned, or who aids, counsels, procures, persuades, incites, entices or solicits any person to burn, any personal property of any class or character, of the value of not less than five hundred dollars, and the property of another person, shall be guilty of arson in the third degree and, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than one nor more than three years. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of one year of his or her sentence.

§61-3-4. Attempt to commit arson; fourth degree arson; penalty. (a) Any person who willfully and maliciously attempts to set fire to or burn, or attempts to cause to be burned, or attempts to aid, counsel, procure, persuade, incite, entice or solicit any person to burn, any of the buildings, structures, or personal property mentioned in the foregoing sections, or who commits any act preliminary thereto, or in furtherance thereof, shall be guilty of arson in the fourth degree and, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than one nor more than two years, or fined not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, or both. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of one year of his or her sentence.

(b) The placing or distributing of any inflammable, explosive or combustible material or substance, or any device in any building, structure or personal property mentioned in the foregoing sections, in an arrangement or preparation with intent to eventually, willfully and maliciously, set fire to or burn, or to

cause to be burned, or to aid, counsel, procure, persuade, incite, entice or solicit the setting fire to or burning of any building, structure or personal property mentioned in the foregoing sections shall, for the purposes of this section, constitute an attempt to burn that building, structure or personal property.

§61-3-5. Burning, or attempting to burn, insured property; penalty. Any person who willfully and with intent to injure or defraud an insurer sets fire to or burns, or attempts so to do, or causes to be burned, or who aids, counsels, procures, persuades, incites, entices or solicits any person to burn, any building, structure or personal property, of any class or character, whether the property of himself or herself or of another, which shall at the time be insured or which is believed by the person committing an act prohibited by this section to be insured by any person against loss or damage by fire, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than one nor more than five years or fined not to exceed ten thousand dollars, or both. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of one year of his or her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, whichever is greater.

§61-3-6. Willfully, unlawfully and maliciously setting fire on lands; penalty. If any person willfully, unlawfully and maliciously sets fire to any woods, fence, grass, straw or other thing capable of spreading fire on lands, he or she shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than one year nor more than five years or fined not to exceed five thousand dollars, or both. He or she shall, moreover, be liable to any person injured thereby, or in consequence thereof, for double the amount of damages sustained by such person. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of one year of his or her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, whichever is greater.

§61-3-7. Causing injuries during an arson-related crime; penalties.

(a) Any person who violates the provisions of sections one, two, three, four, five or six of this article, which violation causes bodily injury, but does not result in death, to any person shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than two nor more than ten years, or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of two years of his or her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, whichever is greater.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of sections one, two, three, four, five or six of this article, which violation causes serious bodily injury which maims, disfigures, or disables any person, but does not result in death, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to the penitentiary for a definite term of imprisonment which is not less than three nor more than fifteen years, or fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both. A person imprisoned pursuant to this section is not eligible for parole prior to having served a minimum of three years of his or her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, whichever is greater.

§61-3-8. Recovery of costs incurred in fighting fires caused by arson. Any person convicted of any felony enumerated in section one, two, three, four, five or six of this article may be ordered to reimburse any fire department or company for the costs expended to control, extinguish and suppress the arson fire, and all reasonable costs associated therewith, including but not limited to, costs for the personal services rendered by any employees of any fire department or company, and operating costs of equipment and supplies used to control, extinguish or suppress the fire.

Youth Firesetting Facts

Fires started by children playing accounted for an average of 56,300 fires with associated losses of 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries, and \$286 million in direct property damage per year between 2005 and 2009.

Younger children are more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside.

Males are more likely to engage in fireplay than females, as 83 percent of home structure fires and 93 percent of outside or unclassified fires were set by boys when age was coded as a factor.

Lighters were the heat source in half (50 percent) of child-playing fires in homes.

A child's bedroom continues to account for 40 percent of child-playing home fires.

USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data indicate, where age was cited as a factor in a fire's ignition by lighters or matches, that 37 percent of these fires were started by juveniles aged 10-17.

Between 2007 and 2011, an average of 49,300 fires involving playing with fire were reported to U.S. municipal fire departments per year. These fires caused annual averages of 80 civilian deaths, 860 civilian injuries, and \$235 million in property damage.

Facts & figures

- Younger children were more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside
- Males were are more likely to engage in fire-play than females, as 83% of home structure fires and 93% of outside or unclassified fires were set by boys when age was coded as a factor
- Lighters were the heat source in just over half (52%) of fires in homes involving play
- 39% of home fires involving play began in a bedroom

Playing with Fire

The subject of this report is fires caused by playing with fire. Most of these fires are started by children involved with fireplay. This report addresses the size of the problem (overall and by property class) and examines how, when, and where these fires occurred, the primary heat sources involved in these fires, the items ignited, age characteristics of involved persons, and loss data (deaths, injuries, and property damage).

Intentional Fires

An analysis on intentional fires reported to municipal fire departments. Includes information on structure, vehicle, and outside intentional fires, when and where these fires occur, and arrest and clearance information.

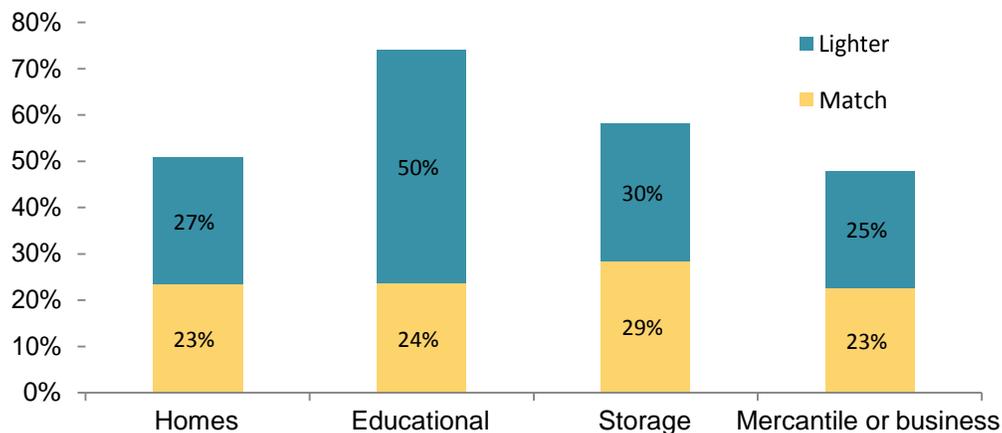


Intentional Fires Fact Sheet

During 2007-2011, an estimated 282,600 intentional fires were reported to U.S. fire departments each year, with associated annual losses of 420 civilian deaths, 1,360 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage: These fires included:

- 211,500 outside or unclassified fires
- 50,800 structure fires
- 20,400 vehicle fires

Percent of Intentional Structure Fires Started by Matches or Lighters 2007-2011 By Property Use



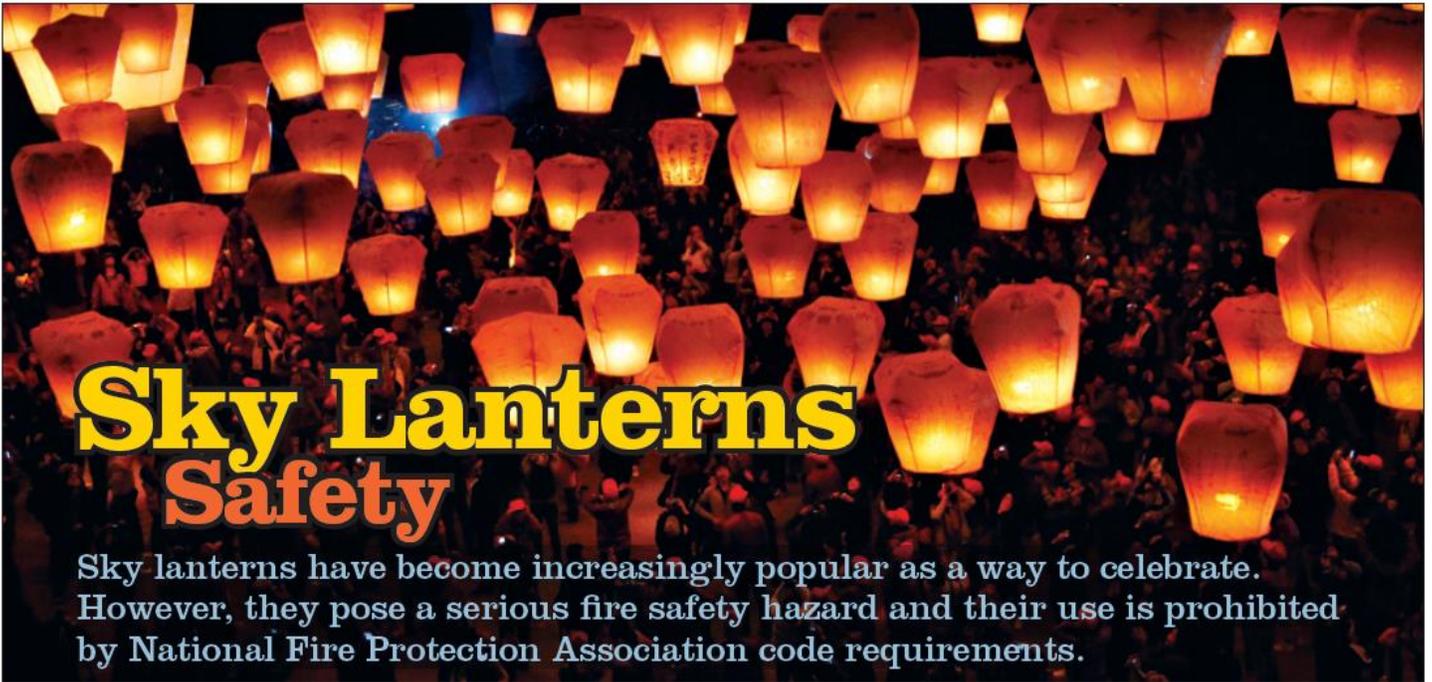
- Despite representing 18% of all intentional fires, intentional structure fires account for 92% of civilian deaths
- Intentionally set home structure fires are more likely to be set in the afternoon and evening hours, between 3 p.m. and midnight
- Three-fifths (60%) of outside or unclassified intentional fires began with a match or lighter

IDENTIFYING INTENTIONAL FIRES

What is an “intentional” fire?

The fire statistics in this analyses use detailed data from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS). The definition of “intentional” in NFIRS 5.0 specifically includes “deliberate misuse of heat source or a fire of an incendiary nature.”

Additional resources, including a free downloadable presentation on preventing arson can be found at www.nfpa.org/arson



Sky Lanterns Safety

Sky lanterns have become increasingly popular as a way to celebrate. However, they pose a serious fire safety hazard and their use is prohibited by National Fire Protection Association code requirements.

- » The lanterns are made of oiled rice paper with a bamboo frame, materials that can easily catch on fire.
- » A candle or wax fuel cell is used with the device.
- » The lit flame heats the inside of the lantern, causing it to rise into the air.
- » Once lit and airborne, it can travel over a mile in distance.
- » Wind can affect the sky lantern, blowing the sides, forcing the hot air out and sending the flaming lantern back to the ground.
- » These lanterns have the potential to cause fires.
- » A flaming lantern can drop onto a rooftop, field, trees or power lines before the flame is fully extinguished.
- » A destructive fire can result when a flaming lantern reaches the ground during dry conditions.
- » Sky lanterns should not be used under any circumstances.

Recent fires

A **sky lantern** landed on the canopy of a country club, igniting the canopy.

Two sky lanterns landed in forested land impacting valuable wildfire firefighting resources.

What happens when the event is not typical?

As with any situation in our daily lives, you are ultimately in control of your fate to a great degree. Thus, you are largely responsible for your own personal safety based upon the circumstances. Detailed procedures, verbal instructions and even past experience may not be adequate to help you deal with extraordinary events. **RED**, the universal color for danger can be used to help you in such circumstances.

React: Take any indication of smoke, fire or other potentially threatening situation seriously. Activation of building fire alarms, smell of smoke, visual indication of flames, warning from other occupants, arrival of the fire department are some of the attributes that may signal an imminently dangerous situation.

Evaluate: You must judge the level of threat. This includes confirming evidence or presence of smoke or fire; judging the conditions in your immediate area; self-judgment of your physical ability to relocate or evacuate; evaluation of the needs and abilities of others who may need assistance; consider additional information being received.

Decide: There are only two, but difficult choices:

1. Follow your plan and immediately leave the building.

OR

2. Follow your plan and stay where you are, or descend to the designated level below the fire floor and be prepared to take protective/defensive action. In this case, anticipated action may include alerting the fire department of your location, seal doors, windows and vents that lead into your space. Do not break out the windows. Be prepared to wait for a considerable time period (at least one hour) if you contemplate rescue by the fire department.

This process is iterative. It is not only done at the first hint of a dangerous situation. It is a process that the individual must manage and it needs to be repeated until the danger has passed or, if total building evacuation is in order, when that action is completed.

Home fire sprinklers

Because fire sprinklers react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire. Properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers help save lives.

Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial and industrial properties and public buildings. What many people don't realize is that the same life-saving technology is also available for homes, where roughly 85% of all civilian fire deaths occur.



Facts about home fire sprinklers

Automatic sprinklers are highly effective and reliable elements of total system designs for fire protection in buildings. According to an American Housing Survey, 4.6% of occupied homes (including multi-unit) had sprinklers in 2009, up from 3.9% in 2007, and 18.5% of occupied home built in the previous four years had sprinklers. **Source:** U.S. Experience with Sprinklers

- 85% of all U.S. fire deaths occur in the home.
- Home fire sprinklers can control and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. In 84% of home fires where the sprinklers operate, just one sprinkler operates.
- If you have a fire in your home, the risk of dying is cut by about one-third when smoke alarms are present (or about half if the smoke alarms are working), while automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying by about 80%.
- In a home with sprinklers, the average property loss per fire is cut by about 70% (compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.)
- The cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot.

Hotel Motel Safety

Be safe when traveling

- Choose a hotel/motel that is protected by both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system.
- When you check in, ask the front desk what the fire alarm sounds like.
- When you enter your room, review the escape plan posted in your room.
- Take the time to find the exits and count the number of doors between your room and the exit. Make sure the exits are unlocked. If they are locked, report it to management right away.
- Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire.
- If the alarm sounds, leave right away, closing all doors behind you. Use the stairs — never use elevators during a fire.
- If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.

If you can't escape ...

- Shut off fans and air conditioners.
- Stuff wet towels in the crack around the doors.
- Call the fire department and let them know your location.
- Wait at the window and signal with a flashlight or light colored cloth.
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U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,700 structure fires per year at hotel or motel properties between 2006-2010. These fires caused average annual losses of 12 civilian deaths, 143 civilian injuries, and \$127 million in direct property damage each year.

Facts & figures

- In an average year, one of every 12 hotels or motels reported a structure fire.
- Smoking materials started 10% of the fires in hotels and motels; these fires caused 79% of the deaths.
- Only 8% of hotel and motel fires were intentionally set, but these accounted for 12% of the associated property damage.
- Twelve percent of fires in hotels and motels began in a bedroom; these fires caused 72% of the associated civilian deaths and 31% of civilian injuries.
- When sprinklers were present and operated, 91% of sprinklers in hotel or motel fires operated effectively when present.