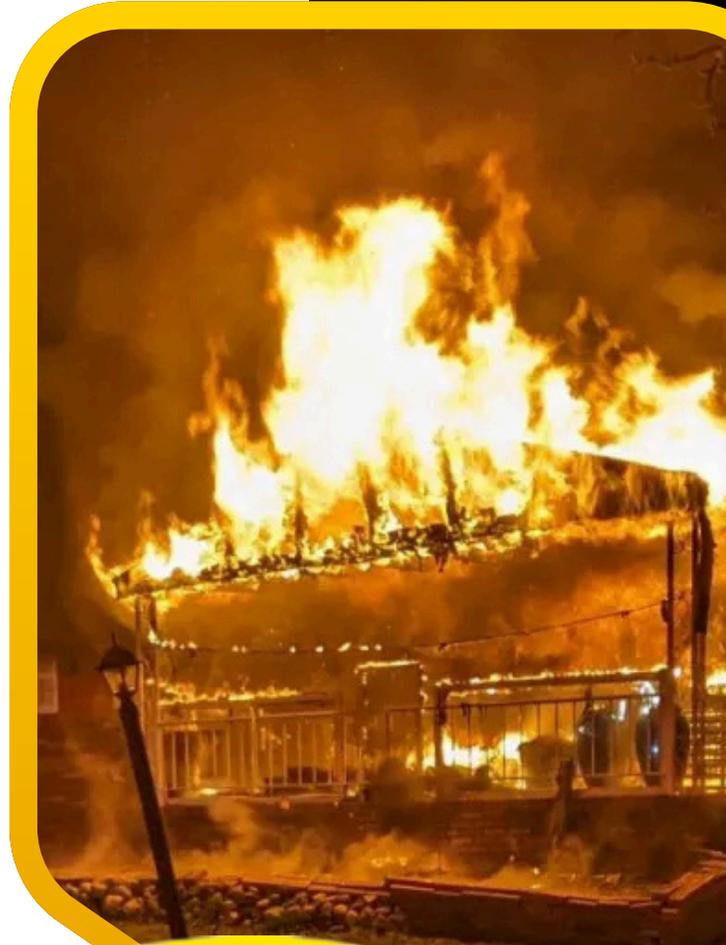


2024 ANNUAL MARYLAND FIRE FATALITY REPORT



ONE MISSION | ONE GOAL
A SAFER MARYLAND

 www.mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD
PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

A MESSAGE FROM ACTING STATE FIRE MARSHAL JASON MOWBRAY

As Acting State Fire Marshal, it is my privilege to present the 2024 Maryland Fire Fatality Report. This comprehensive document serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of fire prevention, especially the vital role that working smoke alarms play in saving lives. A functioning smoke alarm often marks the difference between life and death, providing early warning and critical time to escape.

In 2024, we introduced "Get Alarmed Maryland," a new online portal that allows residents to request smoke alarms through our agency. Paired with this initiative is a new tracking system that collects detailed data on installations and alarm performance—information that will guide future campaigns and help us identify areas most in need of fire safety outreach.

Our commitment to fire safety is strengthened through collaboration. We sincerely appreciate our partners and delegated agencies across Maryland for their tireless efforts in conducting thorough investigations and providing timely, accurate data to our office. Your dedication ensures this report reflects our state's fire safety realities and helps shape effective prevention strategies.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Jessica Budd, Ms. Penny Doty and the Logistics and Technology Section for their outstanding work compiling and assembling this report. Your expertise in data collection and management is instrumental to our ongoing mission.

As you review this report's findings, let us all recommit to promoting fire prevention in our homes and communities. We can reduce fire-related tragedies and protect Marylanders' lives through education, vigilance, and continued partnership.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason M. Mowbray".

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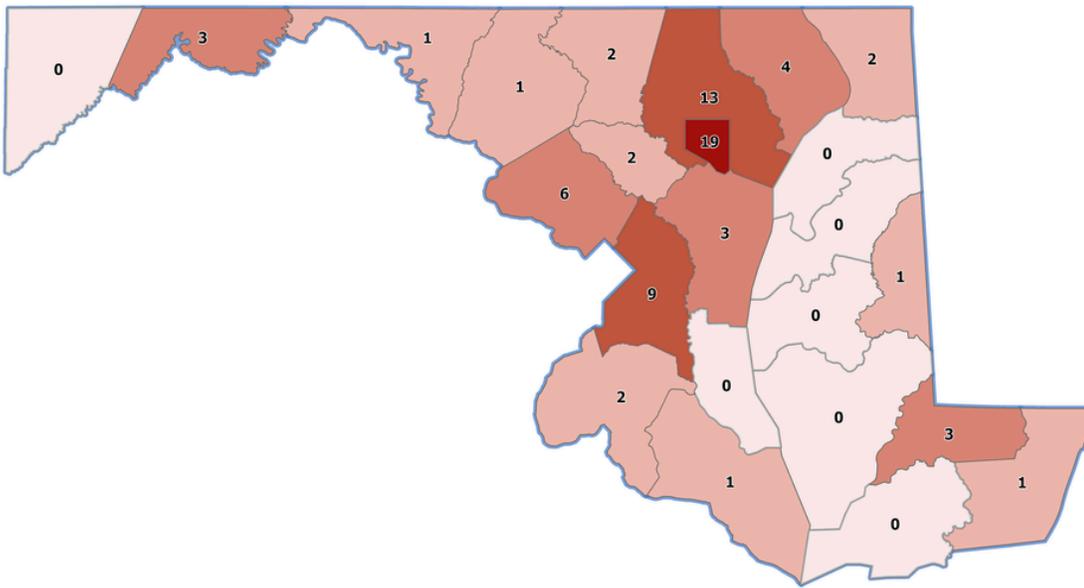
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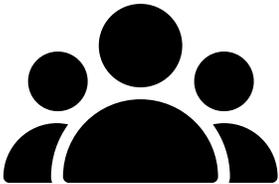
73
FIRE DEATHS

67
FATAL FIRES



2023= 84
13.1 % Decrease

MULTIPLE FATALITY FIRES



8.2%

GENDER



40% 60%

RESIDENTIAL FIRES

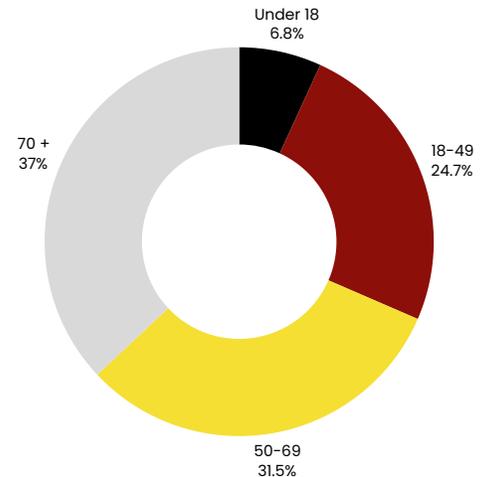


79%

PUBLIC SERVICE FATALITIES

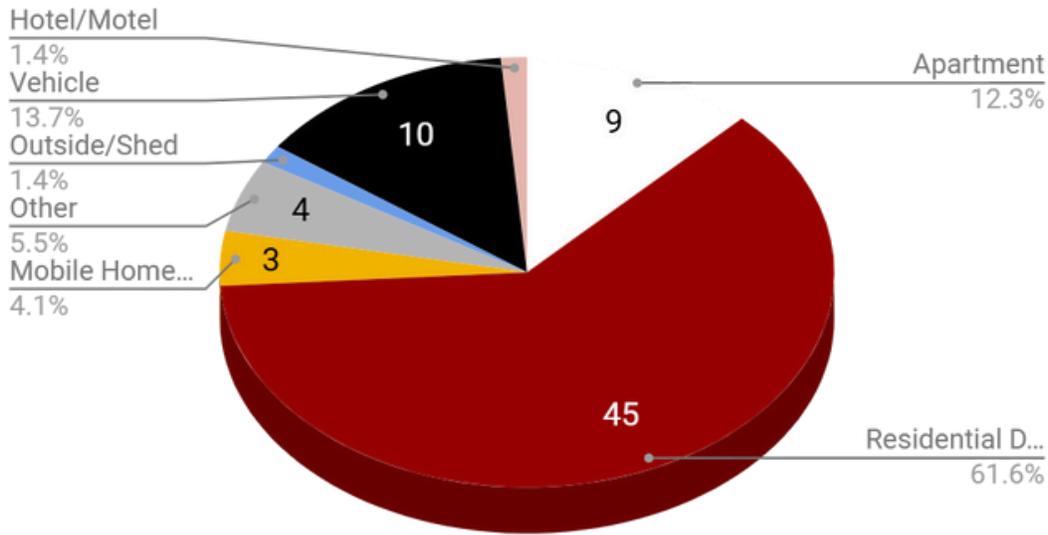


AGE

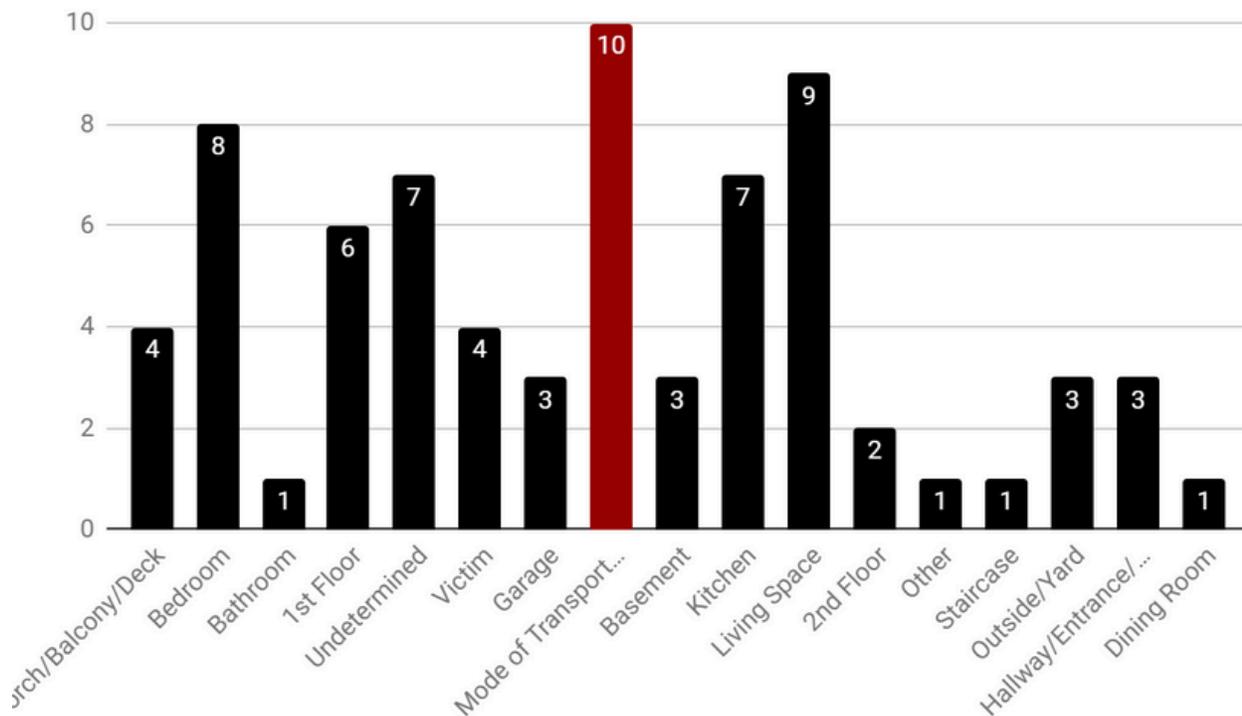


MOST PROBABLE CAUSE OF FIRE INCIDENTS

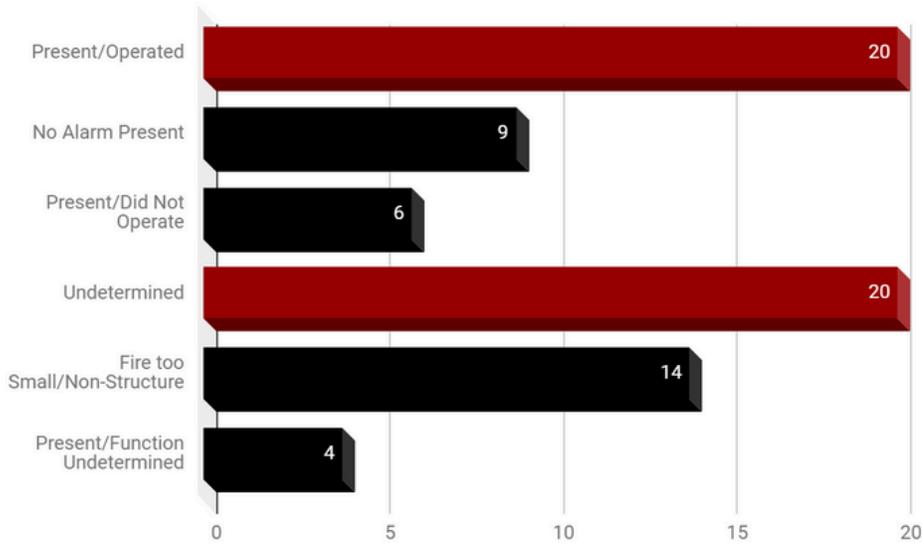




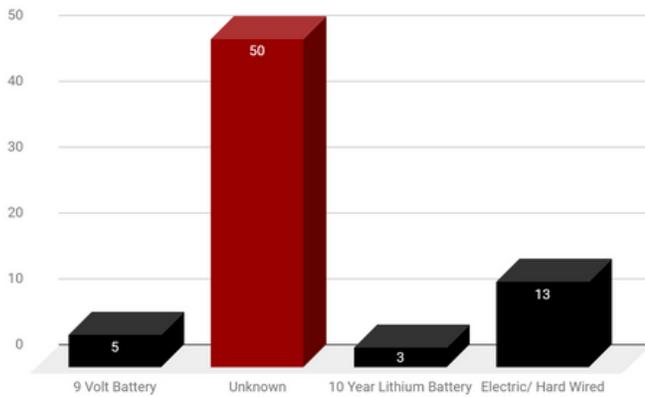
Residential Fires 79%



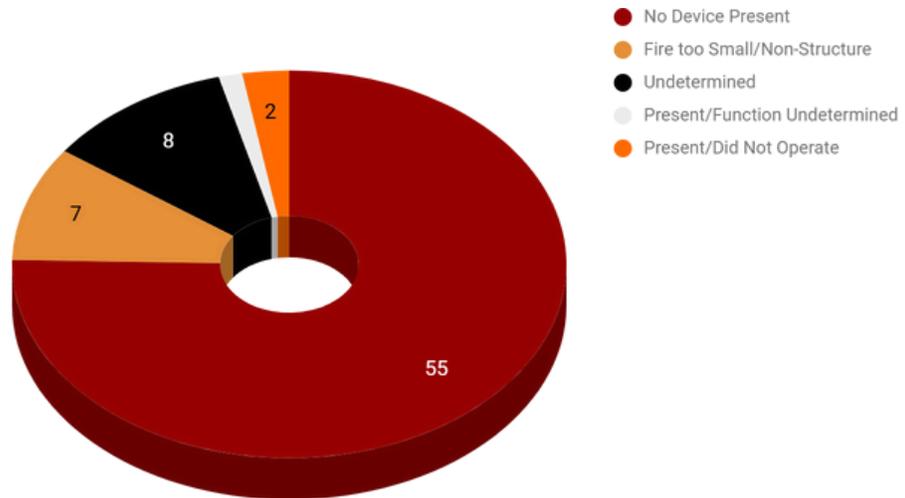
Smoke Alarm Performance



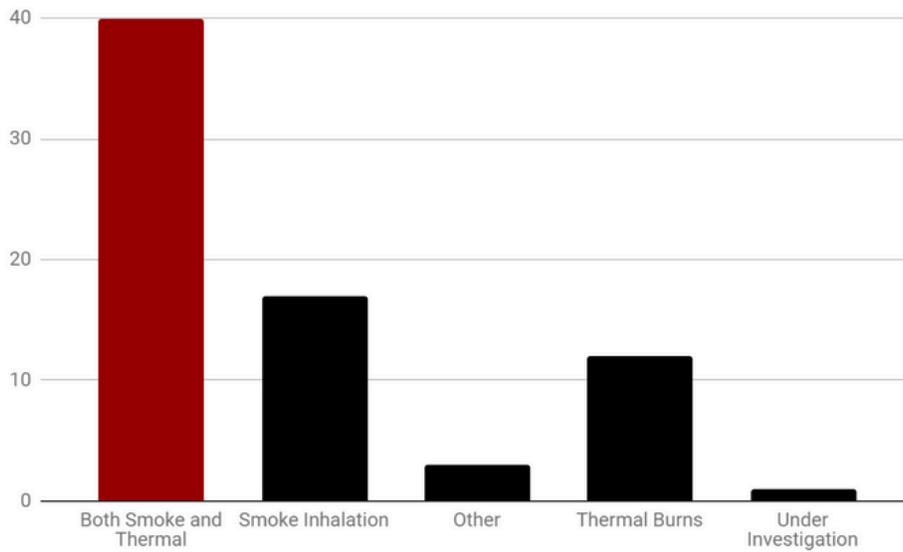
Smoke Alarm Type



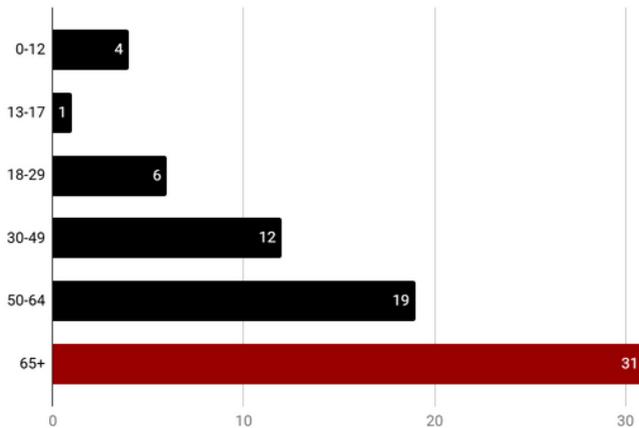
Fire Sprinkler Performance



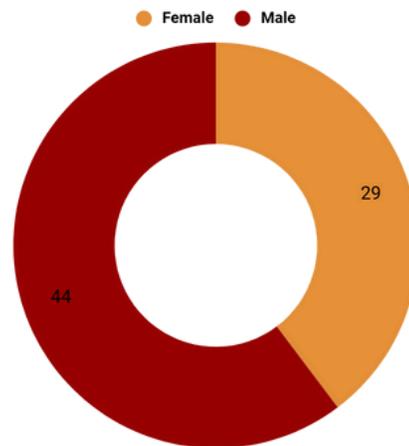
Cause of Death



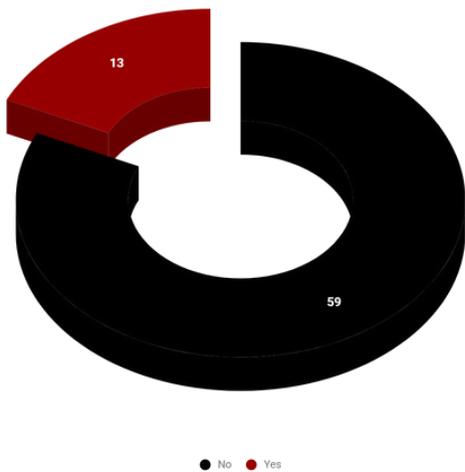
Age Range of Victim



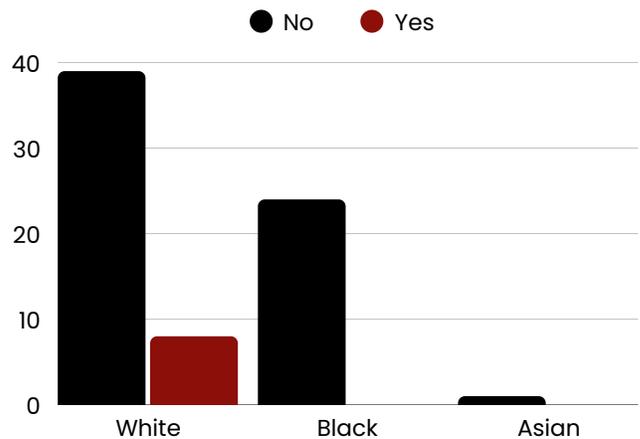
Sex of Victim



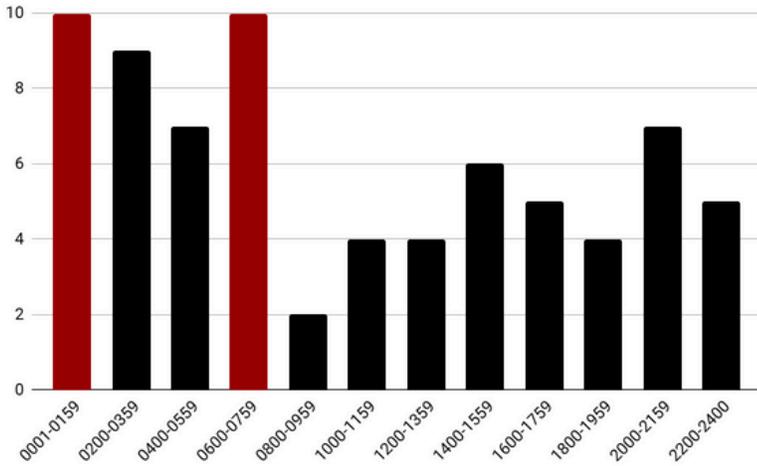
Hoarding Conditions Observed



Race & Hispanic Victims



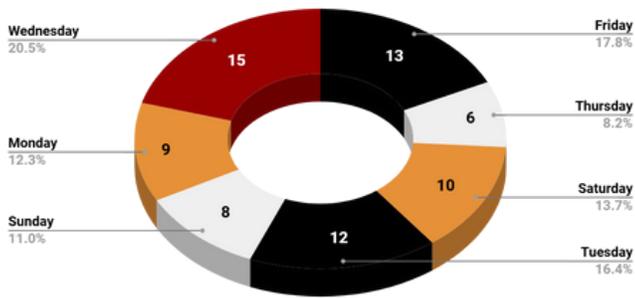
Time of Day



Highest Time Frame

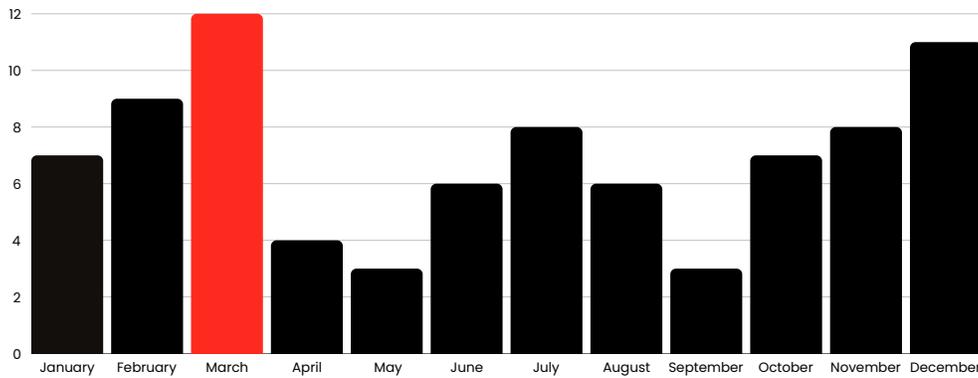


Day of the Week



**Wednesday
22%**

Month of the Year



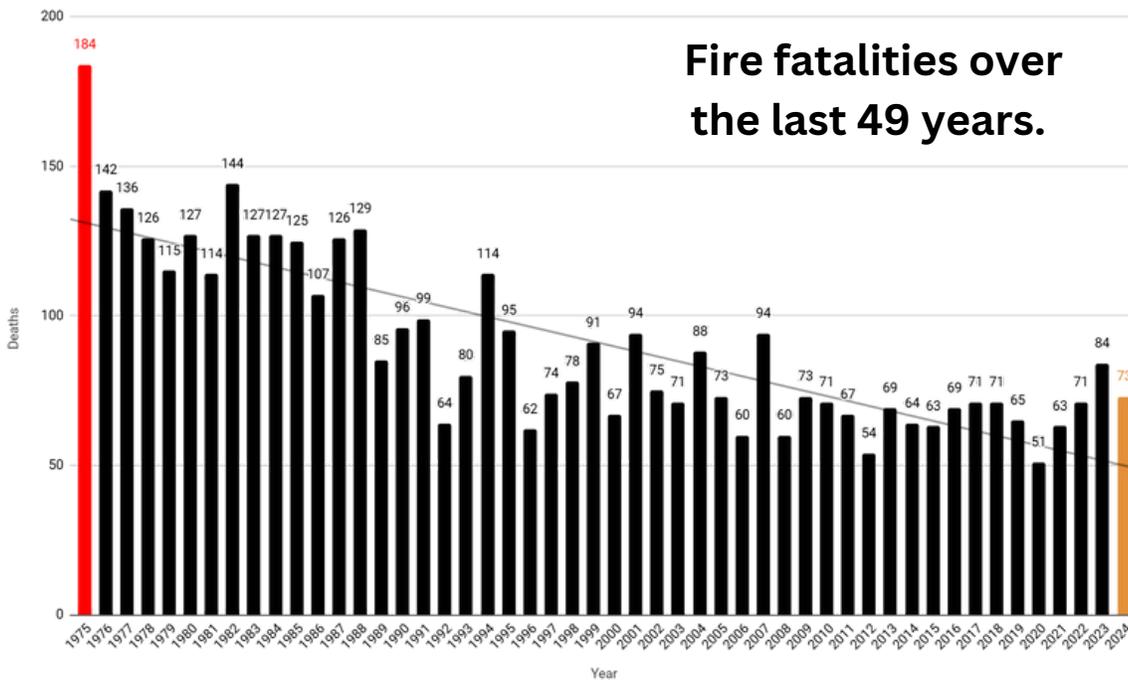
**Winter
53%**



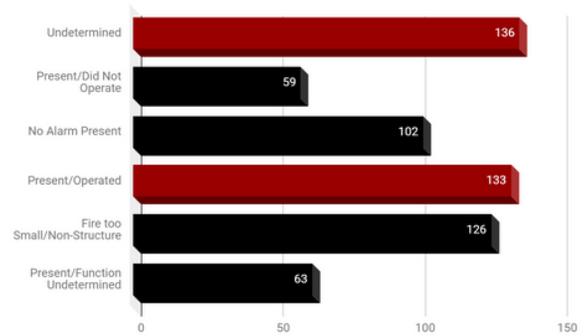
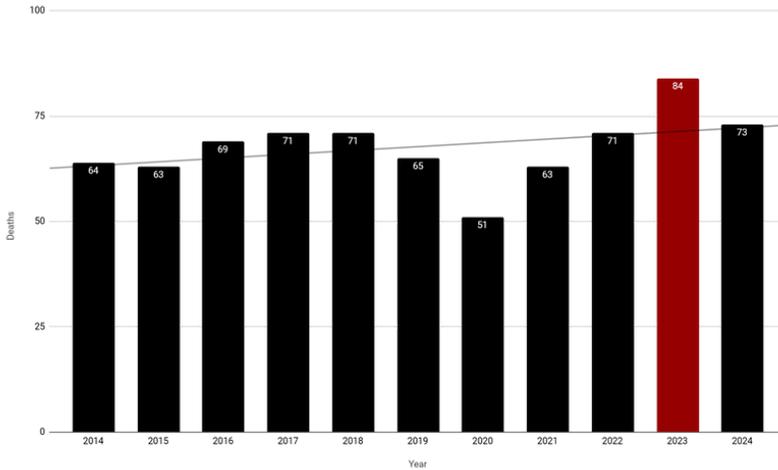
FIRE FATALITIES OVER TIME

2016-2024

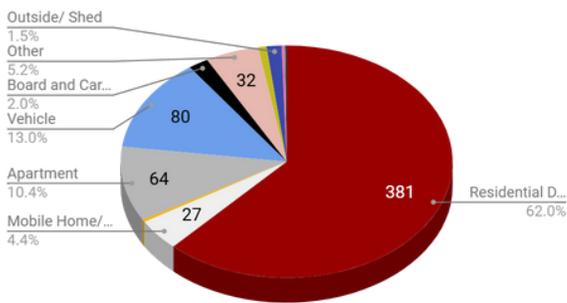
Fire fatalities over the last 49 years.



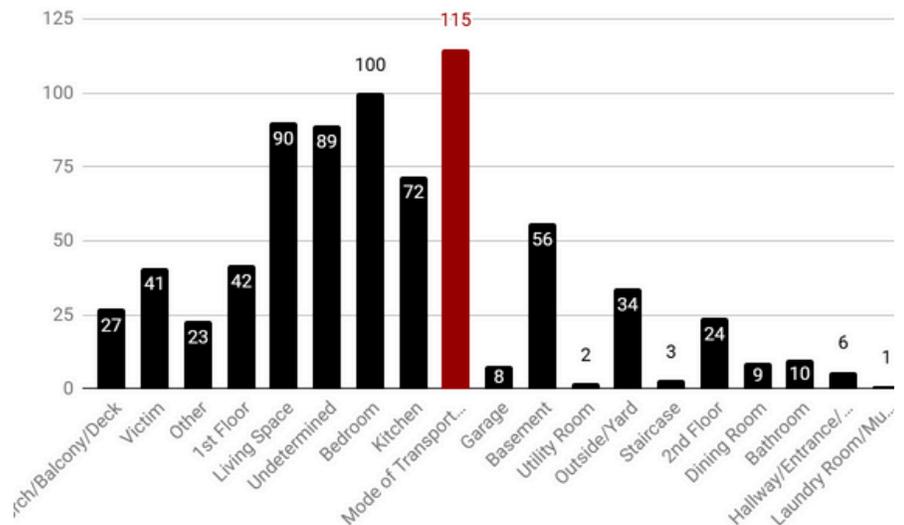
Fire fatalities over the last 10 years.



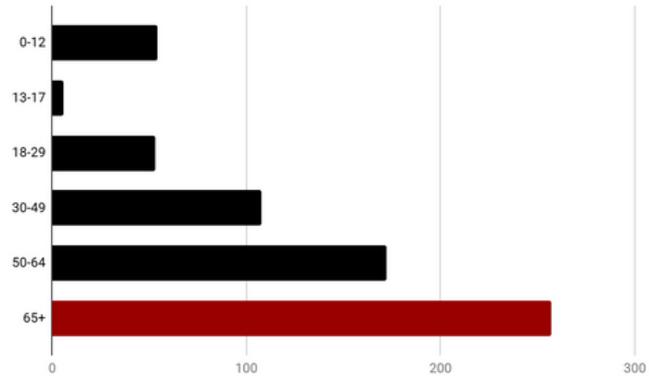
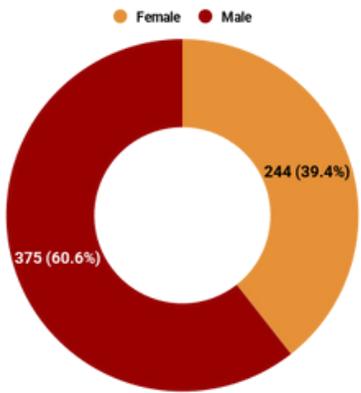
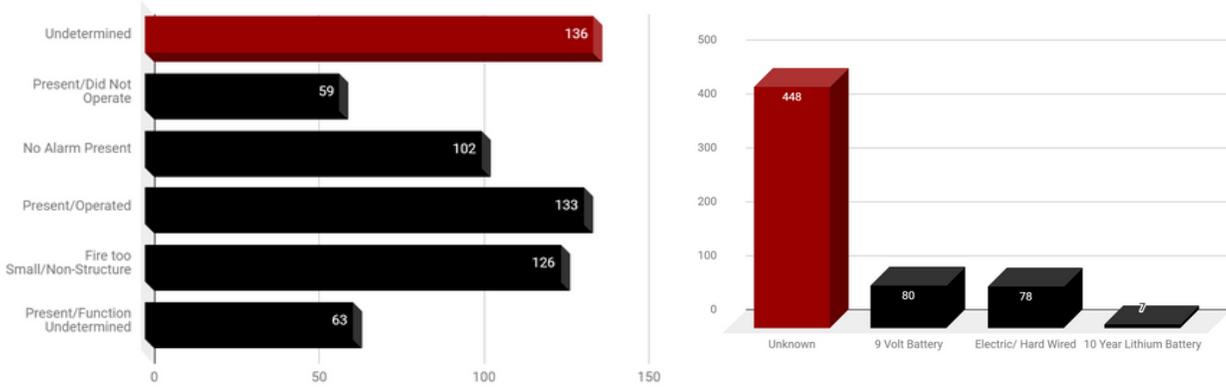
Property Type 2016-2024



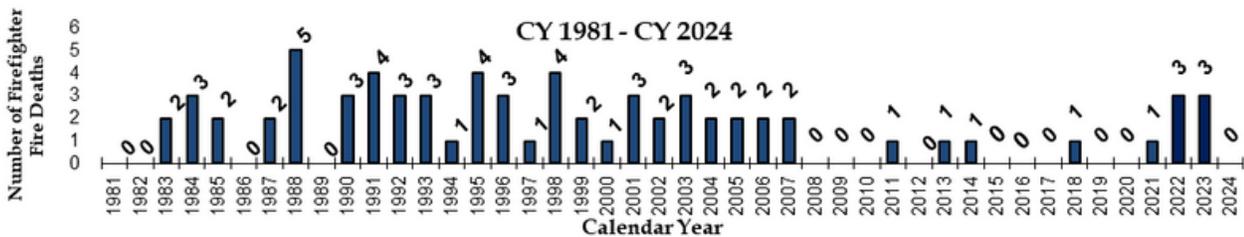
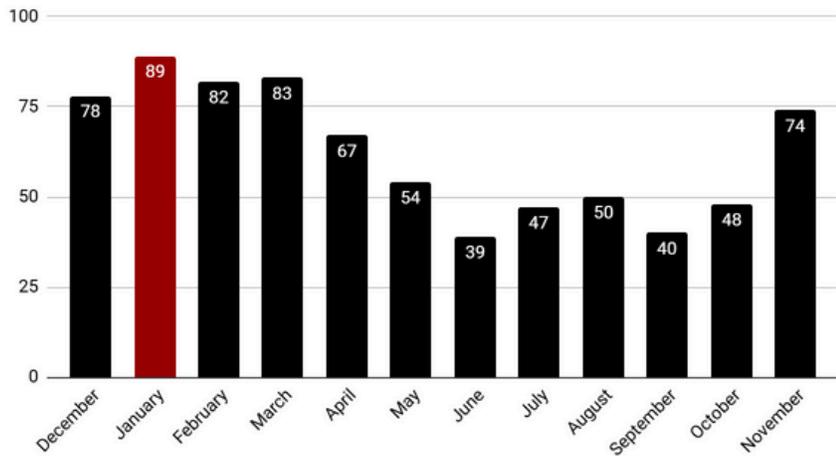
Fire Origin 2016-2024



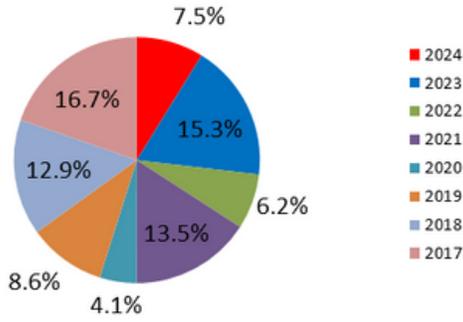
Smoke Alarm Information 2016-2024



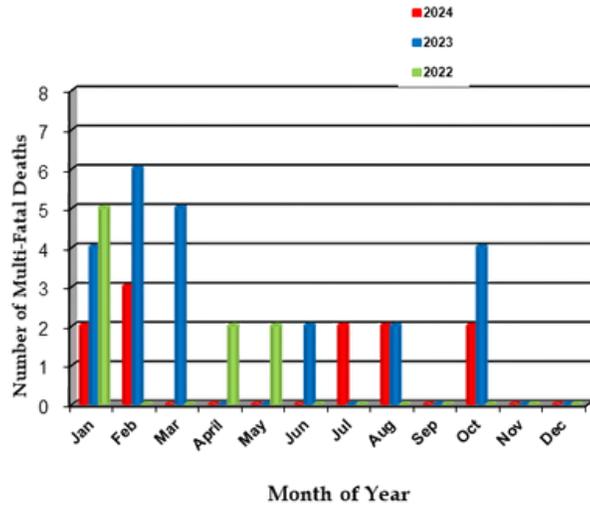
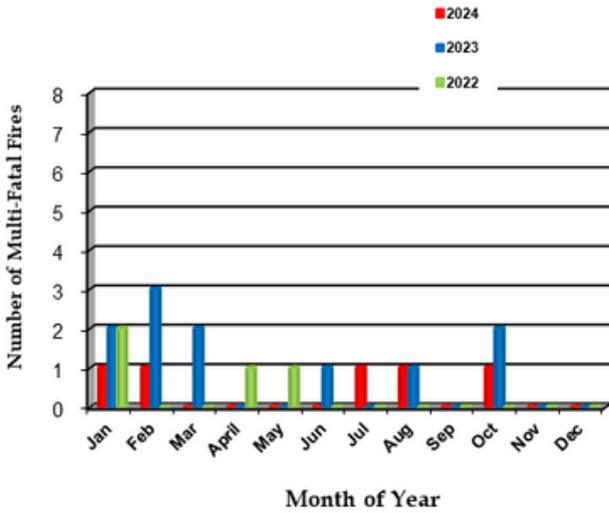
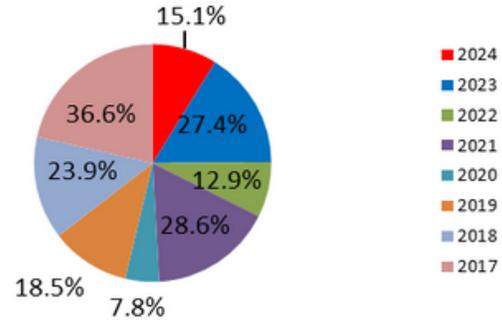
Total Fire Fatalities by Month (2016-2024)



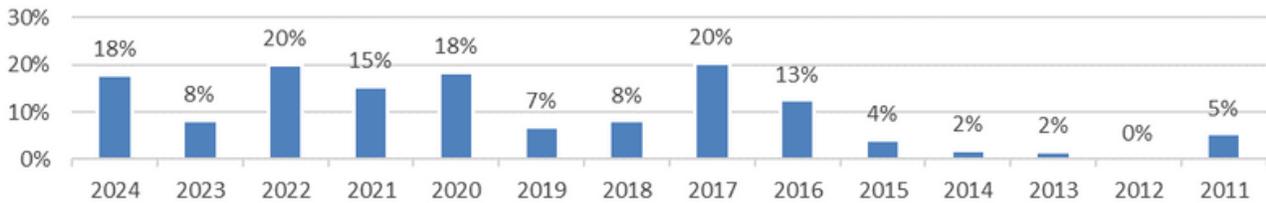
Multi-Fatal Fires



Multi-Deaths



Percentage of Total Fires Complicated by Hoarding

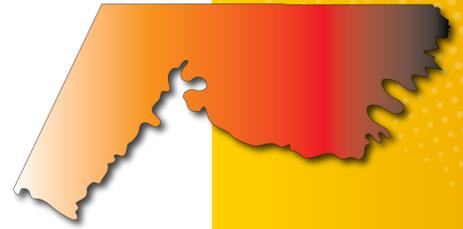


County Totals 2020-2024

County	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	5- Year Total	% State Total	5yr Rate per 100,000*
ALLEGANY	0	3	1	2	3	9	0.60%	2.7
ANNE ARUNDEL	3	2	7	6	3	21	1.60%	1
BALTIMORE CITY	10	12	16	19	19	76	5.10%	2.8
BALTIMORE COUNTY	7	8	8	11	13	47	2.10%	0.9
CALVERT	1	0	1	2	0	4	0.40%	1.4
CAROLINE	2	1	0	0	1	4	0.10%	0.8
CARROLL	0	1	3	5	2	11	0.60%	1.2
CECIL	1	0	1	1	2	5	0.50%	1.6
CHARLES	0	2	4	1	2	9	0.40%	1
DORCHESTER	0	3	4	0	0	7	0.30%	3.1
FREDERICK	0	2	2	4	1	9	0.40%	0.6
GARRETT	0	2	2	1	0	5	0.10%	1.1
HARFORD	2	1	4	2	4	13	0.50%	0.7
HOWARD	0	1	3	2	2	8	0.40%	0.5
KENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.20%	3.7
MONTGOMERY	7	5	4	10	6	32	1.30%	0.5
PRINCE GEORGES	12	11	6	8	9	46	2.60%	1
QUEEN ANNE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.10%	1
ST. MARY'S	1	1	0	5	1	8	0.30%	1
SOMERSET	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.20%	2.8
TALBOT	1	0	1	0	0	2	0.10%	0.9
WASHINGTON	3	5	1	1	1	11	0.50%	1.2
WICOMICO	0	2	1	1	3	7	0.60%	2
WORCESTER	0	1	2	3	1	7	0.40%	2.3



Allegany County



- A 49-year-old male died in a vehicle fire that was not caused by a crash. The medical examiner determined the cause of death was fire-related, and the victim died as a result of smoke and soot inhalation and thermal injuries. The investigator ruled this as accidental and a result of the engine compartment catching on fire.

- A 41-year-old female perished in a motor vehicle crash when the vehicle collided with another vehicle and caused significant damage to the operating hybrid vehicle. The fire originated in the engine compartment, causing the victim to pass away from multiple blunt force injuries and smoke and thermal burns, according to the medical examiner.

- An undetermined fire that started in the garage of an apartment building claimed the life of a 34-year-old male. The victim's body was found in the kitchen after he fell from the second floor. There were smoke alarms present and operating, according to the investigators on the scene.

3

FIRE DEATHS

3

FATAL FIRES



2023- 2 Deaths
2022- 1 Death



Anne Arundel County



- A 72-year-old male was transported by medics to a local hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries from smoke inhalation after he was located in the basement closet of the residential house fire. The cause of the fire was due to an electrical malfunction in a dehumidifier in the basement of the home. The smoke alarms were present and operating according to the investigators on the scene.

- A 37-year-old male died in a car crash after the vehicle struck a tree. The medical examiner determined the cause of death was fire-related, and the victim died as a result of multiple blunt force injuries complicated by thermal injuries.

-A 23-year-old male perished in a vehicle crash after it struck a tree and burst into flames. The victim was the driver of a Lincoln sedan. The medical examiner determined the cause of death was fire-related, and the victim died of multiple injuries complicated by thermal injuries. The deceased had consumed alcoholic beverages prior to death.

3

FIRE DEATHS

3

FATAL FIRES

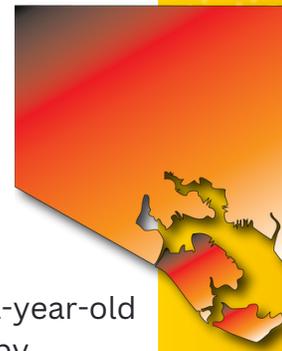


2023- 6 Deaths

2022- 7 Deaths



Baltimore City



- A cooking-related residential kitchen fire resulted in the death of a 91-year-old female. The victim was initially evacuated from the burning structure by firefighters and transported to a local burn center, where she succumbed to her smoke Inhalation injury later on while in hospice. Investigators could confirm the presence of operating smoke alarms in her home.

- The presence of smoke alarms could not be confirmed in a smoking-related residential dwelling fire that started in the bedroom area of the home, and claimed the life of a 59-year-old male. The deceased victim was located in the second-floor bathroom, and the cause of death was determined to be smoke inhalation.

- An electrical malfunction rowhome fire claimed the lives of two victims, an 80-year-old male and a 78-year-old female. One victim was found inside the home unresponsive, while the other escaped from a second-story window. Both victims were taken to a nearby hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries, later determined by the medical examiner to be smoke and thermal injuries, and the victim who jumped from the window passed away from fractures/multiple injuries and smoke and soot inhalation.

- A triple fatal fire occurred on the first floor of a residential structure, claiming the lives of a 73-year-old male, a 12-year-old female, and an 8-year-old male due to an electrical malfunction in the home. The victims were all found in the second-floor front bedroom by investigators, and it is undetermined if there were operating smoke alarms. The three were taken to a local burn unit and succumbed to their injuries of smoke inhalation and thermal burns.

- An undetermined residential fire claimed the lives of two victims, a 63-year-old female and a 63-year-old male. Both victims were still in bed and died from smoke and thermal injuries, with hoarding conditions present. The presence of working smoke alarms could not be confirmed by the Investigators.

- An 83-year-old female victim was found in her bedroom, where the fire had originated. She was transported to a local area hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries from thermal burns. The investigators are not able to determine the cause of the fire, but reported that there were present and operating smoke alarms in the home. Hoarding conditions were present at the time of the fire.

- A 71-year-old male perished in a residential dwelling fire that started in the first-floor living room due to an electrical malfunction. The victim was found in the second-floor bedroom, and the cause of death was ruled as both smoke and thermal injuries. The presence of smoke alarms could be confirmed, but the function was undetermined by the Investigators.

19
FIRE DEATHS

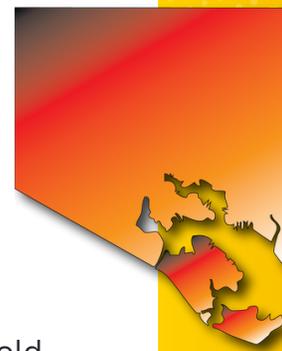
15
FATAL FIRES



2023- 19 Deaths
2022- 15 Deaths



Baltimore City



- A smoking-related residential house fire claimed the life of a 51-year-old female who was located by rescuers and found deceased on the second-floor rear bedroom of the structure, with reports of smoke alarms present but did not operate at the scene.

- A 56-year-old male perished in a residential fire caused by a kerosene heater being located too close to combustibles. The fire started in the living space where the victim was located. There were smoke alarms present in the house, but their function could not be determined by investigators. The victim died from smoke inhalation complicated by drug use.

- A 73-year-old male was found suffering from thermal injuries and smoke inhalation from a vehicle crash. The victim was found in the rear seat.

- A single-family dwelling fire was determined by investigators to have been caused by a cooking-related kitchen fire, resulting in the death of a 71-year-old female who was located by firefighters in the first-floor front room. Investigators were not able to determine if there were working smoke alarms on scene, but were able to report hoarding conditions. She was elderly and used a walker and passed away due to smoke inhalation.

- An incendiary act of suicide self-immolation in a residential house claimed the life of a 54-year-old male who was found in the first-floor rear closet. The victim perished in the fire with mixed drug intoxication complicated by smoke and thermal injuries. Investigators reported that hoarding conditions were present at the time of the fire.

- A 43-year-old male perished when he was standing near a bonfire with his wife and tripped over a bucket, falling into the fire. The victim was under the influence of drugs at the time, and the cause of death was smoke and thermal injuries, determined by the medical examiner.

- An apartment fire resulted in the demise of a 25-year-old male victim who succumbed to his fire-related injuries. Investigators determined the fire started in the kitchen, but remains undetermined. There were present and operating smoke alarms.

- A smoking-related residential fire that started in the main living space resulted in the death of a 63-year-old female who was located in the living room from smoke and thermal injuries. Investigators were unable to determine if there was working smoke alarms on the scene.

19

FIRE DEATHS

15

FATAL FIRES



2023- 19 Deaths

2022- 15 Deaths



Baltimore County

- An act of suicide/ self-immolation committed by the victim was determined to be the cause of a vehicle fire/ non-vehicle crash incident located in a parking lot. Investigators reported that the 48-year-old female perished in the fire before it was extinguished.

-A residential fire caused by careless smoking claimed the life of a 70-year-old female who was found in the second-floor rear bedroom by rescuers. Present but non-operating smoke alarms were found on the scene by investigators.

- A 70-year-old female was pronounced deceased by rescuers at the scene of an apartment fire with hoarding conditions. The fire was determined to have started as a result of smoking in a bedroom of the residence, with no smoke alarms present.

- A residential house fire that originated on the second floor was ruled undetermined, claiming the life of a 76-year-old female. The victim was found in the hallway of the second floor and succumbed to her injuries from smoke inhalation and thermal burns. Smoke alarms were not present, and hoarding conditions were reported by investigators on the scene.

-A 28-year-old male perished in a residential fire, with the cause determined to be an act of arson-suicide. The mother-in-law and her dog were able to escape the fire, but the victim succumbed to his injuries of smoke inhalation and thermal burns after being rushed to a local area hospital.

- Improper handling of smoking materials was deemed the cause of a residential fire that started in the bedroom of the home, resulting in the death of a 58-year-old male who succumbed to his burn injuries and smoke inhalation after being transported to a local burn center.

- A passenger van caught on fire in a parking lot, claiming the life of a 32-year-old male. The victim was found in the driver's seat, and the cause of the fire is undetermined by investigators.

-An apartment fire originating in the staircase due to an open flame claimed the life of a 43-year-old male. Investigators reported that there were smoke alarms present and operating. The victim was found in the bathtub with thermal burns and smoke inhalation.

- An electrical malfunction that occurred outside of a residential home claimed the life of a 76-year-old male after being taken to the hospital with smoke inhalation. Investigators reported working smoke alarms at the scene.



13

FIRE DEATHS

13

FATAL FIRES



2023- 11 Deaths
2022- 8 Deaths

Baltimore County

- An 8-year-old male child who had diabetes died in a residential house fire that resulted from an electrical malfunction in the hallway entrance of the home. Upon initial discovery of the fire, family members had attempted to rescue the child, but fire conditions were too intense. The victim was rushed to a local hospital, where he succumbed to his smoke inhalation injuries from the fire.

-A 50-year-old male sustained burn injuries after catching his clothes on fire from a fire pit in his yard. The victim was transported to a local medical center for treatment by medics, where he succumbed to his injuries.

- A cooking-related apartment fire that started in the kitchen claimed the life of a 38-year-old male. Firefighters found the victim unresponsive in the hallway of the residence with thermal injuries and smoke inhalation. Investigators could confirm that smoke alarms were present, but they were not operating at the time of the fire.

-An undetermined fire that started on the victim's rear enclosed porch claimed the life of a 54-year-old female. The victim's son was able to escape and was rushed to a local hospital for smoke inhalation, and he was able to recover. The victim was not able to escape in time and died of smoke and thermal injuries.



13

FIRE DEATHS

13

FATAL FIRES



2023- 11 Deaths

2022- 8 Deaths



Caroline County

-An undetermined shed fire claimed the life of a 58-year-old male from complications related to thermal injuries and smoke inhalation. The victim was found just outside the shed after it exploded.



1
FIRE DEATHS

1
FATAL FIRES



2023- 0 Deaths
2022- 0 Deaths



Carroll County



- A residential fire that originated in the kitchen of the home claimed the life of a 67-year-old female on home oxygen and required a wheelchair to get around. Investigators found the elderly woman alive by the front door, and she was transported to a local hospital, where she succumbed to her smoke inhalation injuries. There were present smoke alarms, but they did not operate at the scene.

- An undetermined residential fire that started in the living space claimed the life of a 70-year-old female. The victim's cause of death was ruled as both smoke and thermal injuries. Investigators reported that there were present smoke alarms, but the function could not be determined at the time.

2

FIRE DEATHS

2

FATAL FIRES

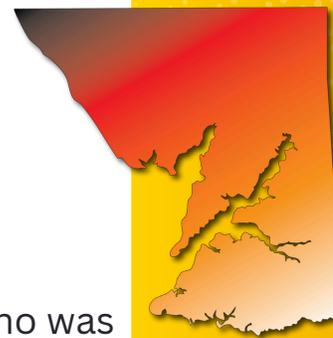


2023- 5 Deaths

2022- 3 Deaths



Cecil County



- A residential fire claimed the life of a 55-year-old male who was found on the kitchen floor by firefighters, with the victim being declared deceased at the scene. Additionally, the cause remains undetermined, and the presence of smoke alarms could not be confirmed.

- A travel trailer fire (used as a residential dwelling) claimed the life of a 56-year-old female who was found deceased within the interior bedroom of the RV by firefighters. The residence was occupied by the victim and her boyfriend after he filled up the generator. He noticed the fire outside, which quickly spread to the camper. The victim was unable to escape in time. Investigators are unable to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

2

FIRE DEATHS

2

FATAL FIRES



2023- 1 Death

2022- 1 Death



Charles County



- A vehicle crash and subsequent fire resulted in the death of a 22-year-old male who was found deceased inside the vehicle at the scene. Reports indicated the driver left the roadway and struck a tree, then caught on fire. The driver and rear seat passenger were able to escape however, the victim was pronounced deceased on scene by investigators.

- A 94-year-old male was discovered deceased in his yard after a brush/ outside yard fire. Investigators found the cause of the fire to be the result of an accidental garbage pile burn that caught the victim on fire.

2

FIRE DEATHS

2

FATAL FIRES



2023- 1 Death
2022- 4 Deaths



Frederick County



- An undetermined trailer home fire that started in the kitchen claimed the life of a 67-year-old male. Investigators reported that there were no smoke alarms present at the scene and found the victim in the hallway of the trailer.

1
FIRE DEATHS

1
FATAL FIRES



2023- 4 Deaths
2022- 2 Deaths



Harford County



- A double fatal residential house explosion claimed the lives of a 73-year-old male and a 35-year-old male. Investigators are not able to determine the cause or origin of the explosion. The investigation revealed that a male subject who was the owner of the home was getting it ready to sell while the other male subject was working for BGE outside of the residence when the home unexpectedly exploded. Both of the victims died as a result of thermal injuries and blunt force trauma.

- An undetermined residential fire claimed the life of a 57-year-old male, which originated in the living room, with the smoke alarm status reported as undetermined at the scene of the fire. The victim died of thermal injuries, according to the medical examiner.

- A 68-year-old male was found deceased in the basement of a single-family home. Investigators are unable to determine the cause of the fire, but state that it originated in the basement, and smoke alarms were present but were not operating.

4

FIRE DEATHS

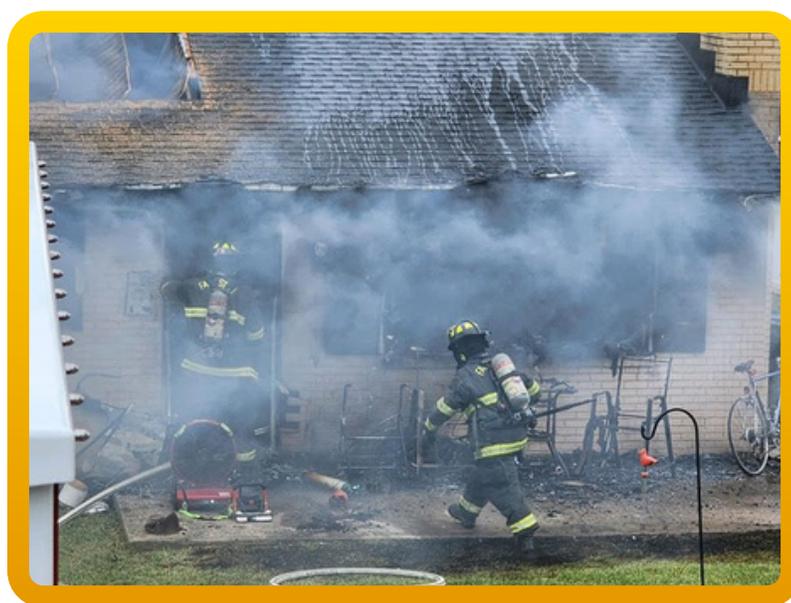
3

FATAL FIRES



2023- 2 Deaths

2022- 4 Deaths



Howard County



- A 89-year-old male victim was transported by medics to a burn center after catching his pants on fire while lighting a fireplace. He sustained thermal burns to 35 percent of his body and was found deceased in a hospital bed several days later.

- A 15-year-old female was discovered by firefighters in her bedroom after she lit candy wrappers on fire and dropped them, resulting in nearby combustibles igniting. Smoke detectors were present and operating at the time of the fire, according to investigators.

2

FIRE DEATHS

2

FATAL FIRES



2023- 2 Deaths
2022- 3 Deaths



Montgomery County



- An arson/homicide-suicide act by a 54-year-old female resulted in her demise after she poured gasoline and ignited herself on fire in a bathtub at her single-family home. Firefighters were dispatched to the victim's home after the ADT security smoke alarm activated and alerted them. After being discovered, the victim was transported by EMS to a local area hospital, where she later succumbed to her smoke and thermal injuries.

- A residential fire claimed the life of an 80-year-old male who was found in his bed by firefighters, with the victim being declared deceased on the scene. Upon initial discovery of the fire, the daughter was alerted by her mother that the house was on fire. The mother, daughter, and two children were able to escape the fire but were unable to save the victim due to the hoarding conditions inside the home. Investigators reported that smoke alarms were present but did not activate.

- An undetermined residential house fire resulted in the death of an 83-year-old female who was found by rescuers on the outside front porch. Investigators reported the origin of the fire was in the living space next to a woodstove. There were no smoke alarms present.

- A vehicle crash and subsequent fire resulted in the demise of a 19-year-old female who was found deceased by rescuers in the passenger seat after the extinguishment. The crash occurred after the driver left the roadway, traveling at high speeds. The medical examiner reported that the fire-related injuries were the cause of death.

- An undetermined residential dwelling fire that originated in the dining room of the home claimed the life of a 60-year-old female. The victim's body was found in the second-floor bedroom in her bed. There were heavy hoarding conditions reported by investigators, and they were unable to determine if smoke alarms were present.

-A cooking-related kitchen fire resulted in the death of a 97-year-old female. The victim was located in the front hallway portion of her apartment, where she passed away due to extensive thermal burns. Investigators were able to find working smoke alarms in the apartment.

6

FIRE DEATHS

6

FATAL FIRES



2023- 10 Deaths

2022- 4 Deaths



Prince George's County

-Thermal burns sustained from cooking in the kitchen, igniting his clothes on fire, claimed the life of an 86-year-old male victim. The victim was transported to a local hospital, where he died a couple of days after from thermal burns.

-A smoking-related hotel fire claimed the life of a 72-year-old male after he caught the mattress on fire while smoking. The victim also suffered from lung cancer and COPD and was on home oxygen, which resulted in his death along with smoke inhalation and thermal burns. Investigators reported that there were present and operating smoke alarms at the hotel.

-An undetermined residential fire claimed the life of a 54-year-old male who suffered from mental health issues. The victim was found in the bathroom, and Investigators were unable to determine where the fire originated or if there were working smoke alarms in the residence.

-The body of a 59-year-old male was located by firefighters in the bedroom of a dwelling fire. Investigators revealed that the fire originated in one of the bedrooms of the home, and the cause was deemed smoking-related, with the presence of operating smoke alarms. The victim had mobility issues and an illness at the time of the fire, and died of soot and smoke inhalation reported by the medical examiner.

-An undetermined double-fatal apartment building fire claimed the lives of a 39-year-old female and a 41-year-old male. The fire origin started on the porch balcony/ deck area, and investigators were not able to determine if there were operating smoke alarms. The female victim was located in the dining room while the male victim was located by Investigators in the living room. A child and another individual were able to escape with the help of firefighters when they arrived on the scene.

An 82-year-old female passed away in a residential fire that began in the living space of the home. Investigators are unable to determine the cause of the fire or if there were operating smoke alarms present. The victim was found just inside the front door and was rushed to a local hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

An electrical failure in the hallway of a residential house fire claimed the life of an 84-year-old male with cardiovascular disease. Investigators noticed while entering the home that there were hoarding conditions present, and they were unable to determine if the residence had any working smoke alarms.

A 89-year-old female lost her life in an undetermined single-family dwelling. The fire originated in the living space, and there were operating smoke alarms present. The victim was located by firefighters in the living room upon extinguishment of the fire.



9

FIRE DEATHS

8

FATAL FIRES



2023- 8 Deaths
2022-6 Deaths



St. Mary's County



-A 26-year-old male victim died in a smoking-related shed fire after he lit a cigarette with a butane lighter, catching himself and nearby combustibles on fire, which resulted in an explosion. The family of the victim heard the explosion and called local authorities to respond. The victim was found in the shed after it was extinguished by firefighters.

1

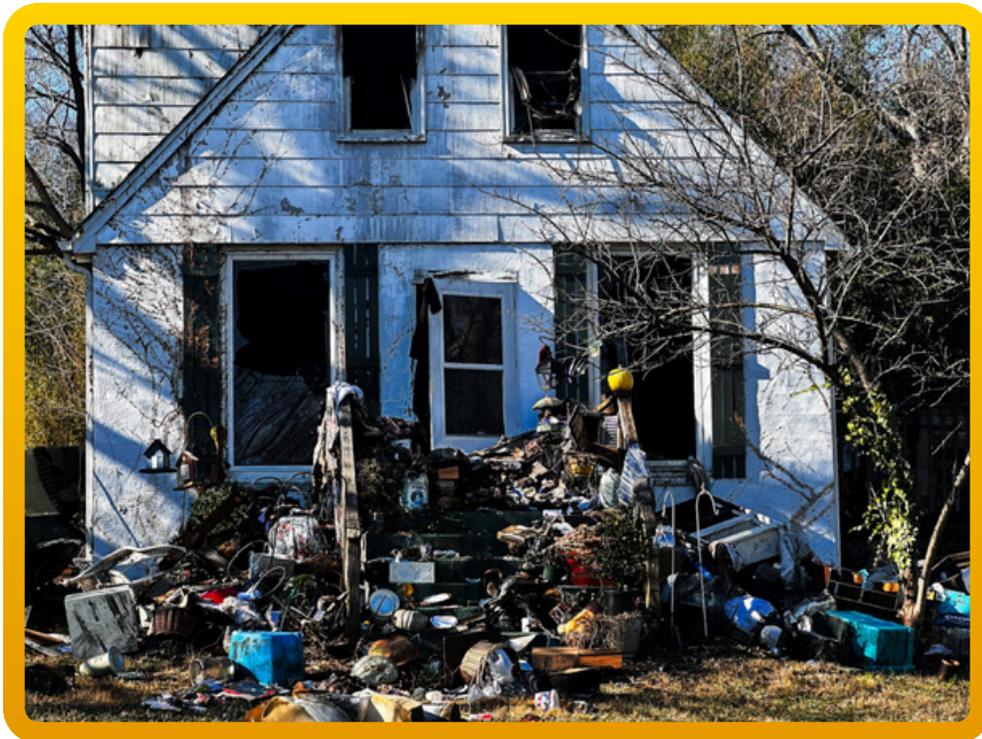
FIRE DEATHS

1

FATAL FIRES



2023- 5 Deaths
2022- 0 Deaths



Washington County



-A 2-year-old female toddler died in an undetermined apartment fire. Rescuers discovered that the toddler was still inside upon arrival, as the mother and 1-year-old brother had been able to escape. The two-year-old was found in the living room and was rushed to a local area hospital, where she succumbed to her smoke and thermal injuries. Investigators reported that there were present and operating smoke alarms in the apartment.

1

FIRE DEATHS

1

FATAL FIRES



2023- 1 Death
2022- 1 Death



Wicomico County



-A vehicle non-crash fire claimed the life of an 83-year-old male driver. Investigators reported that the truck, for unknown reasons, caught on fire in a field. The victim was the sole occupant of the vehicle and was found by rescuers inside the vehicle after fire extinguishment. The cause of death was deemed fire-related by the medical examiner.

-A 58-year-old female victim, who reportedly was healing from back surgery and placed on home oxygen, died in a smoking-related residential fire. Rescuers reported the victim made it out of the house but went back in to rescue her cat and never came back out. Investigators reported that working smoke alarms were present, and they found the victim in the second-floor bedroom where she succumbed to her smoke inhalation injuries.

-A fire caused by an unattended candle/incense in an apartment claimed the life of a 68-year-old female. The victim tried to put towels on the fire and stomp on it, causing thermal burns on her foot. She took herself to a local hospital and was treated for her burns. She passed away at a local hospital several months later from the burns, causing sepsis in her body.

3

FIRE DEATHS

3

FATAL FIRES



2023-1 Death
2022- 1 Death



Worcester County



- A 90-year-old male passed away in a camper trailer fire. The victim and his dog were located in the camper that he used as a home after the fire was extinguished. Investigators reported that hoarding conditions were present, as well as the use of kerosene heaters; however, they are still unsure where the fire originated or what caused it.

1
FIRE DEATHS

1
FATAL FIRES



2023- 3 Deaths
2022- 2 Deaths



Calvert County



2023- 2



Dorchester County



2023-0



Kent County



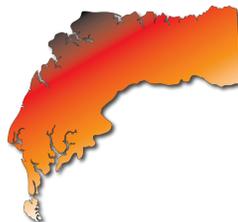
2023- 0



Somerset County



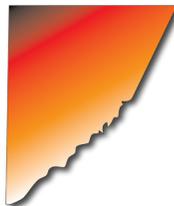
2023- 0



Garrett County



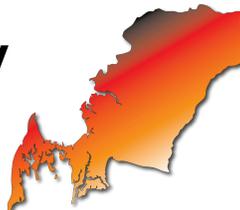
2023- 1



Queen Anne's County



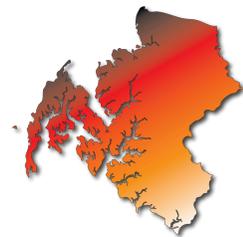
2023- 0



Talbot County



2023- 0



0
FIRE DEATHS

2024



The twelve months of 2024 proved to be a noteworthy period in relation to fire deaths when compared to the previous year for the same period. Sixty- seven (67) fires resulted in 73 fire deaths compared to previous years as follows:

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
84	65	63	51	65	71	71	69	64

A summary recap by county of the fire deaths in 2024 can be found below. The comparison of fire death statistics by county utilizing population census data can be found on page 12 of this report.

-Baltimore City reported the most fire deaths of the 24 reporting jurisdictions in Maryland for this annual review period, incurring 19 deaths in 15 fires. In 2023, Baltimore City ranked first in reporting the most deaths of any county at 19 deaths in 15 fires, which was higher in comparison to 2022, reported at 15 deaths in 13 fires. Two unrelated double-fatal fires and one triple-fatal fire was reported in 2024. One of the double-fatal fires involved a residential home fire that claimed the lives of two elderly people. Five fatal deaths within the county reported physical limitations presented by the victims. In 2024, conditions of hoarding were reported by rescuers at five of the fires. Working smoke alarms were confirmed at the scene in only five of the residential fatal fires.

-Baltimore County placed second, reporting 13 deaths in 13 fires for 2024, and during 2022, Baltimore County reported 11 deaths in 10 fires for the entire year, coming in first at that time for the most reported fire deaths in that year. There were no double or multiple/double-death fires, five of the county's residential fires reported the presence of working smoke alarms, three of the fire scenes involved hoarding conditions, and two of the fires reported physical limitations of the victims.

-Prince George's County ranked third, reporting nine deaths in eight fires for January through December 2024. Prince George's County reported six fires resulting in eight deaths for the previous year of 2023, placing fourth again overall for the State at that time. In 2024, investigators confirmed the existence of operating smoke alarms in three fires out of the eight total residential fires reported. One of the eight fires resulted in a double-fatal fire, one of the fires involved reported conditions of hoarding, and five fire death victims presented with some type of physical limitation during the incident.

-Montgomery County ranked fourth, reporting six deaths in six fires for January through December 2024. Montgomery County reported nine fires resulting in 10 deaths for the previous year of 2023, with no significant placing overall for the State at that time. In 2024, investigators confirmed the existence of operating smoke alarms in two fires out of six total residential fires reported. There were no double-fatal fires; two of the fires involved reported conditions of hoarding, and three fire death victims presented with some type of physical limitation during the incidents.

-Calvert County, Dorchester County, Garrett County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County, Somerset County, and Talbot County reported zero fire deaths in 2024, totaling seven counties reporting no fire deaths. In 2023, for the same period, six counties reported no fire deaths, which is an increase from 2024 when comparing the two reporting years.



The 2024 Maryland Fire Deaths Report highlights progress and persistent challenges in our shared mission to reduce statewide fire-related fatalities. While overall fire deaths decreased compared to the previous year, this report underscores the continued need for focused prevention efforts, especially in high-risk communities and among vulnerable populations.

One of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's most impactful recent developments is the launch of "Get Alarmed Maryland," a public-facing portal that allows residents to request smoke alarms directly through our office. This is complemented by a new tracking system that collects vital data to better inform and target future fire prevention campaigns.

To further enhance our capabilities, the OSFM has recently acquired new Records Management System (RMS) software to support our inspection and engineering operations. In time, we plan to integrate an investigative component into this platform, allowing for a unified system that captures comprehensive fire incident data from start to finish. With these advancements, we anticipate even greater accuracy and efficiency in data collection, analysis, and response planning.

Looking ahead, the OSFM remains committed to:

- Expanding smoke alarm outreach and installations, especially in high-risk areas;
- Utilizing enhanced data systems to inform prevention strategies and public safety policy;
- Collaborating closely with partner agencies for more coordinated fire investigations and reporting;
- Educating the public on fire safety, including safe cooking, smoking habits, and preparedness;
- Leveraging technology to ensure that Maryland remains a national leader in fire prevention and community risk reduction.

Together, through innovation, education, and shared commitment, we will continue working to prevent future fire tragedies and protect every Marylander.

One Mission. One Goal. A Safer Maryland



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ONE MISSION | ONE GOAL
A SAFER MARYLAND