FIRE LOSS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING 2004
ABRIDGED REPORT

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Overview of 2004 U.S. Fire Experience

Number of Fires

- 1,550,500 fires were attended by public fire departments, a slight decrease of 2.2% from the year before.

- 526,000 fires occurred in structures, a slight increase of 1.3%.

- 410,500 fires or 78% of all structure fires occurred in residential properties.

- 297,000 fires occurred in vehicles, a decrease of 4.8% from the year before.

- 727,500 fires occurred in outside properties, a decrease of 3.4%.

- What do these fire frequencies above mean? Every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 60 seconds, and in particular a residential fire occurs every 77 seconds. Fires occur in vehicles at the rate of 1 every 106 seconds, and there's a fire in an outside property every 43 seconds.
Civilian Fire Deaths

- 3,900 civilian fire deaths occurred in 2004, a very slight decrease of 0.6% or virtually no change from a year ago.

- About 82% of all fire deaths occurred in the home.

- 3,190 civilian fire deaths occurred in the home, a slight increase of 1.4%.

- 520 civilians died in highway vehicle fires.

* 80 civilians died in nonresidential structure fires.

- Nationwide, there was a civilian fire death every 135 minutes.

Civilian Fire Injuries

- 17,785 civilian fire injuries occurred in 2004, a slight decrease of 1.4%. This estimate for civilian injuries is on the low side, due to under reporting of civilian injuries to the fire service.

- 14,175 of all civilian injuries occurred in residential properties, while 1,350 occurred in nonresidential structure fires.

- Nationwide, there was a civilian fire injury every 30 minutes.
Property Damage

- An estimated $9,794,000,000 in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2004, a significant decrease of 20.2% from last year. This decrease reflects the Southern California Wildfires (Cedar and Old Wildfires) with an estimated property loss of $2,040,000,000 that occurred in 2003.

- $8,222,000,000 of property damage occurred in structure fires.

- $5,948,000,000 of property loss occurred in residential properties.

Intentionally Set Fires

- An estimated 36,500 intentionally set structure fires occurred in 2004, a slight decrease of 2.7%.

- Intentionally set fires in structures resulted in 320 civilian deaths, an increase of 4.9% from a year ago.

- Intentionally set structure fires also resulted in $714,000,000 in property loss, an increase of 3.2% from last year.

- 36,000 intentionally set vehicle fires occurred, an increase of 18.0% from a year ago, and caused $165,000,000 in property damage, an increase of 25.0% from a year ago.
Number of Fires

In 2004, public fire departments responded to 1,550,500 fires in the United States, according to estimates based on data the NFPA received from fire departments responding to its 2004 National Fire Experience Survey (see Tables 1 and 2). This represents a slight decrease of 2.2% from a year ago.

There was an estimated 526,000 structure fires in 2004, a slight increase of 1.3% from last year. For the 1977-2004 period, the number of structure fires were at their peak in 1977 when 1,098,000 structure fires occurred (see Figure 1). The number of structure fires then decreased quite steadily particularly in the 1980s to 688,000 by the end of 1989 for an overall decrease of 37.3% from 1977. Since 1989, structure fires again decreased quite steadily 24.7% to 517,500 by the end of 1998 and has stayed in the 517,500 to 526,000 area from 1998 to 2004.

Of the 2004 structure fires, 410,500 were residential fires, accounting for 78.0% of all structure fires, and a slight increase of 2.1% from a year ago. Of the residential structure fires, 301,500 occurred in one- and two-family dwellings, accounting for 57.3% of all structure fires. Another 94,000 occurred in apartments accounting for 17.8% of all structure fires.

For nonresidential structure fires most property types showed little or no change in 2004. The only property types with notable changes were: a decrease of 7.1% to 13,000 in public assembly properties, a decrease of 7.1% to 6,500 in institutional properties, and a 6.0% decrease to 23,500 in store and office properties.

For the 1977-2004 period, the number of outside fires were at their high in 1977 when 1,658,500 outside fires occurred. The number of outside fires decreased steadily the next six years to 1,011,000 in 1983 for a considerable decrease of 39.0% from 1977. Outside fires changed little for the rest of the 1980s except for 1988 when 1,214,000 occurred. Outside fires reached 910,500 in 1993, and stayed near the 1,000,000 level the next three years. In 1997-1998 outside fires were at the 850,000 level, went up 8.7% to 931,500 in 1999, before dropping a cumulative 9.9% in 2001-2002 to 839,000 by the end of 2002. In 2003, the number of outside fires decreased a substantial 10.3% to 753,000, and decreased another 3.4% in 2004 to 727,500. In particular brush fires decreased 11.1% to 320,000 in 2004.
Table 1
Estimates of 2004 Fires, Civilian Deaths, Civilian Injuries and Property Loss in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Percent Change From 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Fires</td>
<td>1,550,500</td>
<td>1,517,500 to 1,583,500</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Civilian Deaths</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>3,500 to 4,300</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Civilian Injuries</td>
<td>17,875</td>
<td>16,925 to 18,825</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Loss(^2)</td>
<td>$9,794,000,000</td>
<td>$9,504,000,000 to 10,084,000,000</td>
<td>-20.2(^*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimates are based on data reported to the NFPA by fire departments that responded to the 2004 National Fire Experience Survey.

\(^1\) These are 95 percent confidence intervals.

\(^2\) This includes overall direct property loss to contents, structures, vehicles, machinery, vegetation, and anything else involved in a fire. It does not include indirect losses. No adjustment was made for inflation in the year-to-year comparison.

\(^3\) This decrease reflects the Southern California Wildfires (Cedar and Old Wildfires) with an estimated total property loss of $2,040,000,000 that occurred in 2003. Loss by specific property type for this fire was not available.

**Change was statistically significant at the .01 level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fire</th>
<th>Number of Fires</th>
<th>Percent Change from 2003</th>
<th>Property Loss 1</th>
<th>Percent Change from 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fires in Structures</td>
<td>526,000</td>
<td>+1.3</td>
<td>$8,314,000,000</td>
<td>-4.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires in Highway Vehicles</td>
<td>266,500</td>
<td>-6.8**</td>
<td>969,000,000</td>
<td>-12.0**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires in Other Vehicles</td>
<td>30,500</td>
<td>+17.3*</td>
<td>335,000,000</td>
<td>+31.4**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires Outside of structures with value involved but no vehicle (outside storage, crops, timber, etc.)</td>
<td>69,000</td>
<td>+4.6</td>
<td>108,000,000</td>
<td>-33.3**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires in Brush, Grass Wildland (excluding crops and timber) with no value or loss involved</td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td>-11.1**</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires in Rubbish including dumpsters (outside of structures), with no value or loss involved</td>
<td>194,000</td>
<td>+1.8</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Fires</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>+5.9</td>
<td>68,000,000</td>
<td>-4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,550,500</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
<td>$9,794,000,000</td>
<td>-20.2**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimates are based on data reported to the NFPA by fire departments that responded to the 2004 National Fire Experience Survey.

1 This includes overall direct property loss to contents, structure, a vehicle, machinery, vegetation or anything else involved in a fire. It does not include indirect losses, e.g., business interruption or temporary shelter costs. No adjustment was made for inflation in the year-to-year comparison.

2 This includes trains, boats, ships, aircraft, farm vehicles and construction vehicles.

3 This decrease reflects the Southern California Wildfires with an estimated loss of $2,040,000,000 that occurred in 2003. Loss by specific property type for the fire was not available.

*Change was statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Change was statistically significant at the .01 level.
Figure 1
Estimate of Fires by Type in the United States (1977-2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Use</th>
<th>Structure Fires</th>
<th>Percent Change from 2003</th>
<th>Property Loss</th>
<th>Percent Change from 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Assembly</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>-7.1</td>
<td>$316,000,000</td>
<td>+4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>68,000,000</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>-7.1</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td>-10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential (Total)</td>
<td>410,500</td>
<td>+2.1</td>
<td>5,948,000,000</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One- and Two-Family Dwellings</td>
<td>301,500</td>
<td>+1.5</td>
<td>4,948,000,000</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartments</td>
<td>94,000</td>
<td>+2.7</td>
<td>885,000,000</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Residential</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>+11.1*</td>
<td>115,000,000</td>
<td>-8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stores and Offices</td>
<td>23,500</td>
<td>-6.0</td>
<td>586,000,000</td>
<td>-18.7**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry, Utility, Defense</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>+4.3</td>
<td>423,000,000</td>
<td>-32.3**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage in Structures</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>+1.6</td>
<td>748,000,000</td>
<td>+10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Structures</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200,000,000</td>
<td>+8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>526,000</td>
<td>+1.3</td>
<td>$8,314,000,000</td>
<td>-4.2*5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimates are based on data reported to the NFPA by fire departments that responded to the 2004 National Fire Experience Survey.

1 This includes overall direct property loss to contents, structure, a vehicle, machinery, vegetation or anything else involved in a fire. It does not include indirect losses, e.g., business interruption or temporary shelter costs. No adjustment was made for inflation in the year-to-year comparison.

2 This includes manufactured homes.

3 Includes hotels and motels, college dormitories, boarding houses, etc.

4 Incidents handled only by private fire brigades or fixed suppression systems are not included in the figures shown here.

5 This total figure comparison does not include the Southern California Wildfires that occurred in 2003. Loss by specific property type for this fire was not available.

*Change was statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Change was statistically significant at the .01 level.
Civilian Deaths

The 1,550,500 fires reported to by fire departments in the U.S. in 2004 resulted in an estimated 3,900 civilian deaths based on data reported to the NFPA. This is a very slight decrease of 0.6% or virtually no change from a year ago.

An estimated 3,225 died in residential fires in 2004, a slight increase of 1.9%. Of these deaths, 510 occurred in apartment fires, a substantial increase of 24.4%. Another 2,680 died in one- and two-family dwellings, a slight decrease of 2.0%. Though dwelling death rates changed little in 2004, we remain cautious because death rates can vary considerably from year to year particularly for smaller communities as we have observed in recent years.

In all, fires in the home (one- and two-family dwellings including manufactured homes and apartments) resulted in 3,190 civilian deaths, a slight increase of 1.6% from a year ago. Looking at trends in civilian deaths since 1977-78, several observations are worth noting (see Figure 2). Home fire deaths were at their peak in 1978 when 6,015 fire deaths occurred. Home fire deaths then decrease steadily during the 1979-82 period except for 1981, and decreased a substantial 20% during the period to 4,820 by the end of 1982. From 1982 to 1988, the number of home fire deaths stayed quite level in the 4,655 to 4,955 area except for 1984 when 4,075 fire deaths occurred. In the past fifteen years, home fire deaths moved well below the 1982-88 plateau and has stayed in the 3,145 to 3,720 area during 1991 to 2004 except for 1996, 1999, and 2002.

With home fire deaths still accounting for 3,190 fire deaths or 82% of all civilian deaths, fire safety initiatives targeted at the home remain the key to any reductions in the overall fire death toll. Five major strategies are: First, more widespread public fire safety education is needed on how to prevent fires and how to avoid serious injury or death if fire occurs. Information on the common causes of fatal home fires should continue to be used in the design of fire safety education messages. Second, more people must use and maintain smoke detectors and develop and practice escape plans. Third, wider use of residential sprinklers must be aggressively pursued. Fourth, additional ways must be sought to make home products more fire safe. The regulations requiring more child-resistant lighters are a good example, as is the recent examination of feasibility of less fire-prone cigarettes. The wider use of upholstered furniture and mattresses that are more resistant to cigarette ignitions is an example of change that has already accomplished much and will continue to do more. Fifth, the special fire safety needs of high-risk groups, e.g., the young, older adults, and the poor need to be addressed.

Also in 2004, an estimated 80 civilians died in nonresidential structure fires, a highly significant decrease of 63.6%. This decrease reflects the 100 fire deaths that
occurred in the Station Nightclub Fire in Rhode Island, and 31 deaths that occurred in two nursing home fires in Connecticut and Tennessee in 2003.

Of the 3,305 civilians that died in structure fires, 320 or 9.7% died in fires that were intentionally set.

Also in 2004, 520 civilians died in highway vehicle fires, an increase of 14.3%, and the highest figure since 1999. Another 30 civilians died in other vehicle fires.
## Table 4
Estimates of 2004 Civilian Fire Deaths and Injuries by Property Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Use</th>
<th>Civilian Deaths</th>
<th>Civilian Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>Percent Change From 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential (total)</td>
<td>3,225</td>
<td>+1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-and-Two-Family Dwellings&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2,680</td>
<td>-2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartments</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>+24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Residential&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>+75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential Structures&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>-63.6**&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Vehicles</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>+14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Vehicles&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>+50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-30.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimates are based on data reported to the NFPA by fire departments that responded to the 2004 National Fire Experience Survey. Note that most changes were not statistically significant; considerable year-to-year fluctuation is to be expected for many of these totals because of their small size.

<sup>1</sup>This includes manufactured homes.

<sup>2</sup>Includes hotels and motels, college dormitories, boarding houses, etc.

<sup>3</sup>This includes public assembly, educational, institutional, store and office, industry, utility, storage, and special structure properties.

<sup>4</sup>This decrease reflects 100 fire deaths in the Station Nightclub Fire in Rhode Island, and 31 deaths in two nursing home fires in Connecticut and Tennessee that occurred in 2003.

<sup>5</sup>This includes trains, boats, ships, farm vehicles and construction vehicles.

<sup>6</sup>This includes outside properties with value, as well as brush, rubbish, and other outside locations.
Figure 2. Civilian Fire Deaths in the Home in the United States (1977-2004)

Civilian Fire Injuries

Results based on data reported to the NFPA indicate that in addition to 3,900 civilian fire deaths, there were 17,785 injuries in 2004. This is a slight decrease of 1.4% from a year ago.

Estimates of civilian fire injuries are on the low side, because many civilian injuries are not reported to the fire service. For example, many injuries occur at small fires that fire departments do not respond to, and sometime when departments do respond they may be unaware of injured persons that they did not transport to medical facilities.

The NFPA estimates that there were 14,175 civilians injured in residential properties, a slight increase of 0.7%. Of these injuries, 10,500 occurred in one- and two-family dwellings, while 3,200 occurred in apartments.

For the 1977-2004 period, the number of civilian injuries has ranged from a high of 31,275 in 1983 to a low of 17,785 in 2004 for an overall decrease of 43%. There was no consistent pattern going up or down until 1995, when injuries fell roughly 5,000 in 1994-95 to 25,775, changed little in 1996, dropped 8% to 23,750 in 1997, changed little in 1998, dropped 5% in 1999, and then increased slightly in 2000, and then dropped 21% in 2001-2004 to 17,785 by the end of 2004.

Property Loss

The NFPA estimates that the 1,550,500 fires responded to by the fire service caused $9,794,000,000 in property damage in 2004. This is a substantial decrease of 20.2% from a year ago. (Most of the decrease reflects the Southern California Wildfires that occurred in 2003 with an estimated property damage of $2,040,000,000.)

Fires in structures resulted in $8,314,000,000 in property damage, a moderate decrease of 5.3%. Average loss per structure fire was $15,806, a decrease of 4.2%.

Over the 1977-2004 period, and excluding the events of 9/11/01, the average loss per structure fire ranged from a low of $3,757 to a high of $17,016 in 2001 for an overall increase of 353%. When property loss is adjusted for inflation, the increase in the average structure fire loss between 1977 and 2001 is 56%.

Of the property loss in 2004, an estimated $5,948,000,000 occurred in residential properties, down a slight 2.1% from a year ago. An estimated $4,948,000,000 occurred in one- and two-family dwellings, a slight decrease of 2.1%. An estimated $885,000,000 also occurred in apartments. Other property damage figures worth noting for 2004 include: $358,000,000 in industrial properties, a highly significant decrease of 42.7%; $586,000,000 in store and office properties, a significant decrease of 18.7%;
Figure 3. U.S. Average Structure Loss per Structure*
Fire in the United States (1977-2004)

- Unadjusted
- Adjusted for Inflation


*Does not include the events of 9/11/01
$748,000,000 in storage properties, an increase of 10.8%; and $25,000,000 in institutional properties, a decrease of 10.7%.

It should be kept in mind that property loss totals can change dramatically from year to year because of the impact of occasional large loss fires. The NFPA provides an analysis of these large loss fires in the November/December issue of NFPA Journal every year.

**Intentionally Set Fires**

Based on data reported by fire departments in the survey, the NFPA estimates there were 36,500 intentionally set structure fires in 2004, a slight decrease of 2.7% from a year ago (Note the NFPA survey is based on the newly revised NFIRS 5.0 system, This new system has an intentionally set category which is equivalent to the old incendiary category. There is no new equivalent to the old suspicious category which has been eliminated.)

These intentionally set structure fires resulted in an estimated 320 civilian deaths, an increase of 4.9%. These set structure fires also resulted in $714,000,000 in property loss, an increase of 3.2%.

Also in 2004, there were an estimated 36,000 intentionally set vehicle fires, a significant increase of 18.0% from a year ago. These set vehicle fires resulted in $165,000,000, in property loss, a significant increase of 25.0%.
Table 5
Estimate of 2004 Losses in
Intentionally* Set Structure Fires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intentionally* Set Structure Fires</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Percent change from 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Structure Fires</td>
<td>36,500</td>
<td>-2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Deaths</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>+4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Loss¹</td>
<td>$714,000,000</td>
<td>+3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimates are based on data reported to the NFPA by fire departments that responded to the 2004 National Fire Experience Survey.

¹ This includes overall direct property loss to contents, structure, a vehicle, machinery, vegetation, or anything else involved in a fire. It does not include indirect losses, e.g., business interruption or temporary shelter costs. No adjustment was made for inflation in the year-to-year comparison.

*The NFPA Survey is based on the newly revised NFIRS 5.0 system. This new system has an intentionally set category which is equivalent to the old incendiary category. There is no new equivalent to the old suspicious category, which has been eliminated.
Description of NFPA Survey

The NFPA annually surveys a sample of fire departments in the United States to make national projections of the fire problem. The sample is stratified by the size of the community protected by the fire department. All U.S. fire departments that protect communities of 100,000 or more are included in the sample, because they constitute a small number of departments with a large share of the total population protected. For departments that protect less than 100,000 population, a sample was selected stratified by size of community protected. A total of 2,830 fire departments responded to the 2004 fire experience survey. The national projections are made by weighting sample results according to the proportion of total U.S. population accounted for by communities of each size.

For each estimate, a sampling or standard error was also calculated. The sampling error is a measure of the error caused by the fact that the estimates are based on a sampling of fire losses rather than a complete census of the fire problem. Due to the fact that the survey is based on a random sample, we can be very confident that the actual value falls within the percentage noted in parentheses for each overall fire loss estimate: number of fires (2.1%), number of civilian deaths (10.0%), number of civilian injuries (5.3%), and property loss (3.0%).

The results presented in this report are based on fire incidents attended by public fire departments. No adjustments were made for unreported fires and losses (e.g., fires extinguished by the occupant). Also, no adjustments were made for fires attended solely by private fire brigades (e.g., industry and military installations), or for fires extinguished by fixed suppression systems with no fire department response.
Definition of Terms

Civilian: The term “civilian” includes anyone other than a fire fighter, and covers public service personnel such as police officers, civil defense staff, non-fire service medical personnel, and utility company employees.

Death: An injury that occurred as a direct result of a fire that is fatal or becomes fatal within one year.

Fire: Any instance of uncontrolled burning. Includes combustion explosions and fires out on arrival. Excludes controlled burning (whether authorized or not), over pressure rupture without combustion, mutual aid responses, smoke scares, and hazardous responses (e.g., oil spill without fire).

Injury: Physical damage that is suffered by a person as a direct result of fire and that requires (or should require) treatment by a practitioner of medicine (physician, nurse, paramedic, EMT) within one year of the incident (regardless of whether treatment was actually received), or results in at least one day of restricted activity immediately following the incident. Examples of injuries resulting from fire are smoke inhalation, burns, wounds and punctures, fractures, heart attacks (resulting from stress under fire condition), strains and sprains.

Property Damage: Includes all forms of direct loss to contents, structure, machinery, a vehicle, vegetation or anything else involved in the fire but not indirect losses, such as business interruption or temporary shelter provisions.

Structure: An assembly of materials forming a construction for occupancy or use in such a manner as to serve a specific purpose. A building is a form of structure. Open platforms, bridges, roof assemblies over open storage or process areas, tents, air-supported, and grandstands are other forms of structures.

Vehicles, Highway and Other: Fires in these instances may have been associated with an accident, however, reported casualties and property loss should be the direct result of the fire only. Highway vehicles include any vehicle designed to operate normally on highways, e.g., automobiles, motorcycles, buses, trucks, trailers (not mobile homes on foundations), etc. Other vehicles include trains, boats and ships, aircraft, and farm and construction vehicles.
Full Report on "U.S. Fire Loss during 2004"

The data and information included in this report are only part of the fire loss picture.

A more detailed and complete report on the overall patterns and trends of 2004 will be available from the Fire Analysis and Research Division. The full report includes patterns by size of community; patterns by region and size of community; and a more complete description of survey methodology. The full report is scheduled to be available in September on NFPA’s web site, www.nfpa.org under One-Stop Data Shop. Hard copies can be ordered through Nancy Schwartz at 617-984-7450 or osds@nfpa.org
Acknowledgments

The NFPA gratefully thanks the many fire departments that responded to the 2004 National Fire Experience Survey for their continuing efforts for providing us in a timely manner the data so necessary to make national projections.

The survey project manager and author of the report gratefully thanks the many members of NFPA staff who worked on this year's survey including Frank Deely, John Baldi, and John Conlon for editing the survey forms and their follow-up calls to fire departments; and Norma Candeloro for handling the processing of survey forms and typing this report.
Footnotes

1. Note that the NFPA changed its survey methodology in 1977-78, and meaningful comparisons cannot be made with fire statistics estimated before 1977.
