

West Virginia
State Fire Marshal
&
State Fire Commission
FY 2023 Annual Report
Kenneth E. Tyree Jr.
State Fire Marshal



www.FireMarshal.wv.gov



1700 MacCorkle Ave. SE

4th Floor North

Charleston, WV 25314

Phone (304) 558 – 2191

Fax (304) 558 – 2537

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From the State Fire Commission Chairman



WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION
Grant Gunnoe-Chairman
Doug Mongold-Vice Chairman
Ted Shriver- Secretary

Phone: (304) 558-2191

Fax: (304) 558-2537

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
1700 MacCorkle Ave SE – 4th Floor North
Charleston, WV 25314
www.firemarshal.wv.gov

October 1, 2023

The Honorable Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice,

On behalf of the members of the West Virginia State Fire Commission and in accordance with the West Virginia Code, I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report of the WV State Fire Commission for FY 2023.

The support you have shown for the entire Fire Service of West Virginia, the State Fire Commission and the Office of the Fire Marshal is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Commission if you have any inquiries in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Gunnoe", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Grant Gunnoe
Chairman



From the WV State Fire Marshal



Department of Homeland Security
Cabinet Secretary Mark A. Sorsaia
State Fire Marshal Kenneth E. Tyree, Jr.

Phone: (304) 558-2191

Fax: (304) 558-2537

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October 1, 2023

The Honorable Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice,

In compliance with the West Virginia Code, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 20, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's office is hereby submitted for your review.

This report is a representative, but by no means complete, look at the myriad services provided to the citizens of West Virginia by the dedicated personnel of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

Since 1909 the State Fire Marshal's Office has consistently increased its level of public service to the State of West Virginia through code inspections and enforcement, licensing and regulatory services, public fire education, fire investigations and many other duties.

This report in part reflects the efforts of West Virginia's fire departments and fire service organizations that represent full time career, volunteer, and part-paid combination departments. It should not be forgotten that daily, these brave men and women are ready to give their lives protecting their communities from fire and other emergency incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KE Tyree".

Kenneth E. Tyree, Jr.
West Virginia State Fire Marshal





Mission Statement

To provide, through leadership, the best possible fire prevention and life safety for our citizens by legislation, education, training, standards, and resource allocation.

Commission Representation

- 3 Members Full-Time Paid Firefighters
- 1 Member Full-Time Paid Fire Chief
- 3 Members Volunteer Firefighters
- 2 Members Volunteer Fire Chiefs
- 2 Members Business & Industry
- 1 Member Fire Insurance Industry
- 1 Member Registered Architects

Standing Committees

- Fire Department Services Committee
 - Disciplinary Committee
- Legislative and Codes Committee
- Training Committee
- VFD Equipment and Training Grant Fund Committee

Fire Commission Officers

Chairman: Grant Gunnoe
Represents: Paid Firefighters
Term Expires: June 30, 2024

Vice-Chairman: Doug Mongold
Represents: Volunteer Firefighters
Term Expires: June 30, 2028

Secretary: Ted Shriver
Represents: Architects
Term Expires: June 30, 2027

Fire Commission Members



Steven Byers

Steven was appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Justice in November of 2020. He began his career in the fire service in June of 1988 when he joined the Jackson's Mill VFD as a junior member. Since 2006 he has held the position of Chief at that same department.



Dave Camp

Dave represents the Fire Insurance industry in West Virginia and was appointed on the Fire Commission by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in 2014. He is an insurance agent with Bill Bailey Insurance Agency / VFIS of WV. Mr. Camp has more than a decade of experience in the Fire Service specializing in Safety, Education, Training, Risk Analysis and Loss Control Practices. He holds the Certified Professional Insurance Agent (CPIA) designation and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Management from Davis & Elkins College.



Carl Eastham

Carl was re-appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Justice in 2022 to represent the Paid Fire Chiefs. Carl started his service with the City of Huntington, in July 1985 where he rose through the ranks until retiring February 2017 as Fire Chief. He has served as President of the Huntington Professional Fire Fighters, Secretary & Treasurer of the Professional Fire Fighters of West Virginia, and President of Tri-State District Labor Council. He also has served as the Emergency Services Director for the City of Huntington, a fire service instructor and was a founding member, and team leader of WV Region 3 Haz/Mat Response Unit. He currently holds an Associate Degree in Occupational Development from MCTC with an emphasis in Firefighting and Fire Safety.



Doug Estep

Doug was appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Tomblin in 2015. Doug was sworn in as Fire Chief of the Morrisvale Volunteer Fire Department in August of 1982. Chief Estep has served as Chief of the department while also maintaining a career as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic at Hobet Mining. He retired from mining in 2013 with 38 years of service. Chief Estep is a certified Fire Officer along with being a certified Fire Instructor 2 for WVU Fire Service Extension. He specializes in teaching rural firefighting tactics.



Edward J. George

Edward was appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Jim Justice in June of 2018 and reappointed in June of 2022. He was appointed to represent Business and Industry interests. Edward is a partner in the law firm of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP where his practice is extensive and involves matters affecting manufacturing, waste transportation and disposal, energy generation, and beverage alcohol regulation. Edward's career also includes past service as a metro-Philadelphia firefighter. Edward also serves as a reserve police officer.



Grant Gunnoe

Grant represents the Paid Firefighters in West Virginia and was appointed to the Fire Commission by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in 2010. After graduation from High School Grant worked in the Communications Center for the Charleston Police Department and then as a Paramedic for the Charleston Emergency Ambulance Service until beginning a 28-year career with the Charleston Fire Department. In 2002 he was promoted to Chief of the Department. Grant retired in May of 2006 to assume the position of Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the City of Charleston until he retired in April of 2019.



Phil Hart

Phil was re-appointed to the Fire Commission by Governor Jim Justice in 2021, representing volunteer Fire Chiefs. Phil has been a member of the Belington Volunteer Fire Department since 1978 and has been the Fire Chief since 2010. Since 1989 Phil has been employed with the City of Bridgeport Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic and he has held many offices throughout his career. In June of 2016 he was appointed Fire Chief of the combination department.



Brian Jones

Brian represents the Paid Firefighters and was appointed to the Fire Commission by Governor Justice on July 15th, 2021. He retired as a Lieutenant from the North Side Fire Station in Morgantown after 24 years of service. He served as Vice President of IAFF Local 313 and as President of the Professional Fire Fighters of West Virginia from 2006 to 2021.



Thomas Keefer

Tom was re-appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in 2016. He represents the Business and Industry interests for the Commission. Tom began his career at the DuPont, Belle, WV facility in the Project Engineering Group in May 1974. Tom was a DuPont / Chemours HAZMAT responder since 1976 with extensive experience in process safety, safety, security, hazardous material distribution, emergency response, and incident command. In addition, Commissioner Keefer is the Administrator for the Kanawha-Putnam Emergency Planning Committee.



Doug Mongold

Doug was re-appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Jim Justice in 2023. Chief Mongold represents the volunteer firefighters. He currently serves as Fire Chief of the Moorefield Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Mongold is past President of the WV State Firemen's Association and is currently serving on the executive committee. Chief Mongold is also currently Chairman of the local LEPC board.



Jim Oldaker

Jim was reappointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Justice in 2020. Jim is a 42-year member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 466, Charleston, WV, AFL/CIO. Jim is a 45-year member of the Alum Creek Volunteer Fire Department and has served 38 years in the position of Fire Chief. Jim is a Certified Fire Officer and Fire Instructor. Currently he is involved with and serves on many associations. Jim represents the Volunteer Firefighters.



Ted Shriver

Ted was re-appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Jim Justice in 2022 and represents the West Virginia Society of Architects but he represents all design professionals. As Chairman of the Commission's Code and Regulatory Committee, he has been a part of updating the rules for the State Fire Code, the State Building Code, Code Officials and Home Inspectors. He earned an Engineering Technology Degree from Fairmont State College in 1979 and obtained licensure in 1995 to practice architecture. He recently retired after 43 years in the field of architecture.



Virgil 'P-nut' White

Virgil "P-nut" White is a 37-year veteran of the Fire Service and was re-appointed by Governor Jim Justice to the State Fire Commission in 2022. Virgil began his career in 1986 with the Lewisburg Fire Department and in 1993 became employed by the South Charleston Fire Department. In his years of service, he has risen through the ranks up to his current rank of Fire Chief. Virgil has always had a strong passion for the fire service and other public safety. He has decades of experience as a paramedic, fire service instructor, and as a 911 telecommunicator. He currently holds an Associate and a bachelor's degree in Fire Science from West Virginia State University and a Master's Degree in Emergency Management from Anna Maria College.



Personnel Listed by Division

Administration Division

State Fire Marshal	Kenneth E. Tyree
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal	Robert D. Bailey IV
Administrative Secretary	Kathryn Burns
Administrative Services Assistant I	Courtney Aston
Office Assistant III	Janice Patton
Public Information Specialist I	Timothy Rock

Fire Services Division

Deputy State Fire Marshal	Mark Stewart
Administrative Service Assistant 2	Kayla Burns
Assistant Fire Marshal II	Bradley Scott
Administrative Services Assistant I	Dawn Owens
Data Analyst I	Alice Morrison
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Mary Smith
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Renee Ward
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Vacant

Fire Inspection & Plans Review Division

Deputy State Fire Marshal	Vacant
Assistant State Fire Marshal III	Jeff Armentrout
	John Holben (acting)
Assistant State Fire Marshal II	Everett Chapman
	Nevin Kilmer
	Timothy Mouse
	Bobby Palmer
	Ronald Williams
Assistant State Fire Marshal I	Lonnie Cogar
	Richard Hacker
	James Owens
	Stephen Seminsky
Assistant Fire Marshal In-Training	James Beafore
	Cody Foutty
	Savannah Short
Fire Safety Plans Examiner Supervisor	Clyde Cummings
Fire Safety Plans Examiner II	Vacant
Fire Safety Plans Examiner I	Ron Nelson
Secretary I	Rachel Gates
Office Assistant II	Monica J. Ingram
Office Assistant II	Vacant

Fire Investigation Division

Deputy State Fire Marshal

Assistant State Fire Marshal III

Assistant State Fire Marshal II

Assistant State Fire Marshal I

Secretary I

Jason D. Baltic

Ronald Ayersman

George Harms

Robert S. Rodes, II

Shawn Alderman

Tim Chastain

Larry Hamrick

James Lewis

Rick Sovastion

Joseph Vacchio

Jason Iafolla

Caylee Slack



Administration Division

Introduction

This Division is comprised of two sections. Administration and Public Education. Administration is responsible for day-to-day operations while Public Education keeps the public sector informed and educated regarding fire safety.

Staff

Chief Deputy Fire Marshal	Robert D. Bailey IV
Administrative Secretary	Kathryn Burns
Administrative Services Assistant I	Courtney Aston
Office Assistant III	Janice Patton
Public Information Specialist I	Tim Rock

Administration Section

In Fiscal Year 23 the Administration Division began a major undertaking – the relocation of the WV State Fire Marshal’s Office. They have worked diligently with the Office of Technology, the Real Estate Division, current and future lessors, moving companies, and all agency staff in making the transition as smooth as possible. The fruits of their labor and all agency employees have come to fruition, as the relocation is complete as of publication time of this report.

The Administration Division in conjunction with DAS is responsible for procurement, accounting, personnel, payroll, cash management, fringe benefits, personnel records management, FOIA requests, Fire Commission meetings, development of the annual report, website management, and fixed assets.

Procurement

The administrative staff along with DAS are responsible for the procurement of all goods and services integral to the day-to-day operations of the West Virginia State Fire Commission. In doing so, every effort is extended to ensure that equipment, supplies and services obtained are of the highest quality available. These items are obtained either by statewide contracts, internal resources, or by means of competitive bids solicited from reputable vendors who are registered to do business with the State of West Virginia.

Personnel

Daily activities for the office include working with DAS to ensure the completion of all personnel transactions for agency new hires, transfers, separations, reallocations, leave of absences, and promotions. Administration is also responsible for job postings, managing employee leave, overseeing worker's compensation claims and the co-ordination of WV State Fire Commission Meetings. This division strives to ensure that the agency is following all state and federal employment regulations.

Accounting

Administration is responsible for all revenue and expenditure transactions which includes payroll, travel, vendor payments, cash deposits and refunds, fringe benefits plan maintenance, and preparation of and expenditure monitoring of the annual operating budget.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

Administration receives, tracks, and monitors all agency Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The Administration Division received Four Hundred and Ninety-Seven (497) FOIA requests last year. Examples of common information requested include Investigation Reports, Inspection Reports and Incident reports from fire departments. Once a request is received, it is distributed to the appropriate internal and external employees for further processing. The Administrative personnel are responsible for invoicing and disbursement of responsive documents.



Training

Personnel must stay current on all agency, state, and federal policies. To do so the administrative staff attends many hours of training each year.

Public Education Division Annual Report 2022/2023

Work to lower the fire death rates in the state while being an ambassador for the WV State Fire Marshal's Office

Public Education Staff:

**Division Director: Chief Deputy
Robert Bailey**

**Public Information Specialist:
Timothy Rock**

Introduction:

Public Education is responsible for duties that include, but are not limited to: the development and implementation of public fire and life safety programs and activities statewide; developing a community risk reduction program, smoke alarm initiative and a WV Public Education Network; Fire and Life Safety School; fire safety resources and public information; and the administration of the Fire Safe Cigarettes certification for tobacco manufacturers.

The Public Education Division works to build strong relationships and implement action plans around the state with agencies and organizations who will assist in helping spread fire prevention safety.

Partnering with local fire departments ensures that we can provide smoke alarms to all state households that need one.

Using newer and better forms of data-gathering and evaluation we can use this data to identify high-risk populations and areas.

Objectives:

Fire and injury prevention for all groups, including high risk individuals such as seniors, those with disabilities and young children;

Train-the-trainer instruction in public fire and safety education for firefighters and other emergency responders;

Fireworks safety and laws for the general public;

Smoke alarm education and distribution;

Public seminars and speaking for various civilian and first responders;

Participation in health and safety fairs, festivals, seminars and career days;

Active membership in area health and safety organizations;

Media relations with local and state TV, newspaper, radio and web organizations including press conferences, press releases, interviews;

Daily contact with public on social media (Facebook and Twitter) on topics related to fire safety, topical news and press releases concerning this office;

2022/2023 Events And Special Projects:

Smoke alarm installs: In July of 2022 the WVSFMO partnered with Marshall University and its football team in an effort to install smoke alarms in various areas of the city of Huntington. The team's players showed up to residents' homes and, along with our own marshals, helped put up dozens of smoke alarms. Many happy fans of the

Marshall team were pleasantly surprised to see their favorite football players in their own homes and equally happy to have their homes protected with smoke alarms.

The database of all smoke alarm installs across the state is still operative and ongoing. As we near the ten year mark since the first installation of some of these alarms, plans are getting underway to send out postcards to these homes, reminding them that their alarms are soon to be out-of-date and they can have them replaced by new ones from this agency.

The Length Of Service Coin project has been a huge success since implemented in 2018. Hundreds of coins, indicating a 5, 10, 15 or 20 years of service to a state fire department, have been sent out in the past. This year we have also implemented a new 25 year coin as well as a 50 year service coin. Incredibly, and in testament to some of our most dedicated fire service members, our initial order of 25 and 50 year coins were found to be insufficient and orders have been made for more!

This year also saw the return of the state Public Safety Expo, which had been cancelled since 2020 when Covid hit, but was back this year with even more vendors and classes. This agency was proud to once again have a booth set up in the Charleston Civic Center alongside vendors from across the country. We were able to spread the word of fire safety and network with thousands of others in the fields of public safety.

The Jr Volunteer Firefighter Camp in Weston was also attended by members of our staff, with our marshals imparting wisdom and experiences to the young and future firefighters.

The annual Fire Safety Poster Contest was a huge success again in 2022. It was the 5th year for the contest and we had approximately 100 entries from students in counties across the state. Members of the staffs from the Department of Homeland Security and from the Governor's office were judges for the final list of the 12 winners who would appear in the calendar. Those calendars, featuring the 12 winners and 1 grand winner, were printed up by the WV Correctional Facilities and sent out right before the new year in late 2022.



Deputy Chief Bailey, Assistant State Fire Marshal Foutty (graduate) and State Fire Marshal Tyree.

In FY 2023 the State Fire Marshal's saw its' first graduate from the WV Police Academy per requirements WV Code §30-29-1.

Fire Services Division

The Fire Services Division consists of two divisions, Regulatory and Licensing Division and Fire Department Services Division. Both are vital to the operations of the Fire Marshal's Office.

Staff

Deputy State Fire Marshal	Mark Stewart
Assistant Fire Marshal II	Bradley "Sparky" Scott
Administrative Services Assistant II	Kayla Burns
Data Analyst I	Alice Morrison
Administrative Services Assistant I	Dawn Owens
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Mary Smith
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Renee Ward
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Vacant
Regulatory and Licensing Support Specialist II	Malena Boggess

Regulatory and Licensing Division

The mission of the Regulatory and Licensing Division is to ensure that all West Virginians have a safer standard of living through the administration of the 7 main Licensing programs supervised by the Office of the State Marshal, which include Electricians, Electrical Inspectors, Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Pyrotechnicians, Blasters, and Fire Protection Workers.

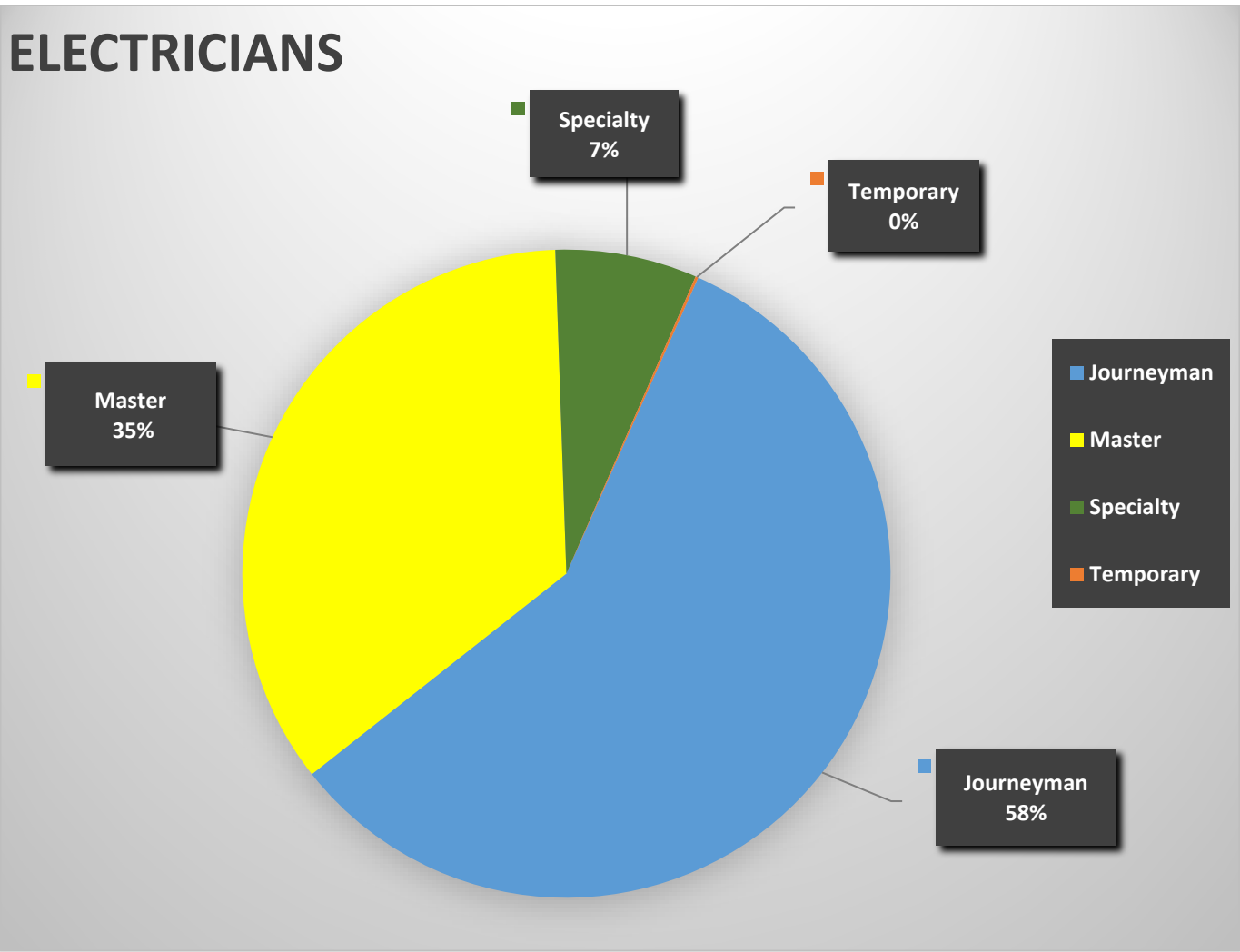
Fiscal Year End Summary

During the Fiscal year 2022-2023 the Regulatory and Licensing division issued licenses to over 13,000 Electricians, processed approximately 3400 Fireworks and Blasting permits, certified nearly 800 Fire Protection Workers, Home Inspectors, Electrical Inspectors, and Building Code Officials. The Regulatory and Licensing Division is responsible for proctoring over 2000 Electricians and Pyrotechnicians Exams at 5 different locations throughout the state and has processed and/or investigated 49 complaints related to license and permit holders.

Mark Stewart, DSFM

Fire Services Division Director

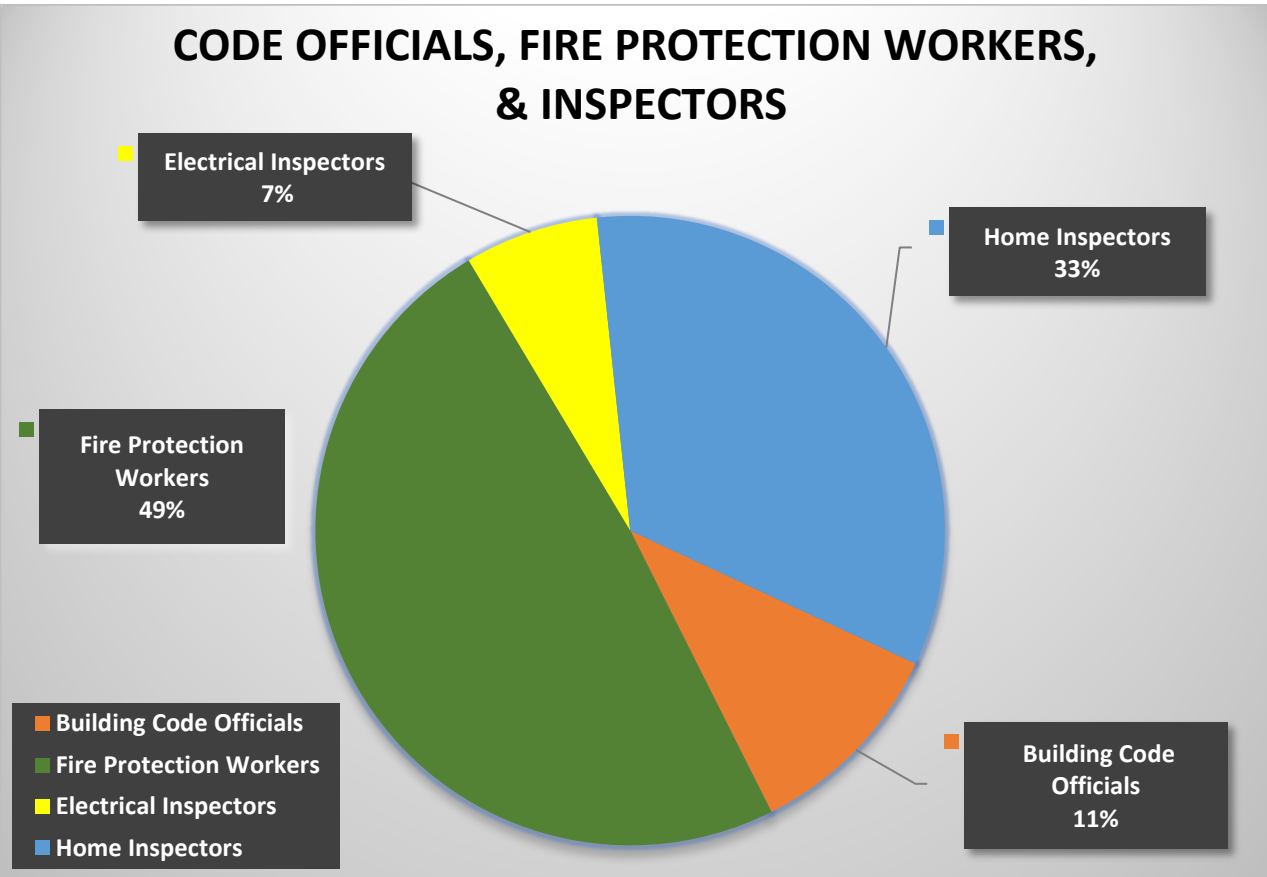
ELECTRICIANS		
License Type	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Journeyman	7,688	\$408,930.00
Master	4,673	\$241,465.00
Specialty	943	\$49,485.00
Temporary	18	\$900.00
TOTAL	13,322	\$700,780.00



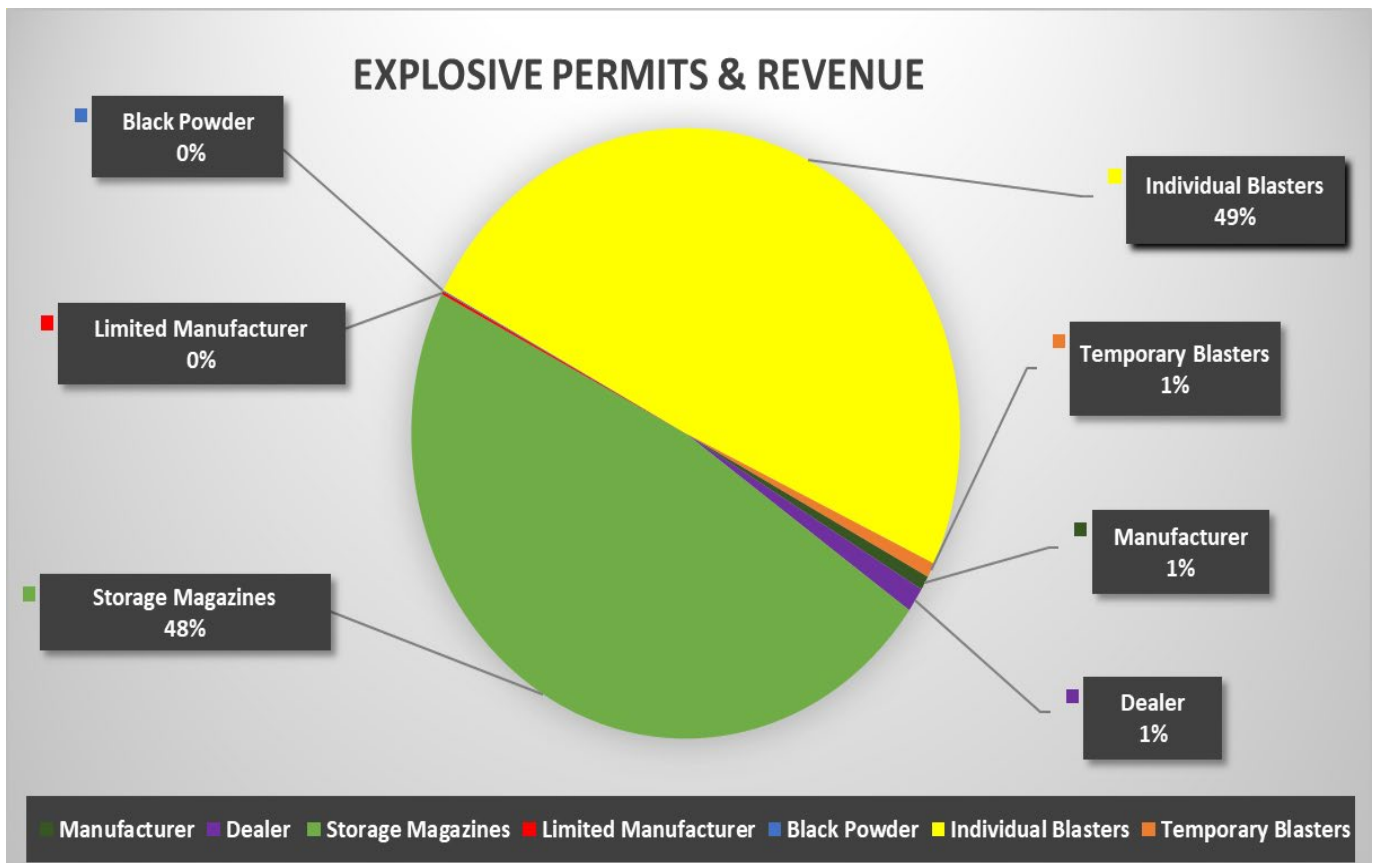
ADDITIONAL FEES		
Type	Total Number	Total Fees Collected
Duplicate Licenses	31	\$310.00
Letters of Good Standing	189	\$4,750.00
Test Applications	2,006	\$41,007.00
Total	2226	\$46,067.00



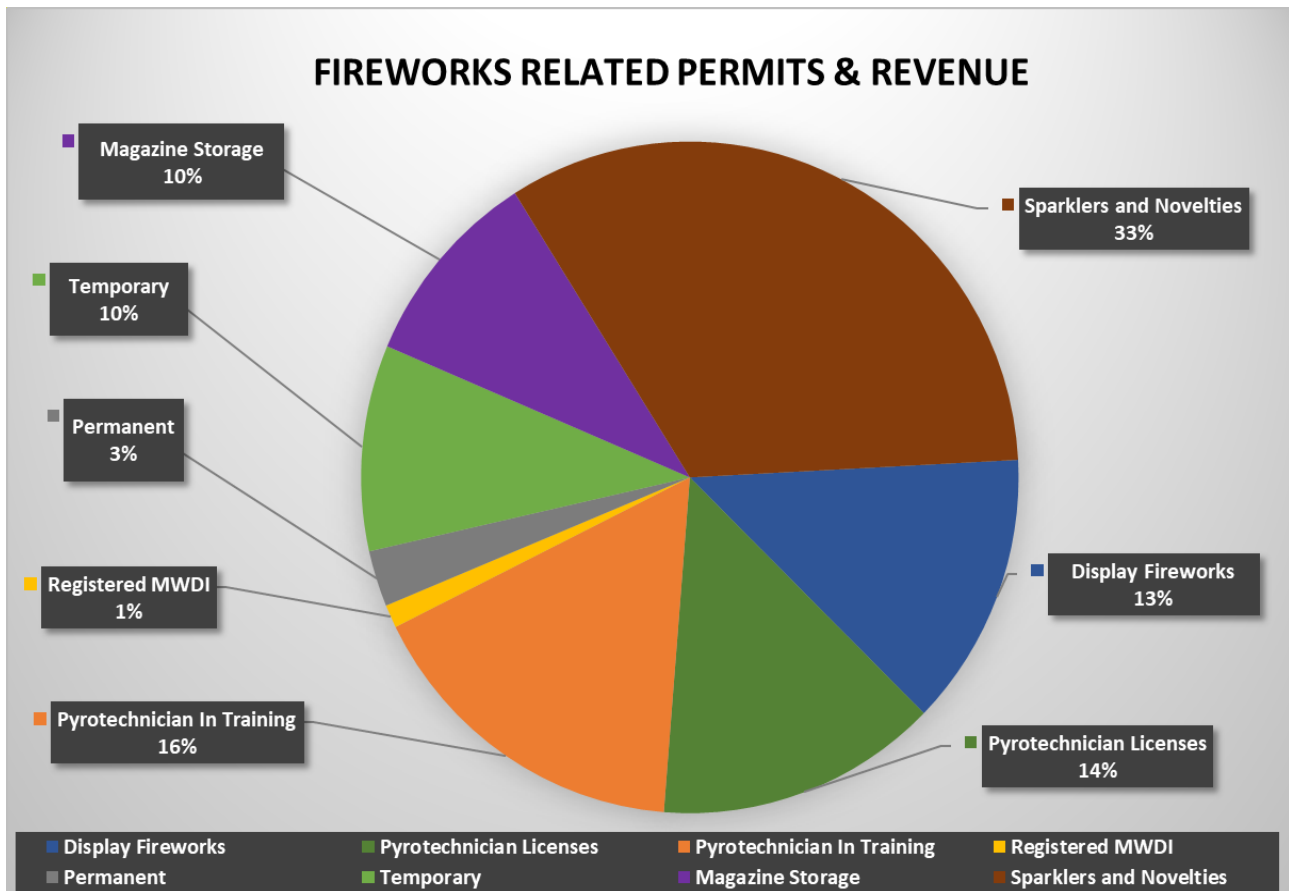
CODE OFFICIALS, FIRE PROTECTION WORKERS, & INSPECTORS		
License Type	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Building Code Officials	82	\$6,175.00
Fire Protection Workers	376	\$50,000.00
Electrical Inspectors	53	\$5,450.00
Home Inspectors	259	\$28,950.00
Total	770	\$90,575.00



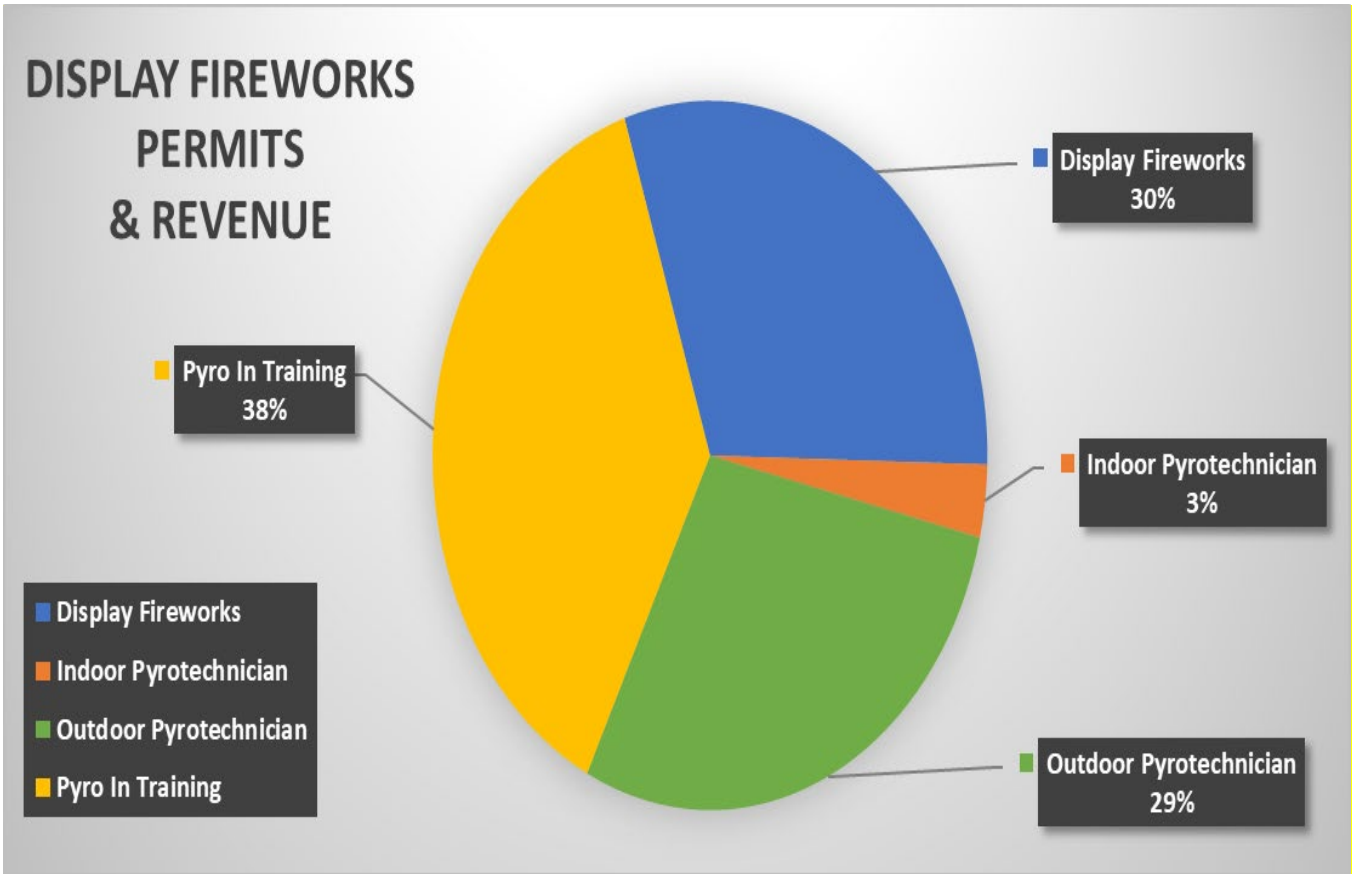
EXPLOSIVE PERMITS & REVENUE		
Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Manufacturer	10	\$10,080.00
Dealer	17	\$8,500.00
Storage Magazines	626	\$63,440.00
Limited Manufacturer	2	\$500.00
Black Powder	1	\$50.00
Individual Blasters	646	\$40,925.00
Temporary Blasters	10	\$940.00
Total	1312	\$124,435.00



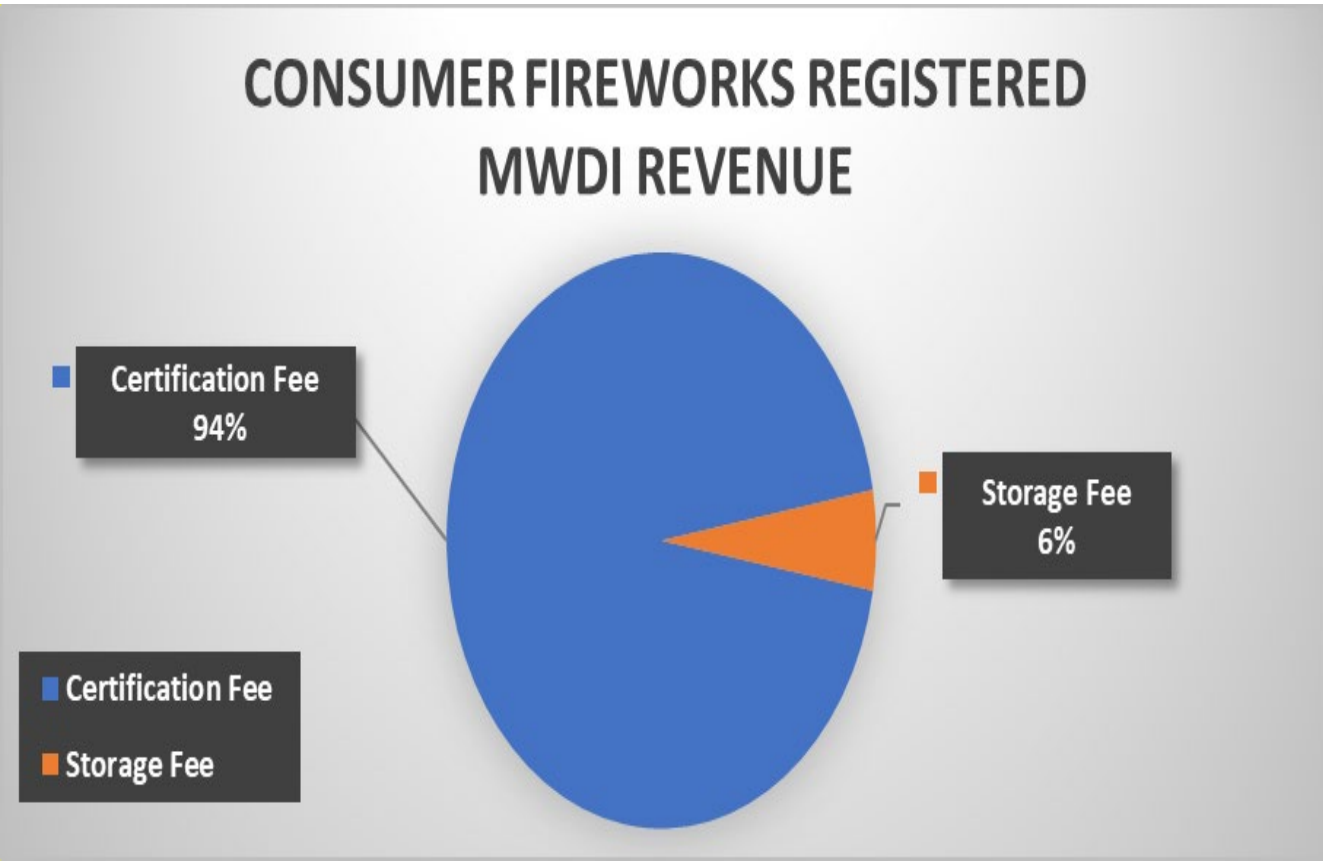
FIREWORKS RELATED PERMITS & REVENUE		
Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Display Fireworks	284	\$24,240.00
Pyrotechnician Licenses	298	\$6,300.00
Pyrotechnician In Training	352	\$7,220.00
Registered MWDI	24	\$13,500.00
Permanent	58	\$60,320.00
Temporary	213	\$115,020.00
Magazine Storage	208	\$20,800.00
Sparklers and Novelties	711	\$10,665.00
Total	2148	\$258,065.00



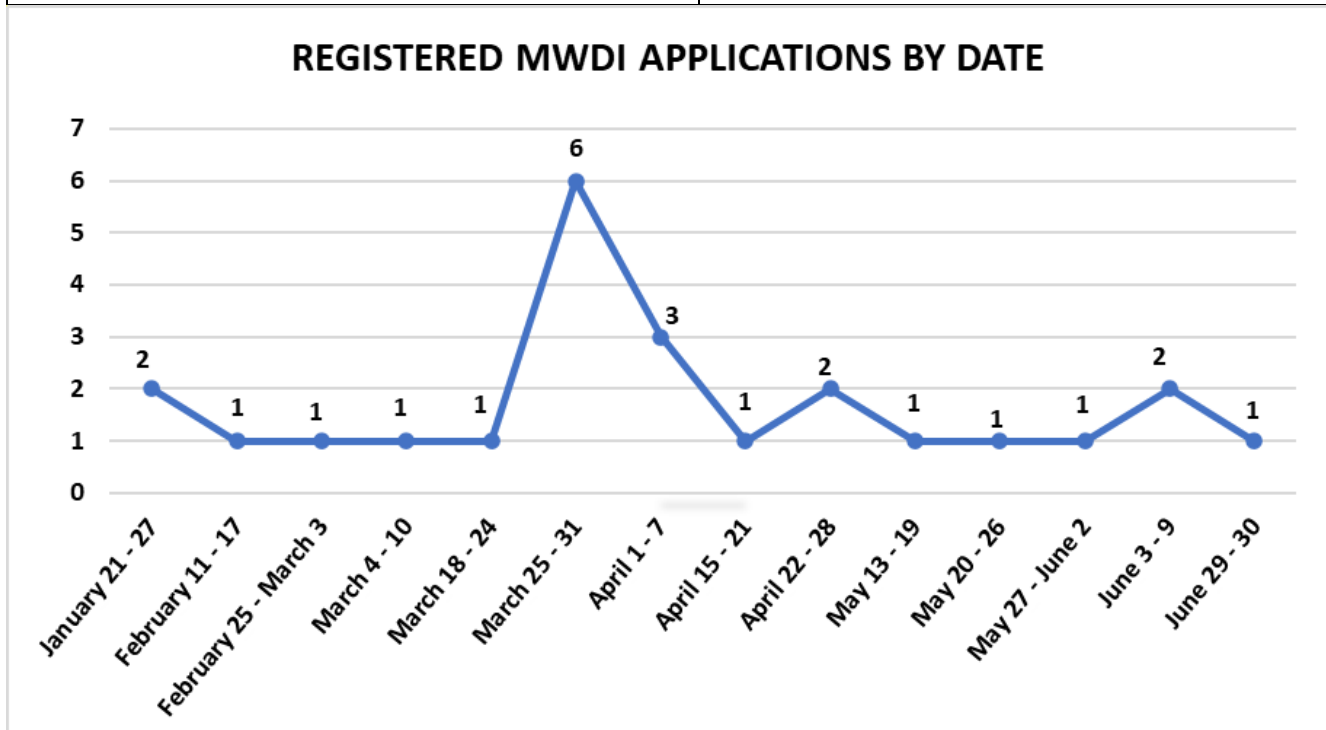
DISPLAY FIREWORKS PERMITS REVENUE		
Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Display Fireworks	284	\$24,240.00
Indoor Pyrotechnician	31	\$760.00
Outdoor Pyrotechnician	267	\$5,540.00
Pyro In Training	352	\$7,220.00
Total	934	\$37,760.00



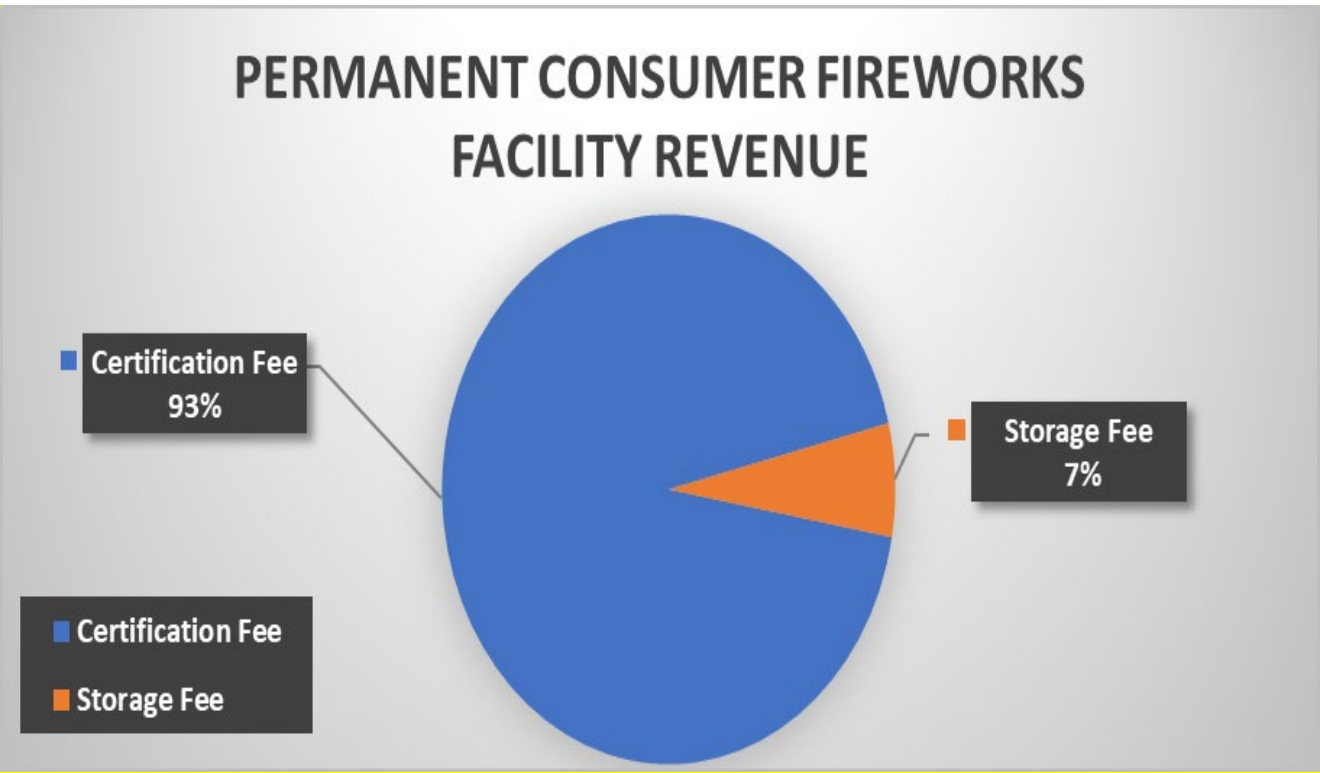
CONSUMER FIREWORKS REGISTERED MWDI REVENUE	
Type of Fee	Total Fees Collected
Certification Fee	\$13,500.00
Storage Fee	\$800.00
Total	\$14,300.00



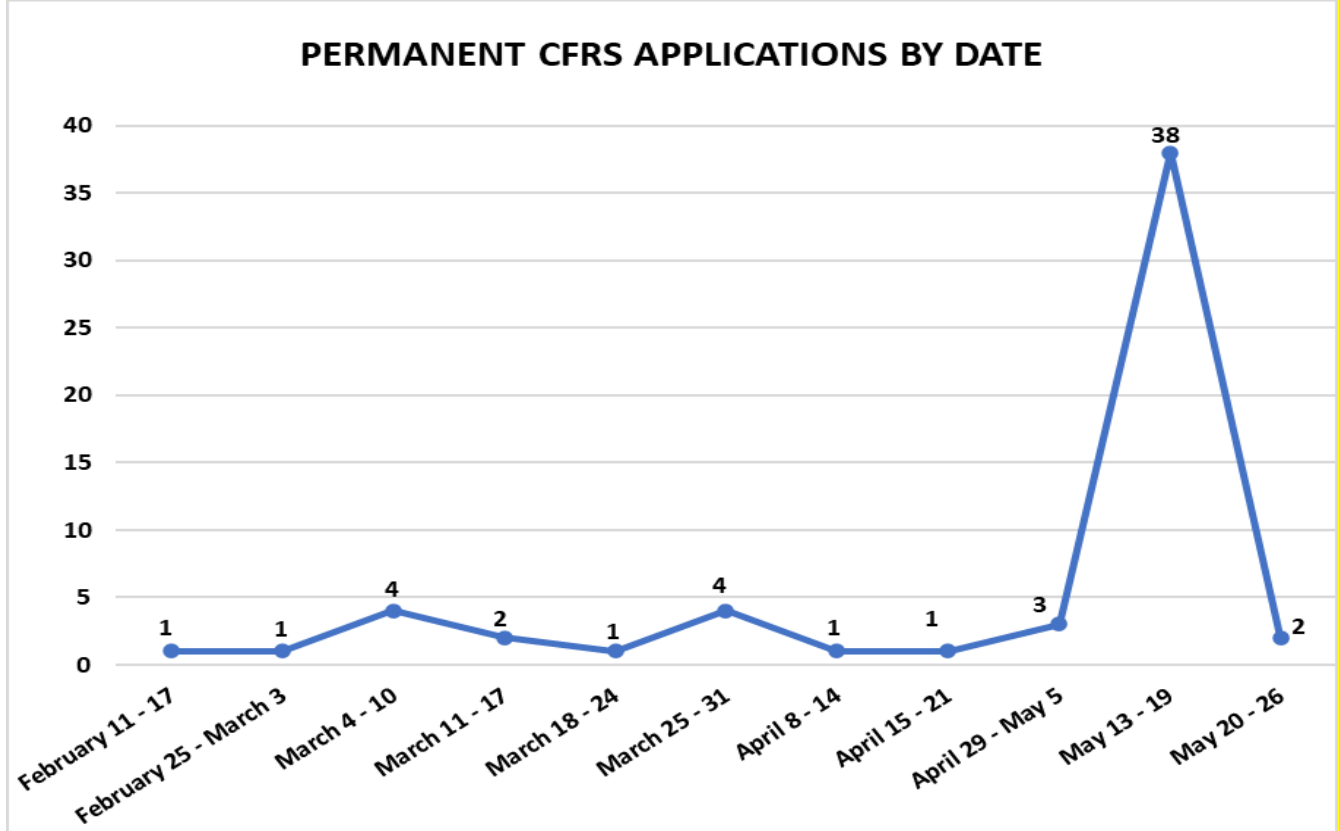
REGISTERED MWDI APPLICATIONS BY DATE	
January 21 - 27	2
February 11 - 17	1
February 25 - March 3	1
March 4 - 10	1
March 18 - 24	1
March 25 - 31	6
April 1 - 7	3
April 15 - 21	1
April 22 - 28	2
May 13 - 19	1
May 20 - 26	1
May 27 - June 2	1
June 3 - 9	2
June 29 - 30	1
Total	24



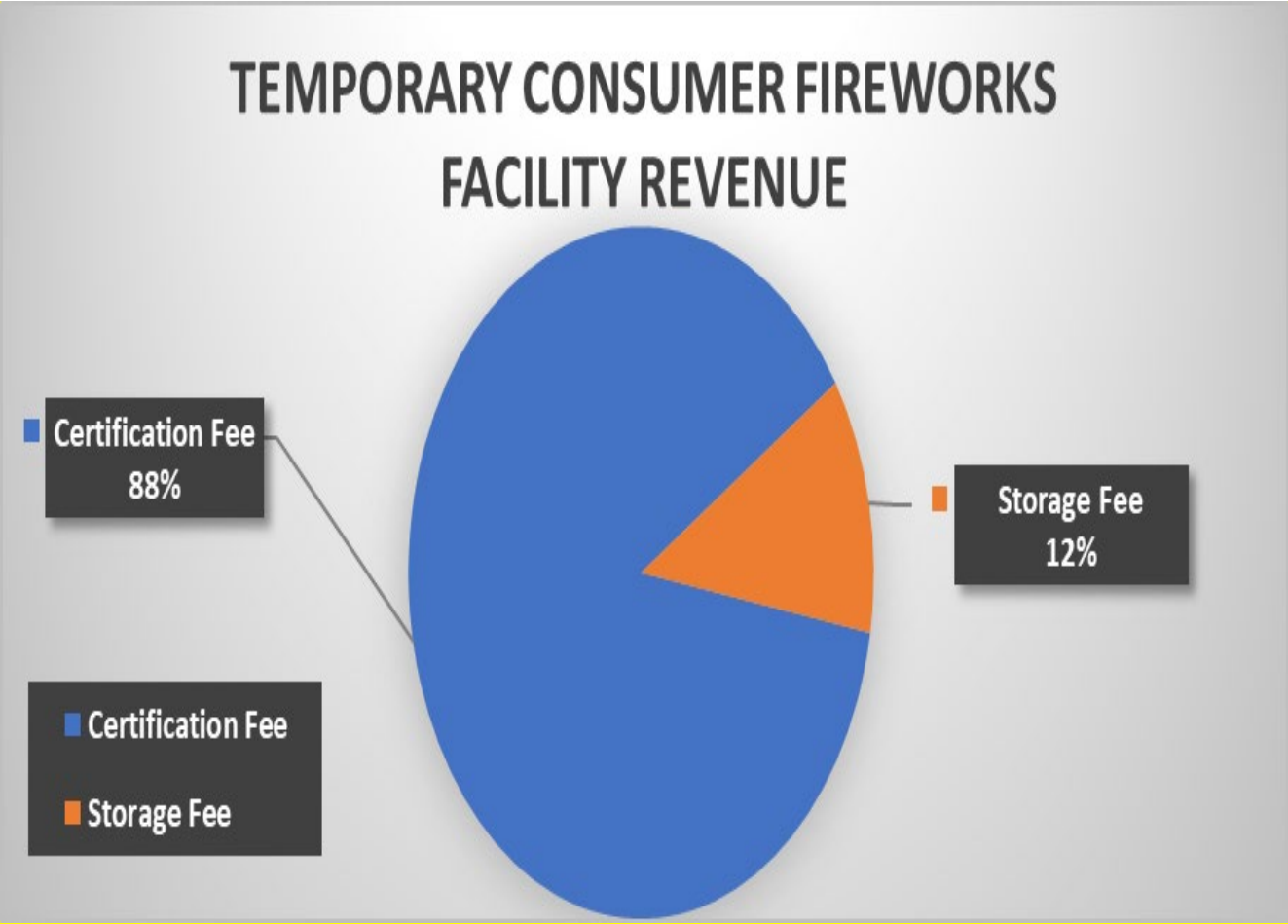
PERMANENT CONSUMER FIREWORKS FACILITY REVENUE	
Type of Fee	Total Fees Collected
Certification Fee	\$60,320.00
Storage Fee	\$4,300.00
Total	\$64,620.00



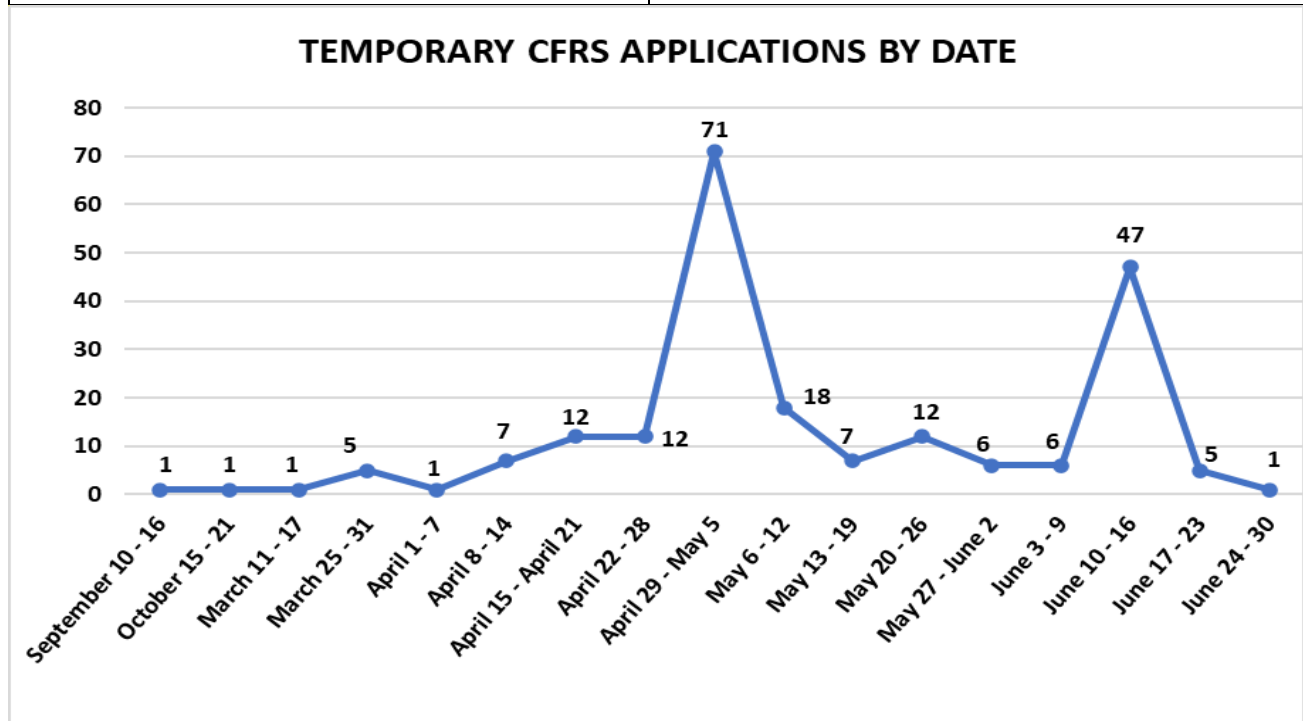
PERMANENT CFRS APPLICATIONS BY DATE	
February 11 - 17	1
February 25 - March 3	1
March 4 - 10	4
March 11 - 17	2
March 18 - 24	1
March 25 - 31	4
April 8 - 14	1
April 15 - 21	1
April 29 - May 5	3
May 13 - 19	38
May 20 - 26	2
Total	58



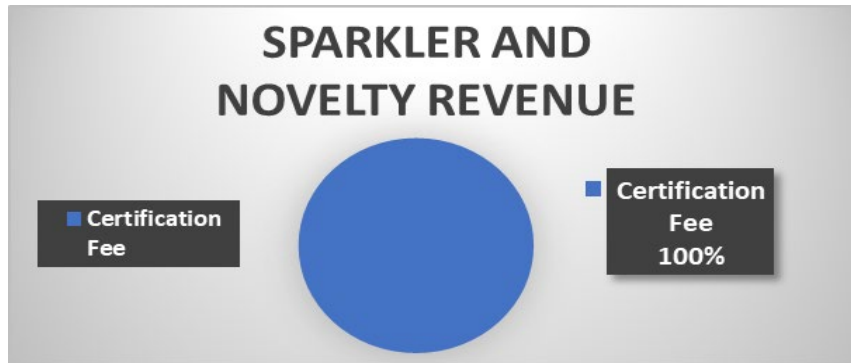
TEMPORARY CONSUMER FIREWORKS FACILITY REVENUE	
Type of Fee	Total Fees Collected
Certification Fee	\$115,020.00
Storage Fee	\$15,700.00
Total	\$130,720.00



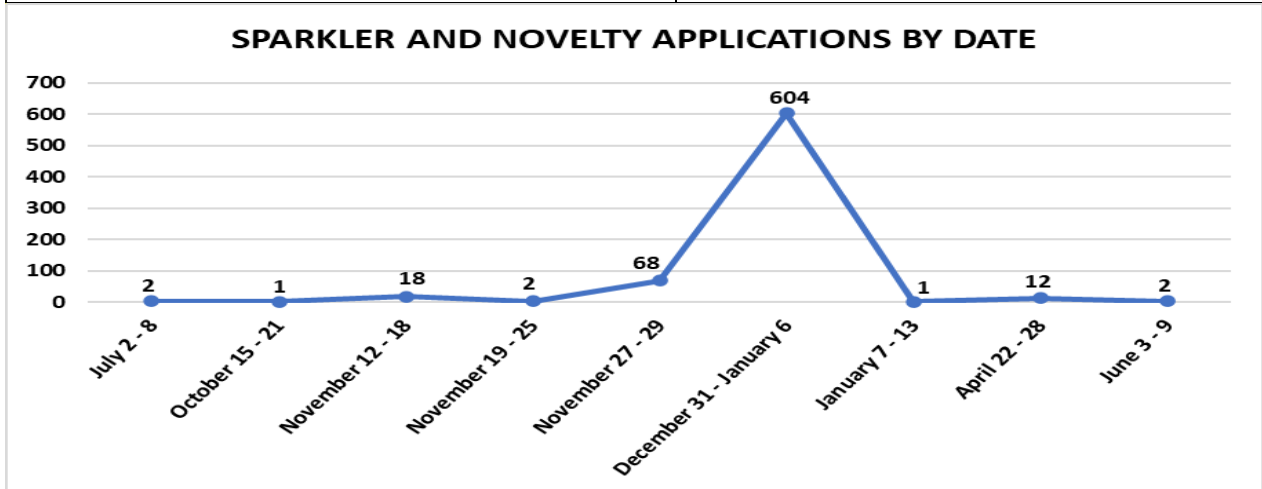
TEMPORARY CFRS APPLICATIONS BY DATE	
September 10 - 16	1
October 15 - 21	1
March 11 - 17	1
March 25 - 31	5
April 1 - 7	1
April 8 - 14	7
April 15 - April 21	12
April 22 - 28	12
April 29 - May 5	71
May 6 - 12	18
May 13 - 19	7
May 20 - 26	12
May 27 - June 2	6
June 3 - 9	6
June 10 - 16	47
June 17 - 23	5
June 24 - 30	1
Total	213



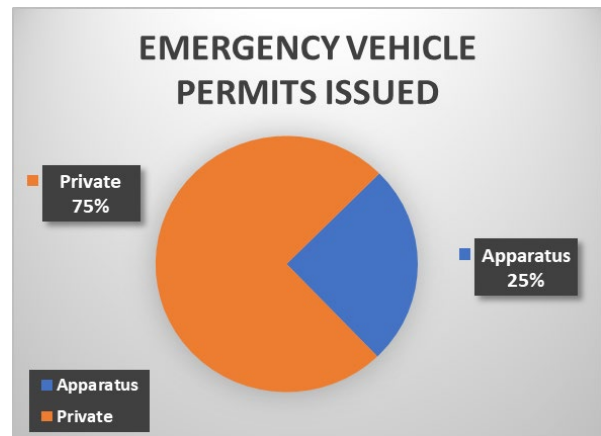
SPARKLER AND NOVELTY REVENUE	
Certification Fee	\$10,665.00



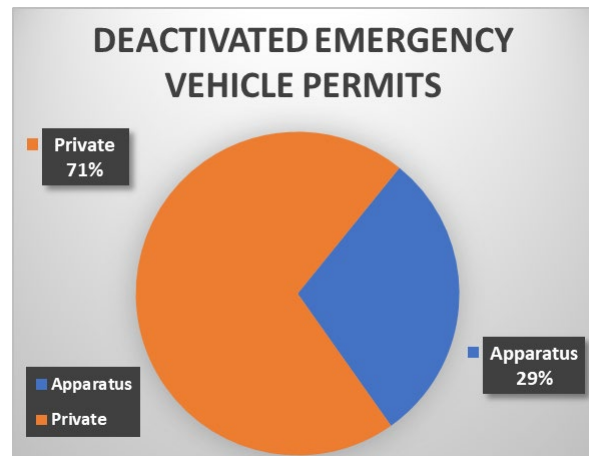
SPARKLER AND NOVELTY APPLICATIONS BY DATE	
July 2 - 8	2
October 15 - 21	1
November 12 - 18	18
November 19 - 25	2
November 27 - 29	68
December 31 - January 6	604
January 7 - 13	1
April 22 - 28	12
June 3 - 9	2
June 10 - 16	1
Total	711



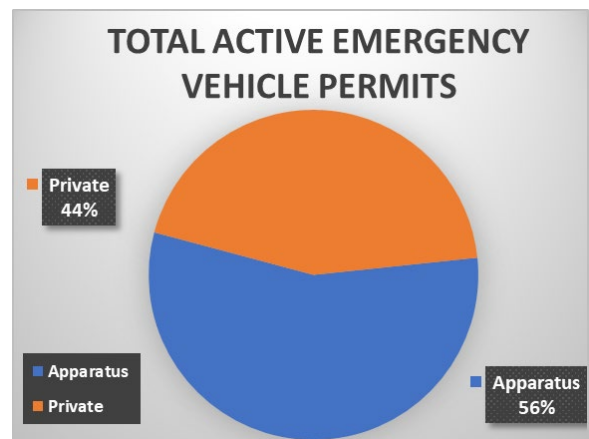
EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMITS ISSUED	
Type of Permit	Number Issued
Apparatus	190
Private	420
Total	610



Deactivated Emergency Vehicle Permits	
Type of Permit	Number Deactivated
Apparatus	131
Private	315
Total	446



TOTAL ACTIVE EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMITS	
Apparatus	3,180
Private	2,517
Total	5,697



Additional Breakdown of Licenses and Permits Issued FY 2023

Electrician Licenses

	Total #	Total Fees
Electrician License Issued:	13428	\$743,149.00
Journeyman	7618	\$430,674.00
Master	4425	\$238,425.00
Electric Sign	23	\$1,250.00
HVAC	139	\$7,700.00
Low Voltage	583	\$32,050.00
Single Family Dwelling	174	\$9,550.00
Reciprocal Journeyman	77	\$3,850.00
Reciprocal Master	346	\$17,500.00
Reciprocal Low Voltage	24	\$1,200.00
Temporary Journeyman	17	\$850.00
Temporary Master	2	\$100.00

Fire Protection Worker Licenses

	Total #	Total Fees
Fire Protection Worker Licenses Issued:	376	\$50,000.00
Design Layout Technician	19	\$3,850.00
Engineered Fire Suppression System Installer	16	\$1,750.00
Engineered Fire Suppression System Technician	9	\$575.00
Pre-Engineered Fire Suppression System Installer	56	\$5,900.00
Pre-Engineered Fire Suppression System Technician	17	\$975.00
Fire Extinguisher Technician	118	\$12,000.00
Sprinkler Fitter Journeyman	141	\$24,950.00

Individual Blaster Licenses

	Total #	Total Fees
Individual Blaster Licenses Issued:	646	\$40,925.00
Class A Unlimited	200	\$16,145.00
Class B Above ground	87	\$7,120.00
Class C Underground	0	\$0.00
Class D Demolition	16	\$1,320.00
Class E Seismic	3	\$150.00
Class F Agriculture	2	\$30.00
Class G Coal	88	\$4,560.00
Class G Helper	89	\$4,560.00
Class G Helper - Limited	10	\$720.00
Class G Special	151	\$6,320.00

Temporary Individual Blaster Licenses

	Total #	Total Fees
Individual Blaster Licenses Issued:	10	\$940.00
Class A Unlimited	3	\$345.00
Class B Aboveground	1	\$115.00
Class C Underground	0	\$0.00
Class D Demolition	0	\$0.00
Class E Seismic	0	\$0.00
Class F Agriculture	0	\$0.00
Class G Coal	3	\$240.00
Class G Helper	2	\$160.00
Class G Helper - Limited	0	\$0.00
Class G Special	1	\$80.00

Pyrotechnician Licenses

	Total #	Total Fees
Pyrotecnician Licenses Issued:	650	\$13,520.00
Indoor Pyrotechnician	31	\$760.00
Outdoor Pyrotechnician	267	\$5,540.00
Pyrotechnician In Training	352	\$7,220.00

Building Code Official Certifications

	Total #	Total Fees
Building Code Certifications Issued:	82	\$6,175.00
Code Official	21	\$1,600.00
Code Inspector	30	\$2,250.00
Code Plans Examiner	5	\$375.00
Provisional Code Official/Inspector/Plans Examiner	26	\$1,950.00

Electrical Inspector Certifications

	Total #	Total Fees
Electrical Inspector Certifications Issued:	53	\$5,450.00
Class A - One and Two Family Dwellings	16	\$1,650.00
Class B - All Structures	33	\$3,400.00
Class C - All Structures and Plans Review	4	\$400.00

Home Inspector Certifications

	Total #	Total Fees
Home Inspector Certifications Issued:	259	28,950

Company Explosive Permits

	Total #	Total Fees
Total Company Explosive Permits Issued:	656	\$82,570.00
Dealer	17	\$8,500.00
Manufacturer	10	\$10,080.00
Storage	626	\$63,440.00
Limited Manufacturer	2	\$500.00
Black Powder	1	\$50.00

	Total #
Reviewed CE Permit Applications and Renewals	152
Decommissioned CE Permits	9

Public Display Fireworks Permits

	Total #	Total Fees
Total Public Display Fireworks Permits Issued:	284	\$24,240.00

Exam Applications

	Total #	Total Fees
Exam Applications Processed:	2006	\$41,007.00
Journeyman	1200	\$24,782.00
Master	633	\$12,080.00
Electric Sign	0	\$0.00
HVAC	6	\$120.00
Low Voltage	132	\$2,970.00
Single Family Dwelling	19	\$415.00
Indoor Pyrotechnician	3	\$120.00
Outdoor Pyrotechnician	13	\$520.00

	Total #
Graded Exams:	1659

Miscellaneous

	Total #	Total Fees
Letters of Good Standing Issued:	189	\$4,750.00
Duplicate Licenses Issued and Misc:	31	\$310.00
Returned Applications and Renewals:	280	

Summary:

Licenses Issued & Total License Fees:	15110	\$848,534.00
Certifications Issued & Total Certification Fees:	394	\$40,575.00
Permits Issued & Total Permit Fees:	940	\$106,810.00
Exam Applications Processed & Total Exam Fees:	2006	\$41,007.00
Misc Issued & Total Misc Fees:	220	\$5,060.00

Fire Department Services

The Fire Department Services Division also oversees, consults, and assists all 439 certified fire departments in the State of West Virginia and provides information and guidance to new fire departments seeking certification.

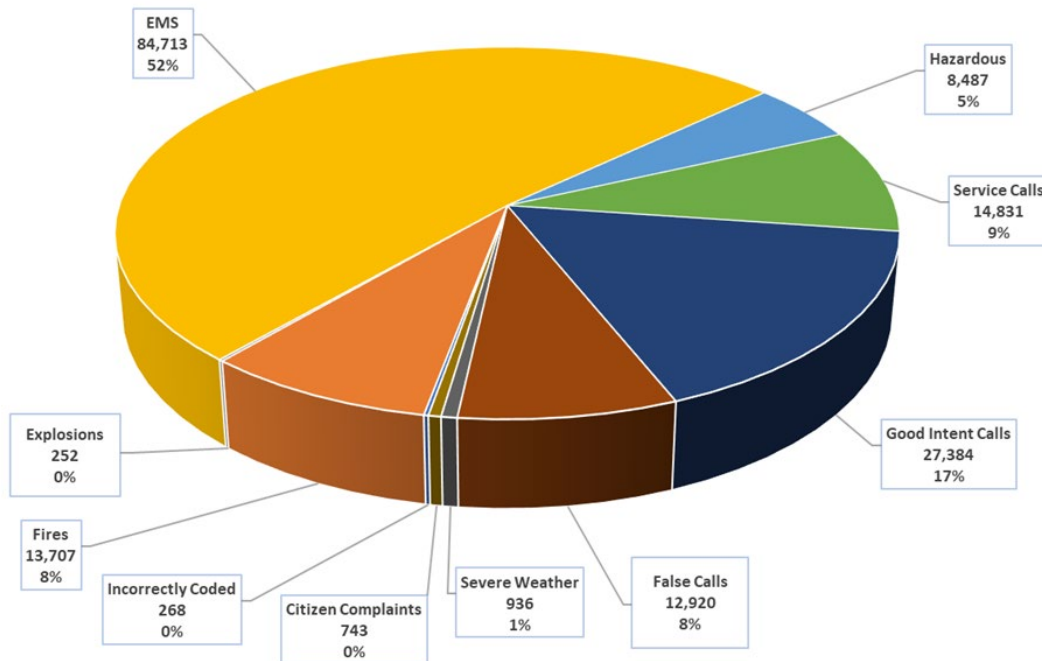
During the fiscal year 2022-2023 the division has:

- Completed 109 evaluations of Fire Departments. 86 Fire Departments were Re-Certified.
- Received 24 complaints on fire departments (up 12 from last year).
- Fielded approximately 1,500 calls by office personnel, with the majority of those asking for assistance with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and grants.
- Fielded approximately 4,500 calls by field personnel, with the majority of those relating to evaluations, training, worker's comp issues, boundary disputes, and complaints.
- Assisted 143 Fire Departments with grant research using data from NFIRS.
- Assisted several outside agencies with research, varying in nature, using data from NFIRS or funding applications.
- Offered remote tech support for NFIRS related issues using the Bomgar Support Portal. A total of 15 remote tech support sessions were held (up 3 from last year).
- 136 messages were posted on the training channel by co-admins on the WVFIRS – WV Fire Incident Reporting System workspace on Slack.com, to better assist our departments with their training needs (up 49 from last year). Our members in FY2022 total 688 (up 94 from last year), representing ALL 55 counties, and 322 fire departments (up 63 from last year) This tool has also been useful in notifying departments of important information in a much more timely manner than email. Firefighters now have the ability to communicate with each other across the State. The app can be installed on their phone, tablet, and computer, and all notifications are done in real time.
- Processed and evaluated 16 Fire Officer Equivalencies (5 Fire Officer 1, 11 Fire Officer 2). A total of 16 (5 FO1, 11 FO2) were approved (down 26 from last year).
- Processed 193 FOIA requests for incident reports which were compiled (up 38 from last year).
- Assisted with 1 LODD in Fayette County.
- Processed 113 WV Volunteer Fire Department Equipment and Training Grant applications for Round 3. This is the third grant offered by our office. Of that number, 110 were approved, 3 were disqualified (due to not being a volunteer department or not completing their application). The total amount requested was \$653,405.99, and the total amount granted was \$649,960.00.

Due to Legislation allowing for a grace period for submission of fire loss data, Fiscal year 2022-2023 will not be available until after January 1, 2024. The following data is from Calendar year 2022 (January 01-December 31). A total of 163,860 responses (up 14,923 from last year) were reported by all West Virginia Fire Departments. Attached are charts and graphs depicting a limited breakdown of those responses.

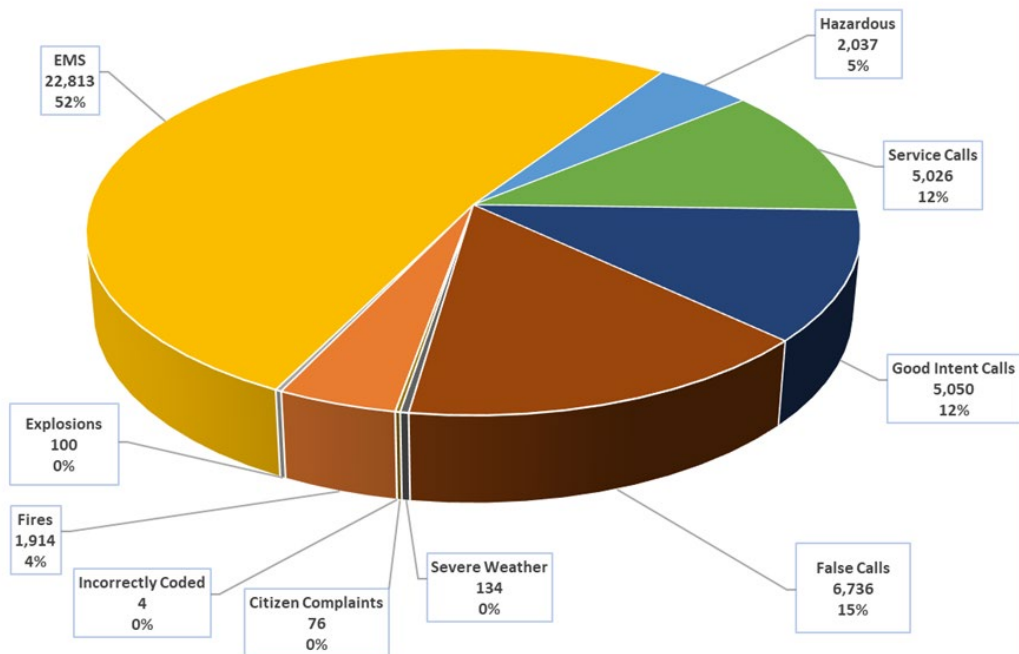
CY2022 All Call Types

All Departments
(164,241 Total Calls)



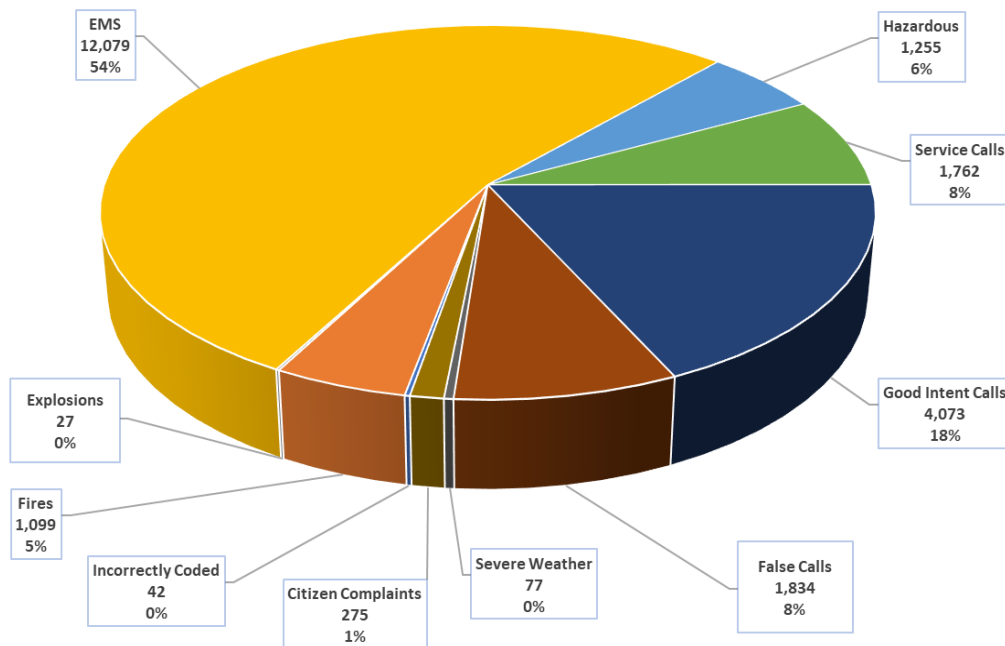
CY2022 All Call Types

Paid Departments
(43,890 Calls of 164,241 Total Calls)



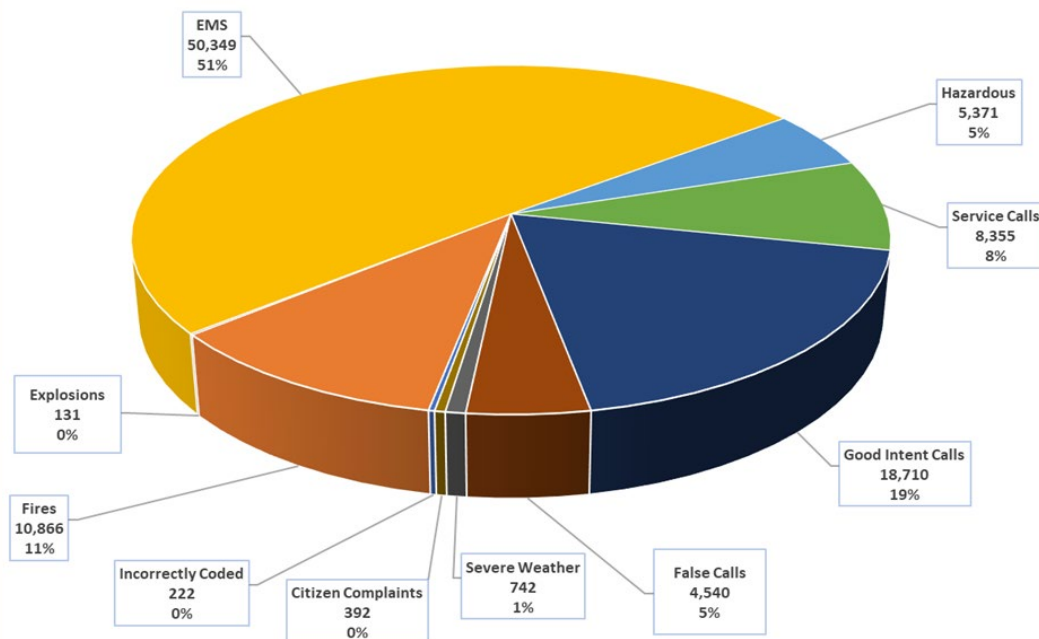
CY2022 All Call Types

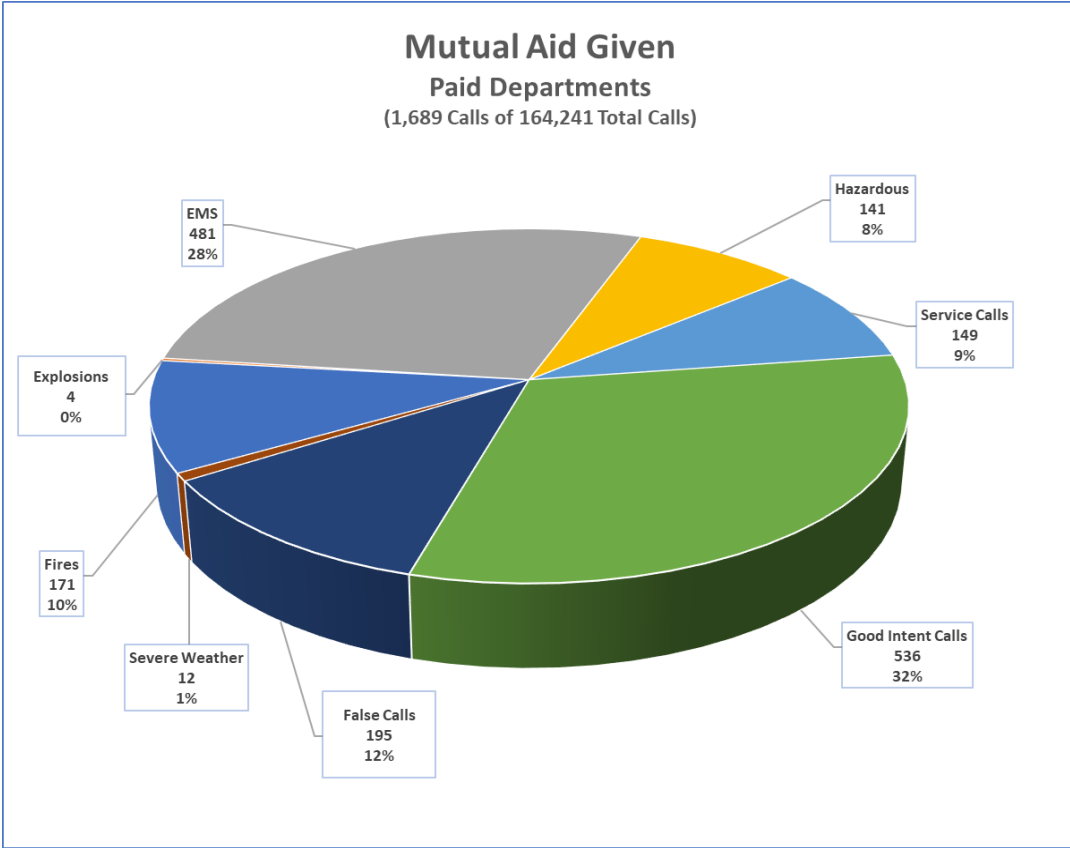
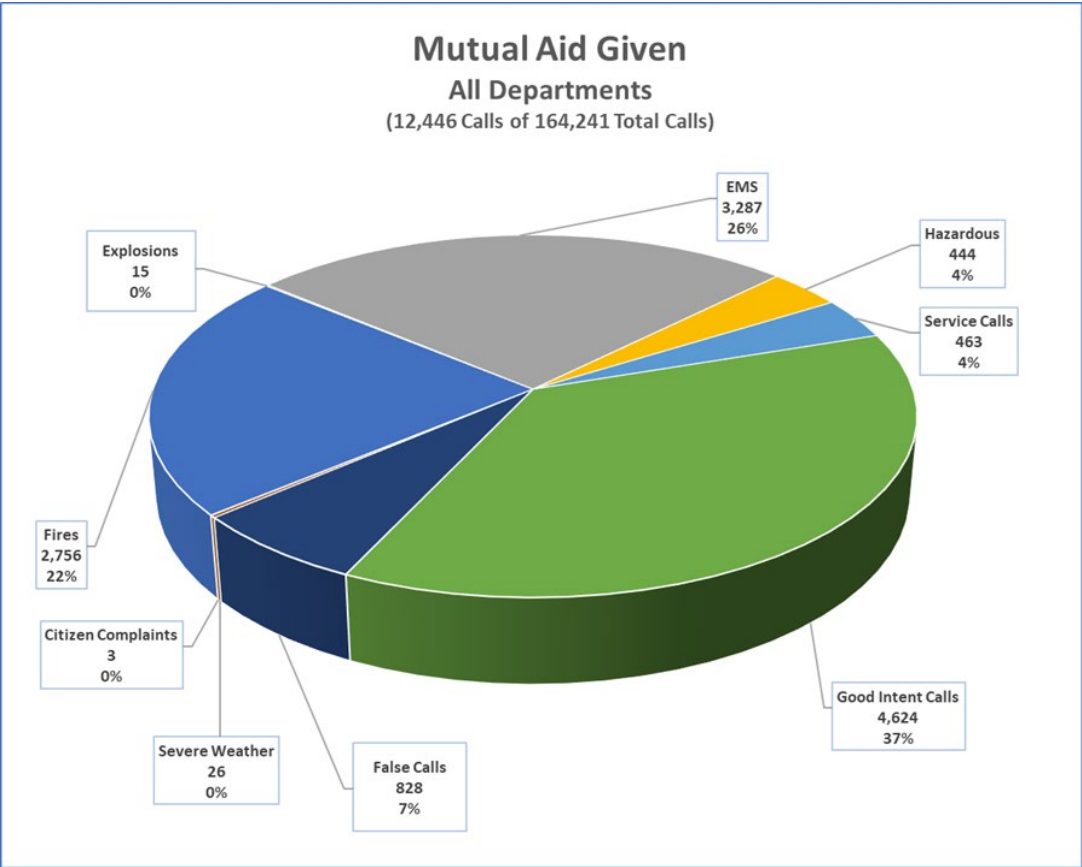
Part-Paid Departments
(22,523 Calls of 164,241 Total Calls)

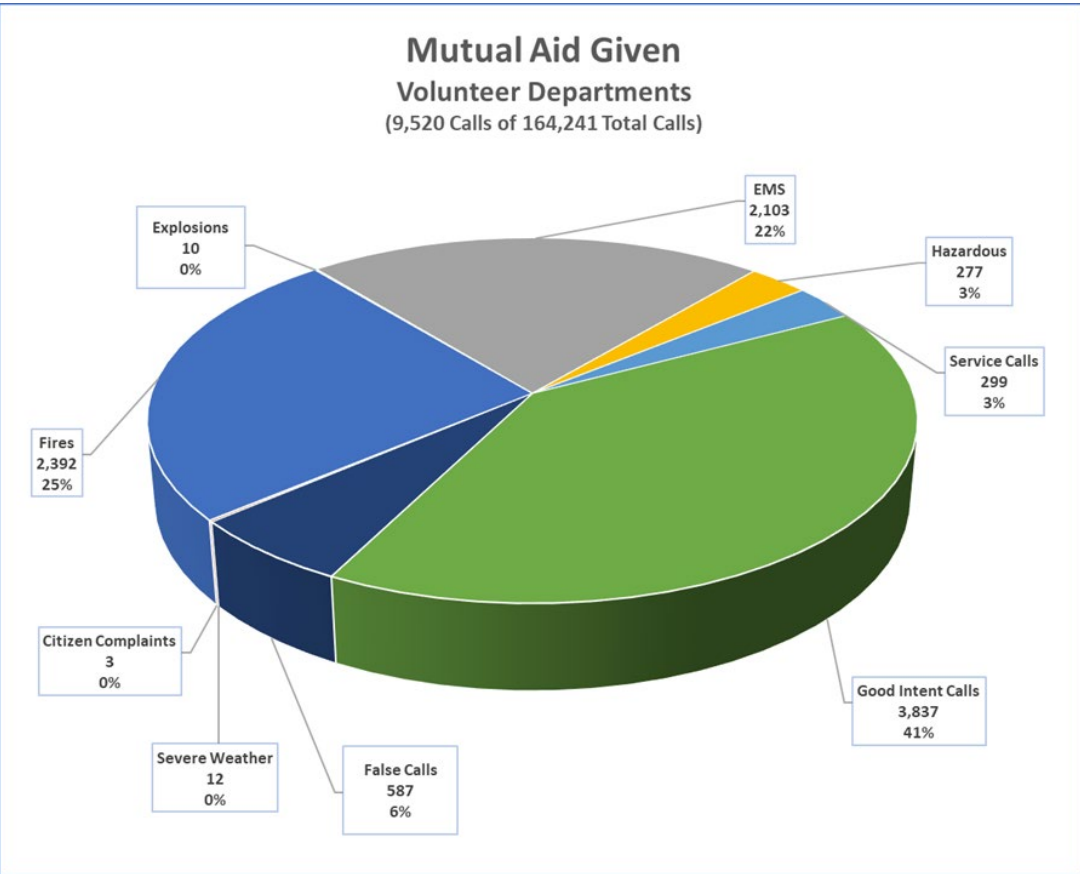
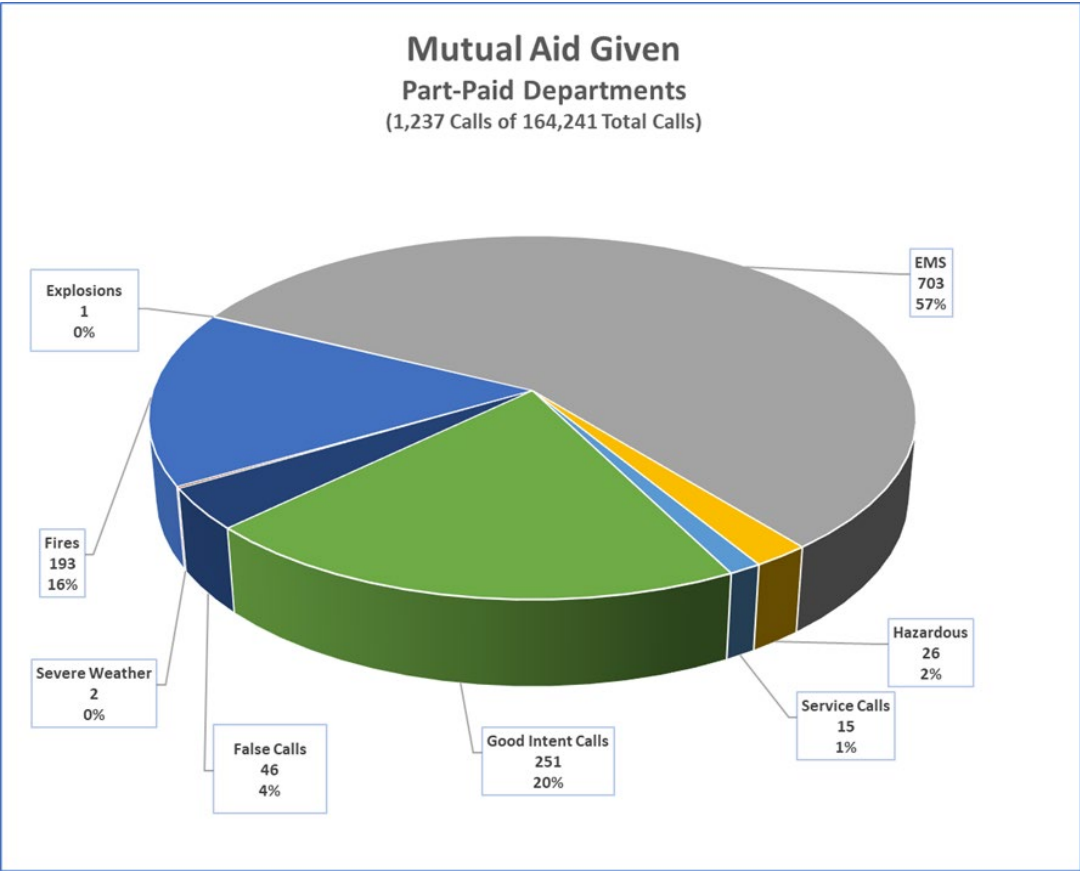


CY2022 All Call Types

Volunteer Departments
(99,678 Calls of 164,241 Total Calls)







CY2022 Top 10 Fires in West Virginia (11,773 Fires out of 13,707 Total Fires)

Building fires
5,527
47%

Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
324
3%

Fires in structures other than in a building
362
3%

Trash or rubbish fire, contained
481
4%

Fire, other
604
5%

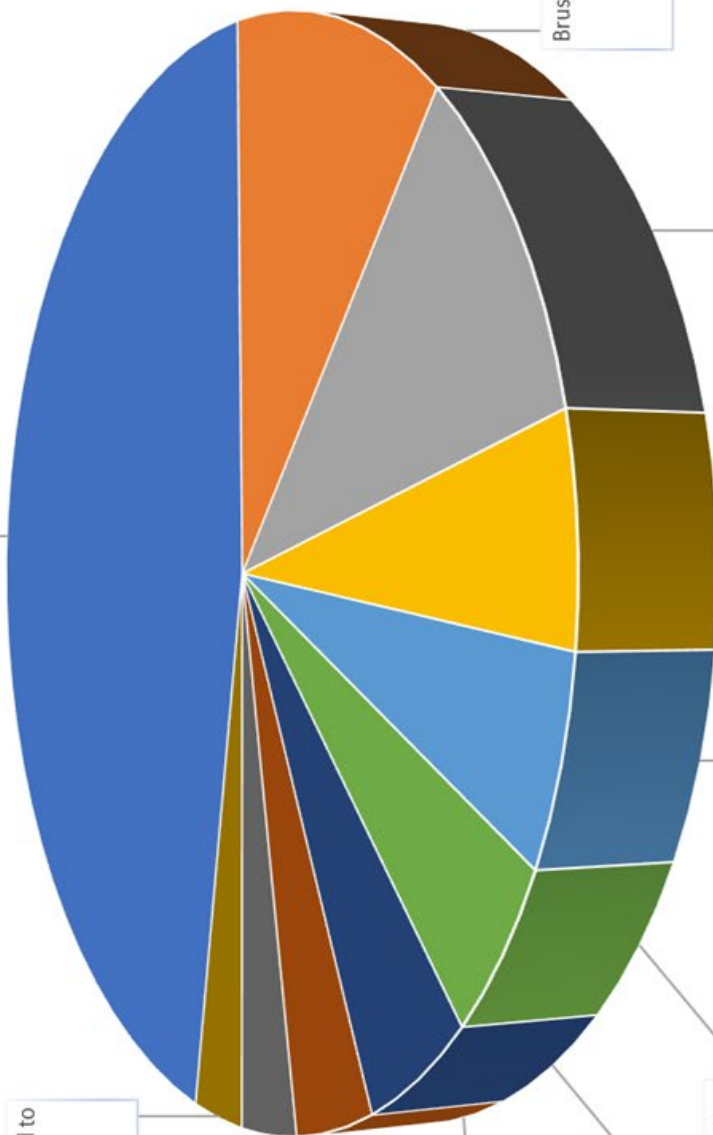
Forest, woods or wildland fire
622
5%

Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire
658
6%

Cooking fire, confined to container
688
6%

Passenger vehicle fire
1,208
10%

Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire
1,299
11%



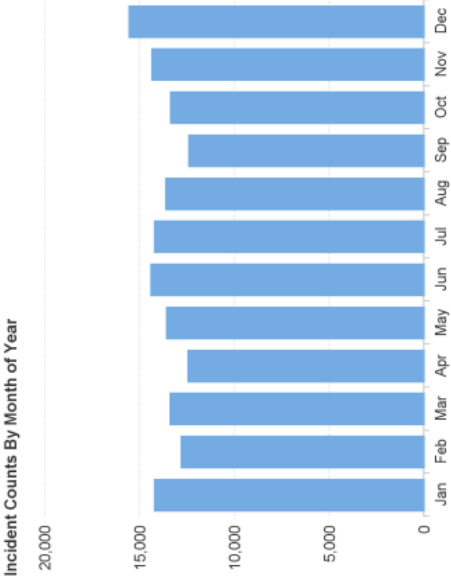
NFIRS Dashboard Summary Report (All Incidents)

Report Period: 1/1/22 to 12/31/22

Total Fire Departments	440	Total Incident Reports	165,144
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Summary By Incident Type Category

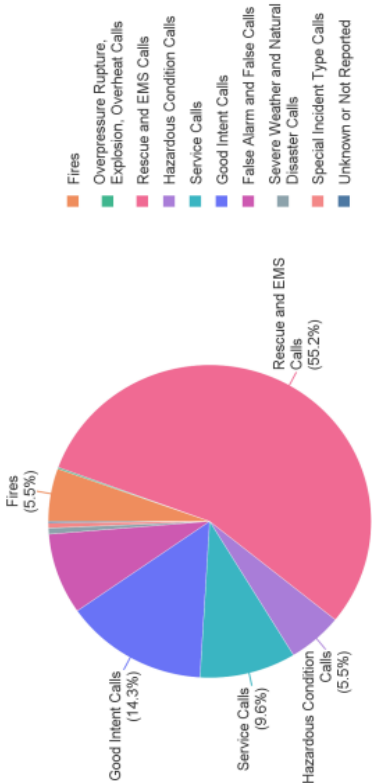
Incident Type Category	Total Incidents	Percent	Aid Given	Exposures	Grand Total
Fires (100-173)	7,652	5.5%	5,938	110	13,707
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat Calls (200-251)	227	0.2%	25	0	252
Rescue and EMS Calls (300-381)	77,393	55.2%	7,320	0	84,713
Hazardous Condition Calls (400-482)	7,700	5.5%	787	0	8,487
Service Calls (500-571)	13,515	9.8%	1,316	0	14,831
Good Intent Calls (600-672)	20,100	14.3%	7,284	0	27,384
False Alarm and False Calls (700-751)	11,763	8.4%	1,157	0	12,920
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster Calls (800-815)	866	0.6%	70	0	936
Special Incident Type Calls (900-911)	724	0.5%	19	0	743
Unknown or Not Reported	250	0.2%	1	17	268
Grand Total	140,190	100.0%	23,917	127	164,241



Monthly Incident Counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
14,195	12,781	13,384	12,443	13,571	14,394	14,195	13,623	12,402	13,364	14,342	15,547	164,241

Incident Type Category Summary



Percent Valid
99.5%

Percent Released
100.0%

Incident Valid Status Summary

Incident Valid Status	Total	Percent
Valid	163,362	98.9%
Invalid	879	0.5%
No Activity	903	0.5%
Grand Total	165,144	100.0%

Fire Service Injuries
65

Incident Release Status Summary

Incident Valid Status	Total	Percent
Released	164,257	99.5%
Unreleased	887	0.5%
Grand Total	165,144	100.0%

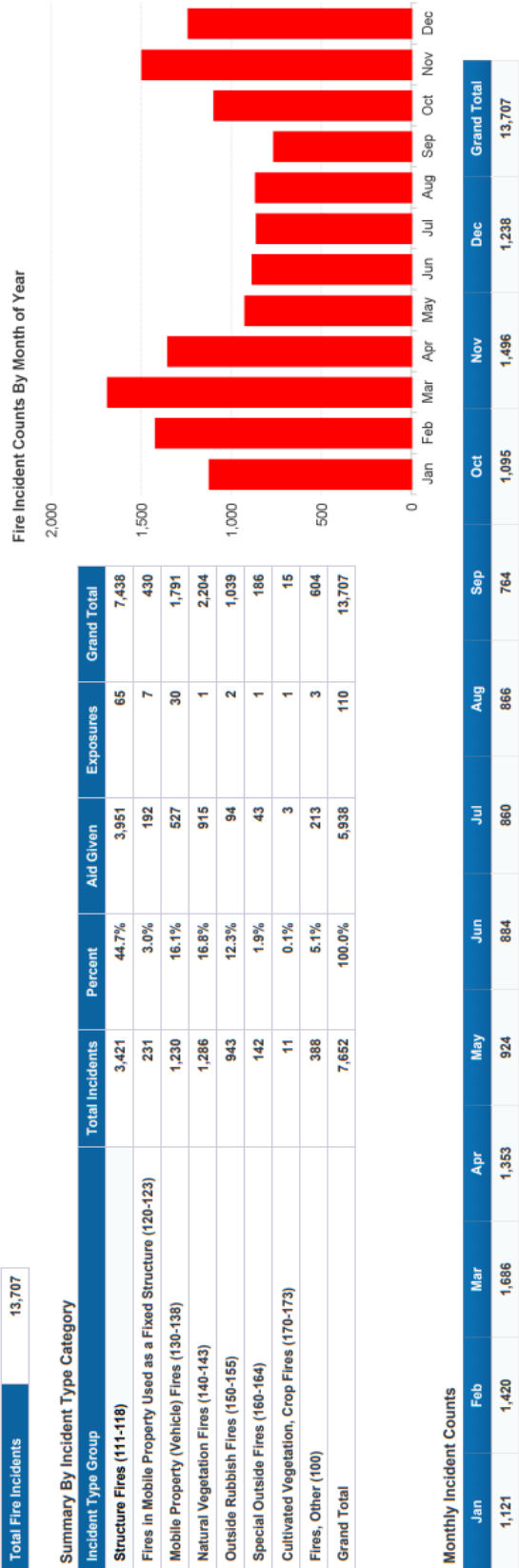
Fire Service Deaths
1

Fire Service Casualty Summary

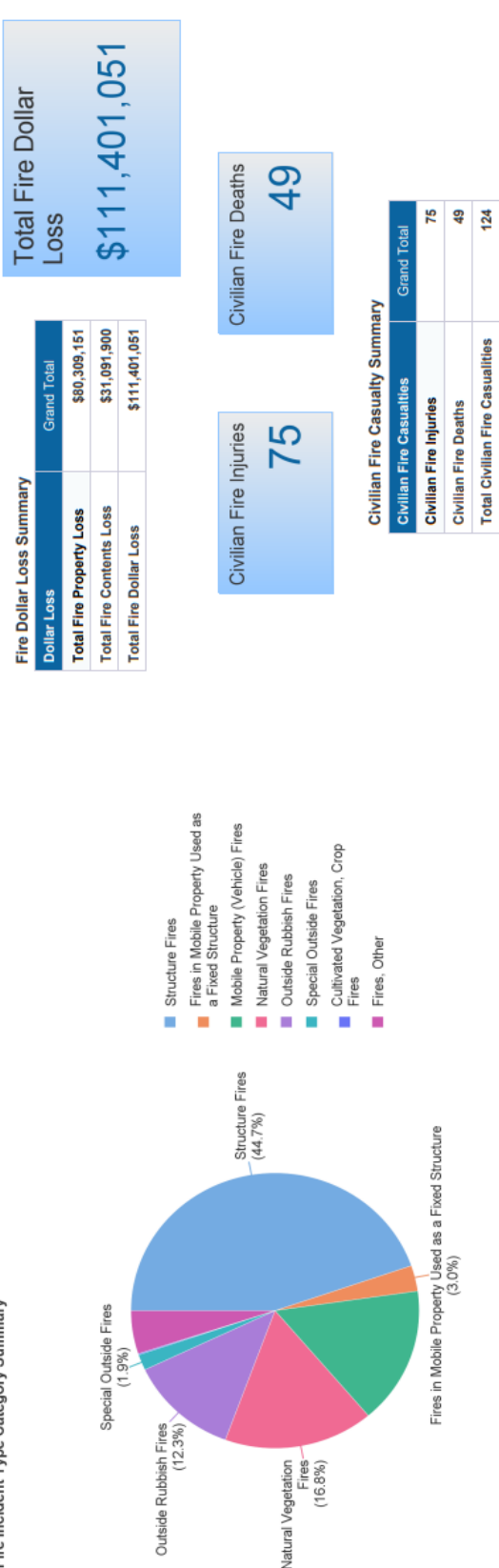
Fire Service Casualties	Fire-Related	Non-Fire	Grand Total
Fire Service Injuries	53	12	65
Fire Service Deaths	0	1	1
Total Fire Service Casualties	53	13	66

NFIRS Dashboard Summary Report (Fire Incidents)

Report Period: 1/1/22 to 12/31/22



Fire Incident Type Category Summary



Fire History in West Virginia									
All Fire Types									
County	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total Fires	Average Per Year
Barbour	94	98	78	91	100	150	131	742	106
Berkeley	618	512	525	471	415	529	708	3,778	540
Boone	261	206	247	374	313	315	316	2,032	290
Braxton	88	72	127	135	158	165	172	917	131
Brooke	130	177	139	113	117	115	144	935	134
Cabell	667	640	636	686	577	569	627	4,402	629
Calhoun	27	19	27	29	26	33	29	190	27
Clay	70	75	70	64	60	72	75	486	69
Doddridge	31	101	72	68	70	59	55	456	65
Fayette	372	291	320	354	261	329	364	2,291	327
Gilmer	36	22	16	20	15	19	13	141	20
Grant	68	65	67	75	96	101	136	608	87
Greenbrier	198	207	246	232	219	275	256	1,633	233
Hampshire	248	285	267	262	243	315	348	1,968	281
Hancock	140	200	181	130	132	154	124	1,061	152
Hardy	49	62	81	59	92	98	109	550	79
Harrison	322	374	362	486	401	499	491	2,935	419
Jackson	132	184	164	193	147	137	225	1,182	169
Jefferson	433	311	380	390	331	342	348	2,535	362
Kanawha	290	253	263	333	273	315	2,131	3,858	551
Lewis	1,579	1,769	1,724	1,865	1,672	1,782	124	10,515	1,502
Lincoln	109	126	109	116	130	107	164	861	123
Logan	113	104	109	127	165	121	260	999	143
Marion	282	204	188	265	215	222	333	1,709	244
Marshall	335	371	359	340	351	307	190	2,253	322
Mason	201	195	193	189	211	223	180	1,392	199
McDowell	148	99	112	141	108	120	193	921	132
Mercer	307	268	277	271	231	193	462	2,009	287
Mineral	203	355	179	450	201	398	396	2,182	312
Mingo	511	339	354	391	310	290	182	2,377	340
Monongalia	355	164	380	208	380	147	557	2,191	313
Monroe	588	486	410	422	487	378	83	2,854	408
Morgan	65	57	53	68	70	86	175	574	82
Nicholas	246	207	181	152	164	177	187	1,314	188
Ohio	238	151	128	212	169	253	291	1,442	206
Pendleton	213	239	240	210	200	158	91	1,351	193
Pleasants	53	80	75	86	73	114	37	518	74
Pocahontas	26	39	35	31	32	25	88	276	39
Preston	67	53	76	85	80	62	240	663	95
Putnam	239	176	185	195	204	183	327	1,509	216
Raleigh	478	453	365	489	448	440	510	3,183	455
Randolph	178	224	203	226	169	208	211	1,419	203
Ritchie	68	85	107	91	98	93	82	624	89
Roane	95	93	93	97	112	108	117	715	102
Summers	81	76	75	86	98	73	121	610	87
Taylor	79	67	81	58	98	76	59	518	74
Tucker	73	44	21	33	45	39	35	290	41
Tyler	69	64	67	101	49	70	86	506	72
Upshur	179	197	170	206	177	246	202	1,377	197
Wayne	194	225	166	240	202	172	192	1,391	199
Webster	72	57	57	76	41	51	60	414	59
Wetzel	119	82	88	108	98	81	86	662	95
Wirt	27	34	23	31	45	38	29	227	32
Wood	308	375	400	380	385	353	406	2,607	372
Wyoming	166	139	111	136	145	130	149	976	139
Grand Total	12,338	11,851	11,662	12,747	11,709	12,115	13,707	86,129	12,304

2022 West Virginia Incidents by County and Series

County	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	NNN	Grand Total
	Fires	Explosions (No Fire)	EMS	Hazardous	Service Calls	Good Intent Calls	False Calls	Severe Weather	Citizen Complaints	Incorrectly Coded	
Barbour	131	1	304	15	58	139	12	1	3	6	670
Berkeley	708	23	2,257	699	702	1,838	1,105	73	15	0	7,420
Boone	316	21	653	167	158	395	46	33	43	3	1,835
Braxton	172	0	1,009	56	100	269	26	4	0	5	1,641
Brooke	144	1	1,712	107	247	358	142	15	1	2	2,729
Cabell	627	16	2,082	355	549	1,119	1,543	49	20	0	6,360
Calhoun	29	0	47	35	6	12	1	1	3	1	135
Clay	75	0	94	25	3	53	8	11	0	2	271
Doddridge	55	0	117	21	15	16	12	3	0	6	245
Fayette	364	6	664	304	195	376	128	51	1	12	2,101
Gilmer	13	0	73	15	52	4	6	1	0	0	164
Grant	136	0	458	73	41	148	13	2	0	0	871
Greenbrier	256	0	1,861	196	384	305	373	30	21	7	3,433
Hampshire	348	1	536	102	122	370	63	22	1	0	1,565
Hancock	124	4	1,417	184	77	305	215	2	1	3	2,332
Hardy	109	1	158	76	28	91	24	1	1	0	489
Harrison	491	2	8,329	401	928	1,979	472	115	13	21	12,751
Jackson	225	3	618	106	54	297	62	5	4	0	1,374
Jefferson	348	5	6,628	191	251	1,254	367	6	32	0	9,082
Kanawha	2,131	23	10,659	749	2,495	4,433	2,731	19	295	5	23,540
Lewis	124	2	1,204	114	171	625	59	15	0	6	2,320
Lincoln	164	4	347	54	45	89	15	18	2	9	747
Logan	260	3	700	228	878	365	100	10	6	3	2,553
Marion	333	5	2,627	362	787	852	270	59	6	18	5,319
Marshall	190	1	1,936	143	168	294	111	18	7	4	2,872
Mason	180	1	356	71	106	175	52	18	3	17	979
McDowell	193	4	457	53	189	212	14	12	65	4	1,203
Mercer	462	6	2,220	203	328	793	324	57	33	0	4,426
Mineral	396	4	2,452	110	285	1,146	132	8	2	5	4,540
Mingo	182	2	562	43	130	55	67	19	1	23	1,084
Monongalia	557	14	2,465	373	640	1,855	1,146	32	8	2	7,092
Monroe	83	0	159	54	22	44	12	2	7	1	384
Morgan	175	0	357	68	32	452	43	1	0	3	1,131
Nicholas	187	1	1,663	67	182	238	79	11	0	6	2,434
Ohio	291	36	7,165	396	1,339	1,643	1,095	30	9	30	12,034
Pendleton	91	0	168	27	51	63	10	2	1	1	414
Pleasants	37	0	173	32	34	35	9	0	4	2	326
Pocahontas	88	0	806	106	28	219	90	1	3	0	1,341
Preston	240	1	852	115	116	274	25	5	17	3	1,648
Putnam	327	4	1,750	105	214	608	310	3	11	2	3,334
Raleigh	510	21	5,889	296	689	1,130	485	24	47	0	9,091
Randolph	211	4	773	179	216	292	59	25	5	3	1,767
Ritchie	82	2	697	76	62	169	21	8	2	0	1,119
Roane	117	1	279	34	48	59	8	1	6	2	555
Summers	121	1	293	60	95	128	30	4	1	1	734
Taylor	59	1	239	55	147	82	32	18	0	0	633
Tucker	35	0	293	44	78	61	21	2	2	5	541
Tyler	86	2	346	135	85	44	18	0	0	0	716
Upshur	202	1	1,400	121	132	377	72	10	9	10	2,334
Wayne	192	2	775	41	23	166	63	1	4	27	1,294
Webster	60	0	109	10	4	31	5	0	0	2	221
Wetzel	86	2	806	105	169	70	38	6	0	4	1,286
Wirt	29	0	50	12	11	17	8	1	0	0	128
Wood	406	18	3,811	620	770	833	725	66	8	0	7,257
Wyoming	149	2	858	98	92	127	23	5	20	2	1,376
Grand Total	13,707	252	84,713	8,487	14,831	27,384	12,920	936	743	268	164,241

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION & PLANS REVIEW DIVISION



Aerial view of the new Wheeling Fire Department Headquarters

I. INTRODUCTION

The Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division is mandated by Chapter 15A, Article 10 "Fire Prevention and Control Act" to conduct fire and life safety inspections in all types of occupancies except one and two family dwellings. The division's duties and responsibilities also include, but are not limited to:

- Issuance of citations for fire code violations, including but not limited to, locking, or blocking of exits, tampering with fire protection equipment, and blocking fire lanes
- Conducting fire investigations in buildings that are normally inspected by the Fire Inspection division
- Enforcement of fireworks regulations; monitoring of display sites, investigation of complaints, seizure of illegal fireworks
- Enforcement of blasting regulations and inspection of explosives magazines, investigation of blasting complaints
- Enforcement of forest fire burning law
- Assistance to the Fire Investigation Division on large loss fires or fatalities
- Assistance to law enforcement agencies when requested
- Assistance to local fire departments when requested
- Assistance to federal government in the implementation of the Federal Hotel/Motel Fire Safety Act
- Providing aid and assistance in disasters
- Regulation of aboveground storage tanks containing flammable liquids
- Assistance to the Licensing & Regulatory Division in the enforcement of the licensing programs, electrician, fire protection worker, fireworks, blasters, etc.
- Administering licensing tests
- Assistance with conducting fire department evaluations/follow-ups
- Conducting fire safety training educational seminars and public fire education

The Division consists of one (1) Field Deputy Fire Marshal, three (3) Assistant Fire Marshal III (Field Supervisors), seventeen (17) Assistant Fire Marshals, one (1) Fire Safety Plans Examiner Supervisor, and one (1) Fire Safety Plans Examiner. The Division also consists of one (1) Divisional Secretary and two (2) Office Assistants. The Assistant Fire Marshals are assigned to a designated geographical territory, ranging from two (2) to six (6) counties. Five (5) Divisional personnel are trained and certified to assist with the review of plans, when necessary, in addition to their inspection duties. All Assistant Fire Marshals serve as liaisons for all Fire Marshal services with local fire departments, municipal governments, and the general public.

II. FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

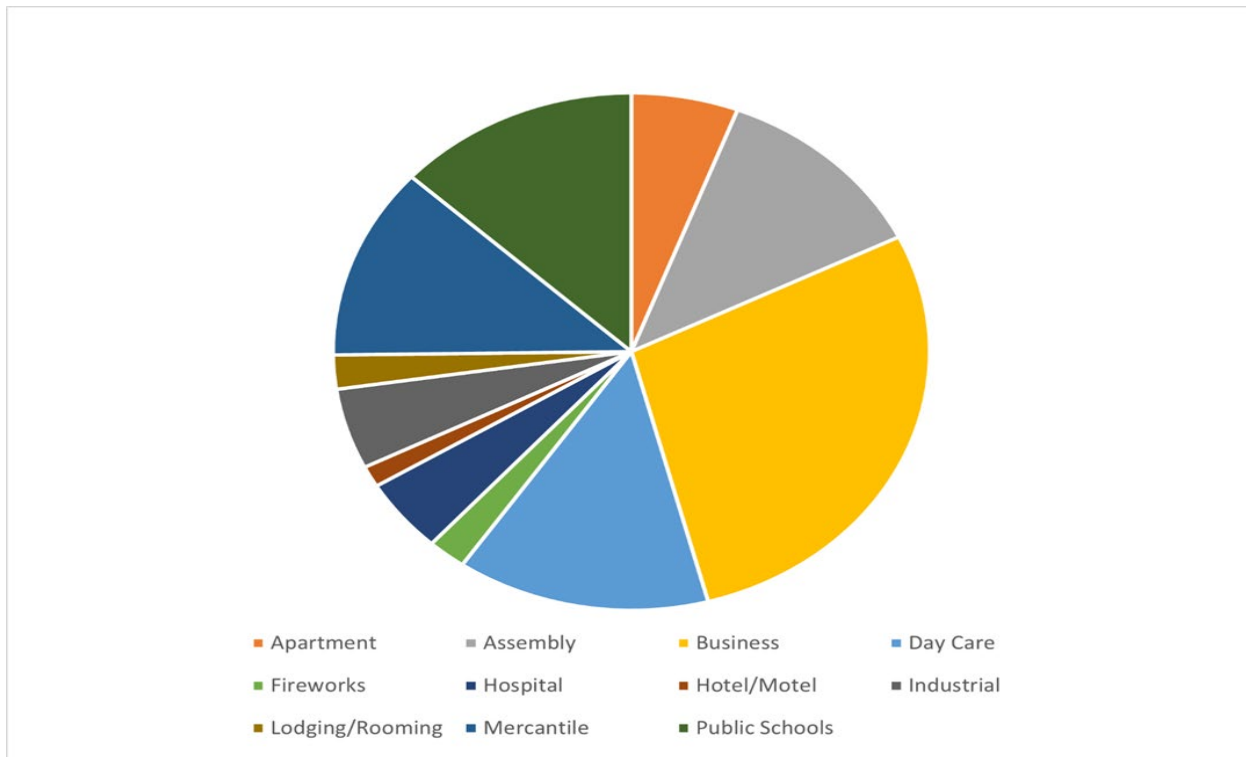
This fiscal year, six thousand, five hundred and thirty-one (6,531) fire safety inspections, consultations, and complaints were conducted by the Division. A spreadsheet and pie chart are provided within this report to show which types of inspections were conducted by occupancy type. Educational occupancy, which includes all inspections for day cares, colleges, and universities, as well as public and private schools, continues to dominate the largest number of inspections completed within the Division. Also included in this report are two charts which demonstrate the number of complaints and system inspections that were conducted, by occupancy, and a spreadsheet that presents the number of licensing checks completed by each Assistant Fire Marshal within the Division by each type of license (electrician, fire protection worker, low voltage, and pyrotechnician).

In addition to fire safety inspections, a significant number of hours were invested in fire safety training and educational programs, administering licensing tests, assisting the Fire Investigation Division, as well as other agencies, and department-specific training. Additional educational programs include in-service training given to county school system maintenance personnel and educational staff(s), presentations given to various organizations and associations, upon request, to provide detailed information pertaining to fire and life safety, office meetings with Building Code Officials, construction teams, etc.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS BY OCCUPANCY - FY 2023

	Annual	Complaints	Construction	Consults	Final	Final w/CO	Follow Up	Initial	System	DIVISION TOTALS
ASSEMBLY	14	22	155	19	28	22	35	55	65	415
Class A	5	4	17	7	1	1	5	11	16	67
Class B	5	7	64	5	13	8	9	5	22	138
Class C	4	111	74	7	14	13	21	39	27	310
BUSINESS	252	16	426	19	52	43	36	94	44	982
DETENTION	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	25
EDUCATIONAL	542	7	196	27	22	15	64	68	37	978
Day Cares	335	2	10	5	6	6	50	63	2	479
Schools	203	5	160	18	15	7	14	5	33	460
Colleges & Universities	4	0	26	4	1	2	0	0	2	39
HEALTH CARE	112	3	101	8	23	9	5	0	14	275
Hospitals	44	1	77	7	19	6	1	0	6	161
Nursing Homes	65	2	21	1	3	2	4	0	8	106
Ambulatory Care	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	8
INDUSTRIAL	9	6	92	11	8	7	15	4	24	176
MERCANTILE	0	17	233	4	26	39	22	24	54	419
Class A	0	2	51	0	4	1	4	3	9	74
Class B	0	2	86	2	12	12	9	3	28	154
Class C	0	13	96	2	10	26	9	18	17	191
RESIDENTIAL	122	85	161	6	24	19	20	19	11	467
Hotel/Motel	0	19	12	2	4	0	5	1	3	46
Apartments	1	48	112	1	12	15	4	3	6	202
Dormitory	17	0	5	0	2	0	5	0	2	31
Rooming/Lodging	31	4	14	3	3	3	3	8	5	74
Dwellings	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	12
Board & Care	72	7	16	0	3	1	3	5	10	117
STORAGE	4	3	78	3	6	15	2	3	11	125
TOTALS	1865	393	2289	161	312	273	345	433	460	6,531

Life Safety Inspections by Occupancy FY 2023

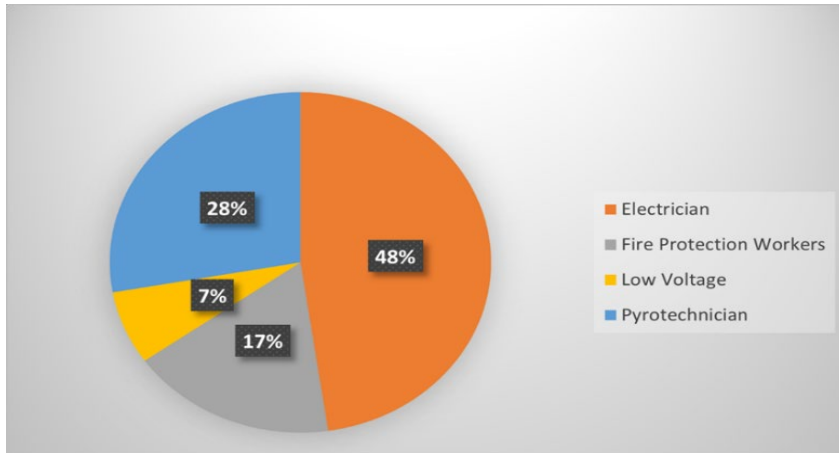


COMPLAINT INSPECTIONS FY 2023

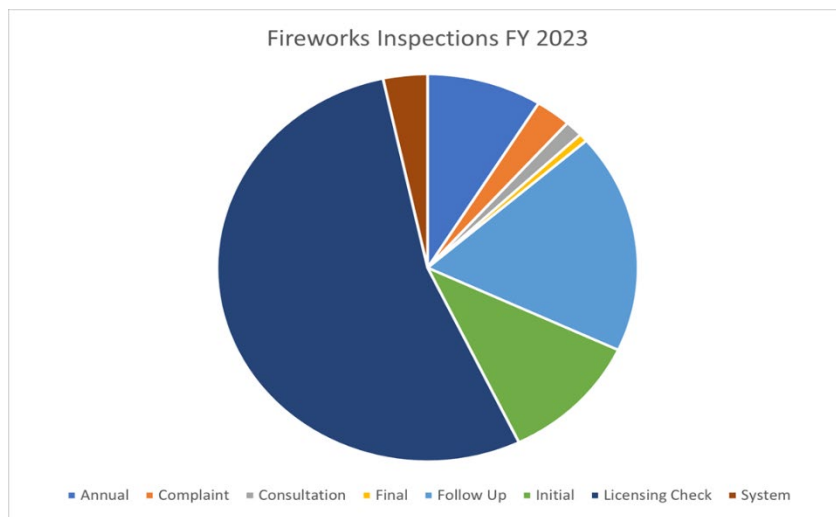
FY 2023	TYPE OF COMPLAINT					
OCCUPANCY	BLASTING	ELECTRICAL	FIRE CODE	LICENSING	FIREWORKS	TOTALS
ASSEMBLY	0	0	21	0	0	21
BUSINESS	0	4	8	1	0	13
DETENTION	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDUCATIONAL	0	1	6	0	0	7
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0	0		0
HEALTH CARE	0	0	1	0	0	1
INDUSTRIAL	0	4	2	0	0	6
MERCANTILE	0	2	8	0	0	10
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	6	0	0	6
RESIDENTIAL	13	2	71	2	0	88
STORAGE	0	0	2	1	0	3
TOTAL BY TYPE	13	13	125	4	0	155

SYSTEM INSPECTIONS FY 2023

FY 2023	TYPE OF SYSTEM								
OCCUPANCY	AES	FAS	FM200	FIRE PUMP	GENERATOR	HVAC	SMOKE MGMT	SPKR	TOTALS
ASSEMBLY	40	8	0	1	0	1	0	7	57
BUSINESS	7	20	1	1	3	2	2	7	43
DETENTION	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
EDUCATIONAL	8	19	0	0	0	4	0	6	37
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEALTH CARE	3	5	0	1	1	4	0	2	16
INDUSTRIAL	1	8	1	5	2	1	0	6	24
MERCANTILE	12	25	1	0	0	10	0	7	55
MISCELLANEOUS	6	7	0	0	0	1	0	5	19
RESIDENTIAL	3	14	0	0	0	1	0	6	24
STORAGE	1	4	0	3	0	0	0	4	12
TOTAL BY TYPE	81	114	3	11	6	24	2	50	291



License Checks by License Type – FY 2023



Total Training Hours FY 23 2188

III. PLANS AND REVIEW SECTION

This fiscal year, the Plans and Review section reviewed, one thousand two hundred and forty-nine (1,249) sets of plans, as shown in the spreadsheet which displays the amount of plans reviewed per occupancy. In the past five years, we have reviewed and provided construction inspections for occupancy over five and a half billion dollars of revenue for the agency.

The Plans and Review Section accomplishes a formal review of the plans when construction documents are submitted. This is an in-depth review of all architectural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing plans for code compliance. Specialized systems such as fire alarms, automatic sprinkler systems, hood suppression, and smoke management systems are other types of plans that may be submitted to our office for review.

The Fire Safety Plans Examiners dedicate a significant amount of time and research to telephone calls, email correspondence, and walk-in consultations with architects, engineers, contractors, and owners to assist with code interpretations, as well as assisting the public in answering general fire code-related questions. Through these opportunities of consultations and correspondence, the Plans Examiners can assist designers and owners with proper code requirements during the early developmental stages of the project. Although these consultations and points of contact are not a formal review of plans, this process has proven to eliminate costly and time-consuming changes during the design and construction phase of the project and bridges the gap to prevent lack of knowledge due to poor communication between our office and the public.



Plans Reviewed for Projects Over \$1 Million Dollars Estimated Construction Cost



Above is a graph showing an overview of the number of projects that have been reviewed by the Plan Review Division over the past fifteen (15) years with an estimated construction cost over one million dollars per project.



PLANS REVIEWED BY OCCUPANCY FY 2018 - FY 2023

OCCUPANCY	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ASSEMBLY	131	119	125	216	228	214
BUSINESS	218	311	305	312	323	310
DAY CARE	131	109	103	25	28	12
DETENTION	6	7	5	5	20	5
EDUCATIONAL	198	154	110	116	184	148
HEALTH CARE	229	230	261	91	96	60
INDUSTRIAL	310	296	305	73	100	59
MERCANTILE	132	99	53	266	305	222
RB&C	88	61	53	40	22	4
RESIDENTIAL	9	20	23	114	125	145
STORAGE	34	40	219	55	109	70
TOTAL BY TYPE	1486	1446	1562	1313	1540	1249

PLANS REVIEWED BY TYPE FY 2018 - FY 2023

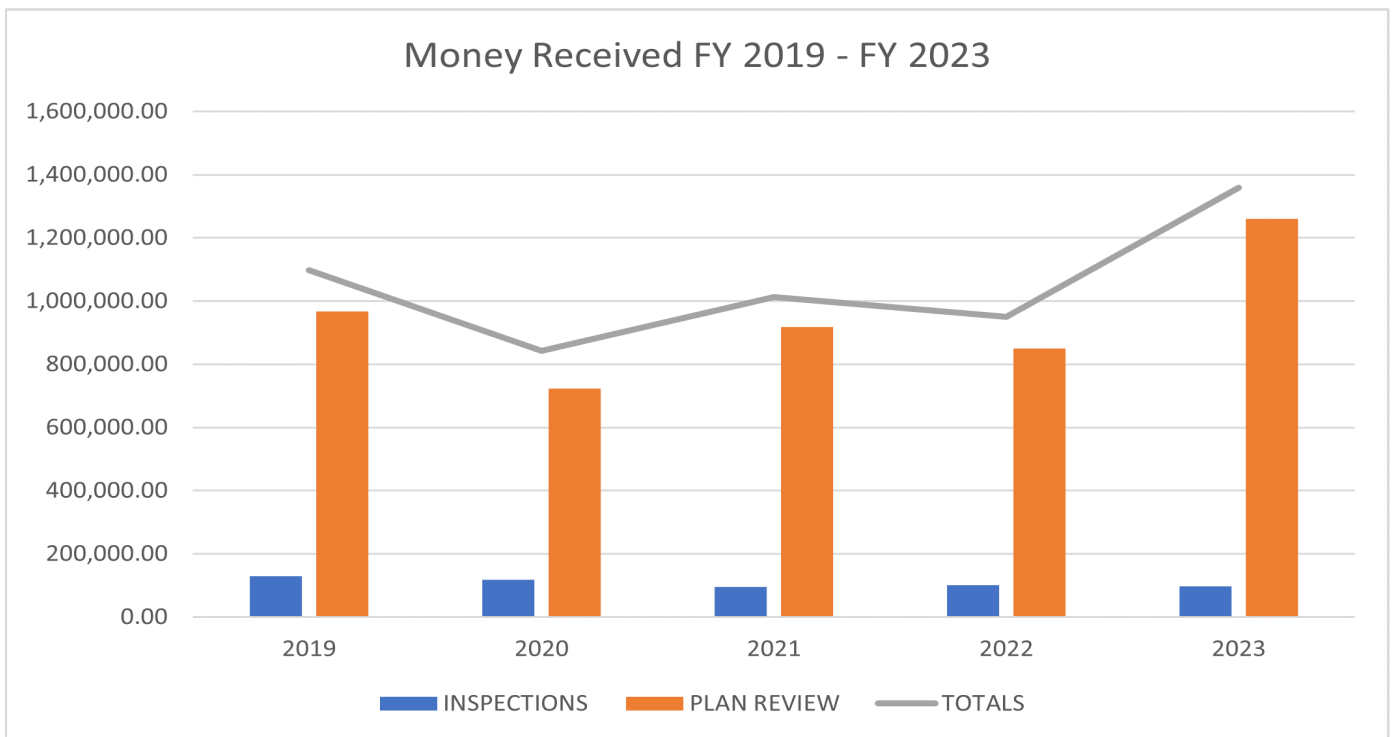
TYPE OF PLAN	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ARCHITECTURAL	549	617	726	758	703	572
FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	308	256	234	412	412	311
SPRINKLER SYSTEM	165	134	169	310	249	197
HOOD SUPPRESSION SYS	406	374	412	155	135	123
AGST	2	0	0	22	18	8
FM 200	37	36	6	16	5	6
CARPET	16	19	8	20	31	3
UNCLASSIFIED	3	10	7	1	0	0
TOTAL BY TYPE	1486	1446	1562	1694	1553	1220

Sampling of Projects by County for Fiscal Year 2023

County	Project	County	Project
Barbour	Broaddus Hospital	Mineral	Mineral County Courthouse
Berkeley	Tabler Station	Mingo	Mingo County Courthouse
Boone	WV Great Barrel Company	Monongalia	Mountaintop Beverage Company
Braxton	Community Care of WV	Monroe	Monroe Health Center
Brooke	Brooke County Judicial Center	Morgan	Morgan County Homeless Shelter
Cabell	Academy Sports & Outdoors	Nicholas	Nicholas County 911 Center
Calhoun	Sanitary Expansion and Renovations	Ohio	Welly Home for the Aged
Clay	Gringos	Pendleton	Pendleton Manor
Doddridge	Doddridge County Health Department	Pleasants	St Mary's High School
Fayette	New River Outdoors	Pocahontas	Appalachian Tacos
Gilmer	Minnie Hamilton Clinic	Preston	Camp Dawson
Grant	South Branch Career & Technical Center	Putnam	Hurricane Fire & Rescue
Greenbrier	Lewisburg Hotel	Raleigh	Klockner Pentaplast
Hampshire	Hampshire County Public Library	Randolph	Tygart Hotel
Hancock	City of Chester Water System Improvements	Ritchie	Ritchie County Judicial Complex
Hardy	Hardy County Health Department	Roane	Gandeeville Volunteer Fire Department
Harrison	Armed Forces Career Center	Summers	Hinton Senior Living
Jackson	Constellium	Taylor	Greentree Apartments
Jefferson	Blue Ridge Fire Company	Tucker	National Youth Science Foundation
Kanawha	Herbert Hoover High School	Tyler	Tyler County Schools HVAC Renovations
Lewis	Lewis-Gilmer 911 Center	Upshur	Buckhannon Readiness Center
Lincoln	Duval PK-8 School	Wayne	Wayne Nursing Center
Logan	Loganwood Apartments	Webster	Holley River State Park
Marion	Pierpont Culinary Academy	Wetzel	Wetzel County Hospital
Marshall	Marshall County EMS	Wirt	Palestine State Fish Hatchery
Mason	Nucor	Wood	Wood County 911 Center
McDowell	Berwind Volunteer Fire Department	Wyoming	EZ Stop
Mercer	Bluestone Travel Plaza		

MONEY RECEIVED FY 2018 - FY 2023

SECTION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INSPECTIONS	130,016.00	118,751.00	95,742.00	101,336.00	97,022.00
PLAN REVIEW	967,511.00	723,015.00	917,177.00	849,648.00	1,260,885.00
TOTALS	1,097,527.00	841,766.00	1,012,919.00	950,984.00	1,357,907.00



Investigation Division



Monongalia County, ASFM Sovastion

2023 Annual Report



Fire Investigation Division

STAFF

Division Director:

DSFM Jason D. Baltic, CFI, CFEI

Field Personnel:

Northern Regional Supervisor: ASFM George Harms, CFI, CFEI, CVFI

Southern Regional Supervisor: ASFM Robert Rodes II, CFI, CFEI, CVFI, CFII

ASFM Shawn Alderman, CFI, CFEI

ASFM Ronald Ayersman, CFI, CFEI

ASFM Timothy Chastain, CFEI, CVFI

ASFM Anthony Iafolla

ASFM Larry T. Hamrick, FIT, CFEI

ASFM James Lewis, FIT

ASFM Rick Sovastion, CFI, CVFI

ASFM Joseph Vacchio, CFEI, CVFI

ASFM In-Training (Vacant)

Secretary: Caylee Slack



Mercer County, ASFM Rodes

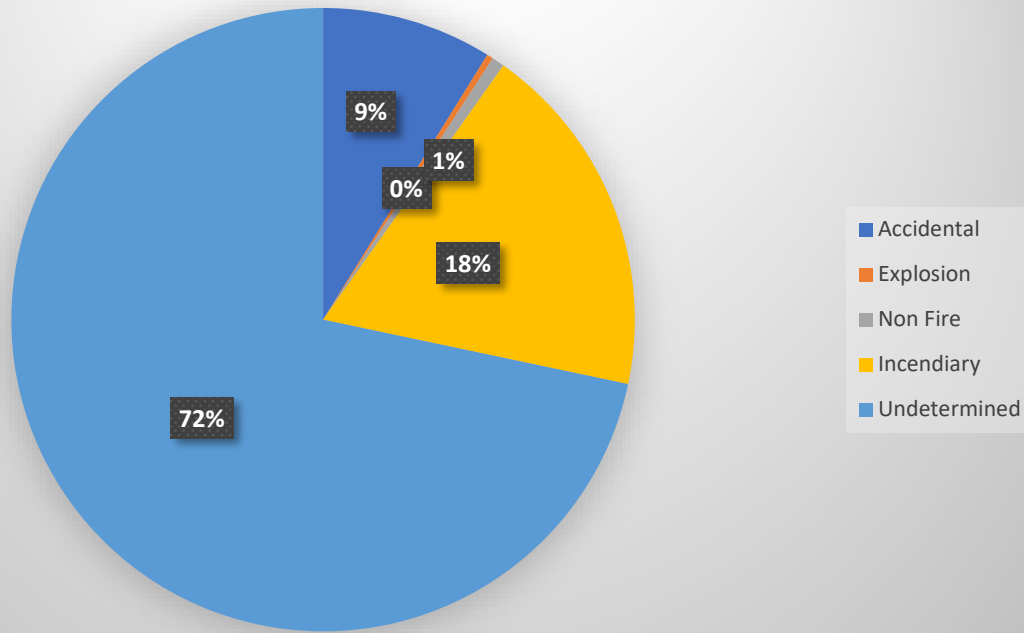
INTRODUCTION

The Investigation Division current authorized staffing level is one (1) Field Deputy State Fire Marshal, two (2) Field Supervisors, nine (9) Assistant State Fire Marshals, and one (1) Secretary, when fully staffed.

Each Fire Marshal has a designated geographical territory ranging in size from two (2) to eight (8) counties, depending on their size and population. The Fire Marshal's primary duties encompass all aspects of fire/arson identification and enforcement including determining fire origin and cause, fire death investigations, executing state or federal search/arrest warrants and subsequently providing expert testimony in criminal and civil trials. In addition, each Fire Marshal is responsible for explosives related investigation/enforcement in their respective areas.

Many non-arson related violations are identified during an arson investigation, and are generally referred to other federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies for investigation/prosecution.

Investigation Cases FY 2023



INVESTIGATIONS CASES WORKED

There was a total of six hundred and twelve (612) incidents called in to the Arson Hotline requesting an investigation in the fiscal year 2023.

Out of the six hundred and twelve (12) cases worked by State Fire Marshal investigators, one hundred and thirteen (113) of those were determined to be Incendiary, fifty-four (54) were classified as Accidental, two (2) were classified as Explosion, and four hundred and thirty-eight (438) were of Undetermined cause. In addition, there were four (4) Non-fire incidents and one (1) that did not require an investigation.

Incidents are called into the West Virginia Fire Marshal Hotline (1-800-233-3473, FIRE) and are, from there, sent to the Deputy State Fire Marshal for the Investigation Division as well as Southern and Northern Regional Supervisors. Cases are assigned based on geographical area and by the investigator's case load. Each Investigator has a primary area assigned to them for emergency response.



FIRE FATALITIES

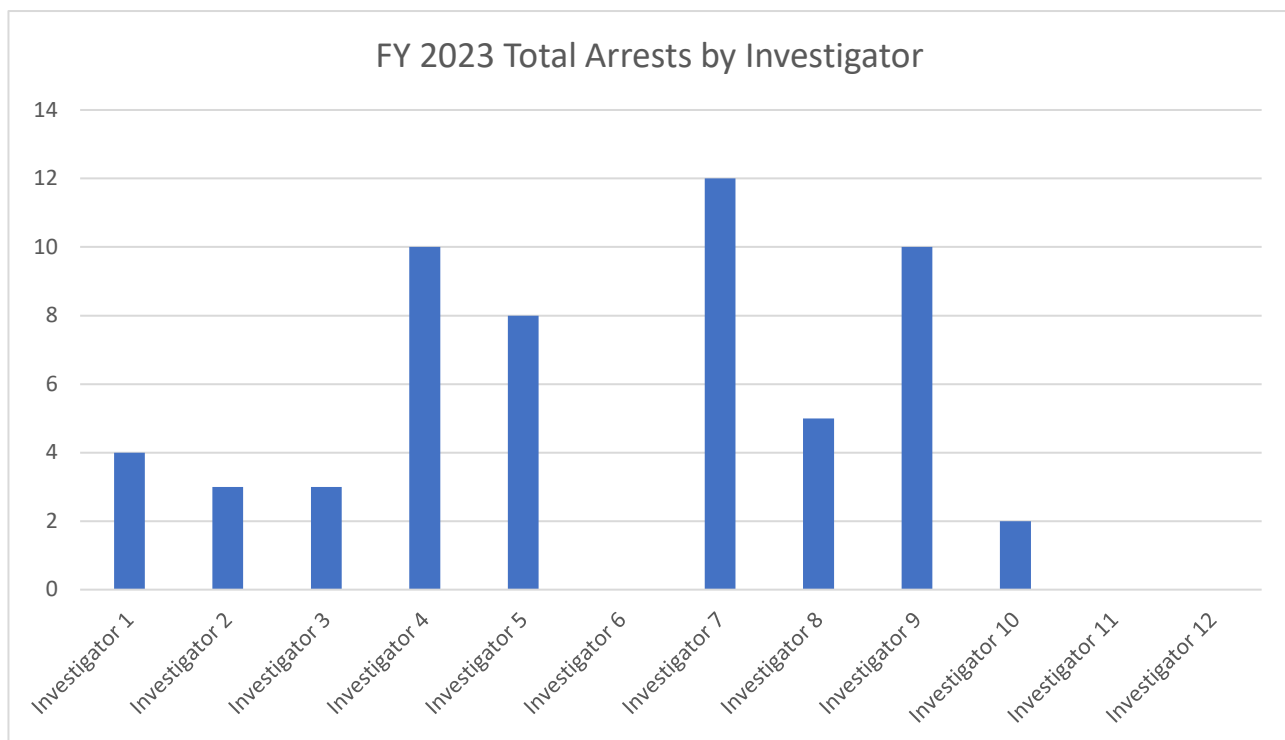
There were (44) fatalities during the 2023 fiscal year, the result of forty-two (42) fires. Two (2) of these fires resulted in multiple fatalities. Out of the forty-two (42), thirty-six (36) were classified as Undetermined, three (3) as Accidental, and three (3) as Incendiary.

The State of West Virginia is still above the national average by population for fire fatalities. However, through public education and assistance programs, the WVSFMO is working toward lowering those numbers.

2023 FATAL FIRE STATISTICS

#	COUNTY	SMOKE ALARM	CAUSE	AGE SEX
1	Monongalia	No	Accidental	68/M
2	Kanawha	Unknown	Undetermined	70/M
3	Lincoln	N/A	Incendiary	59/M
4	Greenbrier	Unknown	Undetermined	71/63 M/F
5	Jefferson	Unknown	Undetermined	70/M
6	Marshall	Unknown	Undetermined	74/M
7	Fayette	No	Undetermined	61/M
8	Roane	No	Accidental	69/M
9	Putnam	No	Undetermined	2/M
10	Harrison	Unknown	Undetermined	37/M
11	Wood	No	Undetermined	45/F
12	Pendleton	Unknown	Undetermined	70/M
13	Greenbrier	Unknown	Undetermined	62/M
14	Kanawha	Unknown	Undetermined	29/M
15	Putnam	Unknown	Undetermined	67/F
16	Roane	Unknown	Undetermined	79/F
17	Jackson	No	Undetermined	59/M
18	Roane	N/A	Incendiary	32/M
19	Cabell	Unknown	Undetermined	65/F
20	Summers	Unknown	Undetermined	75/M
21	Ohio	Unknown	Accidental	76/M
22	Cabell	Unknown	Undetermined	55/F
23	Berkeley	Unknown	Undetermined	41/9 F/M
24	Fayette	No	Undetermined	46/F
25	Harrison	Yes	Undetermined	74/F
26	Webster	No	Undetermined	64/M
27	Hampshire	No	Incendiary	57/M
28	Wayne	No	Undetermined	48/F
29	Cabell	No	Undetermined	59/M
30	Wayne	Unknown	Undetermined	54/M
31	Mason	Yes	Undetermined	65/F
32	Wayne	Unknown	Undetermined	15/M
33	Tyler	Unknown	Undetermined	68/M
34	Harrison	Unknown	Undetermined	76/M

35	Berkeley	No	Undetermined	83/M
36	Grant	N/A	Undetermined	29/M
37	Nicholas	Unknown	Undetermined	79/F
38	Berkeley	Unknown	Undetermined	58/F
39	Monongalia	Unknown	Undetermined	32/M
40	Kanawha	Unknown	Undetermined	40M
41	Raleigh	No	Undetermined	27/39 M/F
42	Ohio	Unknown	Undetermined	66/F



ARRESTS

During the 2023 Fiscal Year, the Investigation Division handled one hundred fifty-one incidents classified as Incendiary. As a result, fifty-seven (57) individuals were arrested on several different criminal charges or warrants for their arrest.

Each year, investigators hone their skills through continuing education and training in law enforcement, arson investigation and criminal procedure and law in order to perform their jobs as West Virginia State Fire Marshals.

CONVICTIONS

During the 2023 Fiscal Year, there were several notable convictions of cases that were obtained. Some of these convictions were from cases in previous years.

County	Charges	Conviction	Sentence
Barbour	2nd Degree Arson	Pending plea agreement	Sent to Sharpes for eval
Barbour	1 X Second Degree Arson	Pending plea agreement	Sent to Sharpes for eval
Berkeley	1st Degree Arson	Awaiting Trial	
Boone	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Cabell	4th Degree Arson	Bound-over	Pending
Cabell	1st Degree Arson	4th Degree Arson	1-2 Alternative Sentencing
Cabell	4th Degree Arson	4th Degree Arson	Juvenile Petition (Prob)
Cabell	1st Degree Arson/ Obstruction	Bound-over	Pending
Cabell	4th Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Cabell	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Calhoun	1st Degree Arson	2 Counts of 1st Degree Arson	Pending
Clay	3rd Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Clay	Murder; 3rd Degree Arson	Murder	Pending
Fayette	1st Degree Murder	Pending Mental Competency	Pending
Fayette	Setting Fire to Lands	Pending Mental Competency	Pending
Greenbrier	1st Deg Murder / 1st Deg Arson	2nd Deg Murder / 1st Deg Arson	25 years & 16 years consecutive
Greenbrier	1st Degree Arson	Same	10 years
Greenbrier	3rd Degree Arson	Same	3 years + HC
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Hampshire	1st degree arson Exceptional	Deceased 12/16/22	None
Harrison	1 X First Degree Arson	Plead Guilty	4 years

County	Charges	Conviction	Sentence
Harrison	1 X First Degree Arson	Plead Guilty	4 years
Kanawha	1st Degree Arson	Dismissed/Pending Grand Jury	Pending
Kanawha	Murder; 1st Degree Arson	Murder	Pending
Lincoln	Murder	Trial Status in Progress	Pending
Logan	1st Degree Arson	Cleared by Death	
Logan	1st Degree Arson-Starting fire Lands of another	Pending	Pending
Logan	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Logan	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Logan	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Marshall	1st degree Arson	Pending trial	Pending
Mason	3rd Degree Arson	Trial Status in Progress	Pending
Mercer	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Mercer	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Mingo	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Monongalia	2nd Degree Arson	Plea 06/27/23 2nd degree arson	Pending
Nicholas	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Nicholas	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Raleigh	1st Degree Arson	2nd Degree Arson	10 years
Raleigh	1st Degree Arson	2nd Degree Arson	Pending
Raleigh	Conspiracy	Conspiracy	Pending
Raleigh	1st Degree Arson	2nd Degree Arson	Pending
Raleigh	1st Degree Arson	Pending	Pending
Raleigh	1st Deg Murder / 1st Deg Arson	Same	Life w/mercy & 20 years concurrent
Randolph	1st Degree Arson	Awaiting Trial	Pending
Taylor	1st degree arson	Plea 12/20/22 1st degree	Pending
Taylor	1 X First Degree Murder	Plead Guilty	15 years with mercy
Upshur	1st Degree Arson	Plead Guilty	Juvenile Facility until 21st birthday
Wayne	3rd Degree Arson	Destruction of Property	1yr plus restitution

FY2023 Fires Per Investigator

NAME	ASSIGNED COUNTIES	FIRES
Investigator 1	Kanawha Putnam	64
Investigator 2	Barbour Doddridge Harrison Marion Taylor Tyler	76
Investigator 3	Calhoun, Jackson Pleasants Roane Wirt Wood	43
Investigator 4	Cabell Lincoln Mason Wayne	59
Investigator 5	Boone Logan Mingo	75
Investigator 6	McDowell Raleigh Wyoming – Vacant Position	0
Investigator 7	Braxton Clay Fayette Nicholas Webster	75
Investigator 8	Greenbrier Mercer Monroe Pocahontas Summers	55
Investigator 9	Brooke Hancock Marshall Monongalia Ohio Preston Wetzel	76
Investigator 10	Grant Hampshire Hardy Mineral Randolph Tucker	27
Investigator 11	Gilmer Lewis Randolph Ritchie Upshur – Vacant Position	0
Investigator 12	Berkeley Jefferson Morgan	39
Charleston FD	City of Charleston	3
Wheeling FD	City of Wheeling	1
Division of Forestry	Wildland fire investigations called into the hotline	7
Total		611



Harrison County, ASFM Ayersman

Fire Investigation Training For First Responders



Upshur County Fire Investigation Class, DSFM Baltic

Every year Fire Marshals from the Investigation Division are requested to teach fire investigation classes throughout the state. Fire departments and local law enforcement are at the scene of a fire prior to our investigators, and they need to know what to look for in a possible case of Arson. Classes are taught at County fire schools, E.S.C.A.P.E. week at Pipestem Resort, and at requesting fire departments or law enforcement agencies.

Multiple classes during the year were offered in conjunction with the State Fire Commission, West Virginia University – Fire Service Extension, and the West Virginia Department of Education. Only Certified Fire Investigators from our agency may teach fire investigation classes, with the exception of Fire Investigation 1 and 3. Fire Investigation 1 may be taught by a Certified Fire Investigator from outside the agency with our approval. Two attorneys within the State assist with Fire Investigation 3 which is mainly concerning laws and courtroom testimony.

Classes Provided:

- Fire Investigation 1
- Fire Investigation 2
- Fire Investigation 3
- Evidence Collection for Fire Investigators
- Evidence Preservation

Lewisburg Fire Department, ASFM Rodes





Upshur County, ASFM Ayersman (both)



State Fire Marshal Firearms Training



Cabell County Sheriff's Department Range

All sworn employees of the State Fire Marshal's Office carry firearms on duty and train with them frequently. There are two qualification trainings that occur each year for daytime and low-light weapons training. Fire Marshals must pass each qualification session in order to carry their firearms. Each Fire Marshal is issued a Glock 45, .9mm Caliber handgun. Marshal's of the Investigation Division also carry Remington 870, 12 Gauge shotguns which are securely stored in their vehicles.

There are five Firearms Instructors in the agency:

DSFM Jason D. Baltic
ASFM Robert S. Rodes II
ASFM Timothy Mouse
ASFM Larry T. Hamrick
ASFM Joseph Vacchio

All firearms instructors are State Certified Instructors that train several hours to acquire and retain their certification.



Huttonsville Correctional Center Range



WV State Fire Marshal



@WVfiremarshal

West Virginia
State Fire Marshal's Office
1700 MacCorkle Ave SE – 4th Floor North
Charleston, WV 25314
(304) 558-2191

www.firemarshal.wv.gov