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The commissioner shall, annually, on or before February 15, transmit to the governor a full report of the commissioner's proceedings under this chapter, and such statistics as the commissioner may wish to include in the report, for the year previous. The commissioner shall also recommend any amendments to the law that, in the commissioner's judgment, are deemed advisable. The report of the commissioner shall include a full and complete report of all collections made and all expenditures and for what purposes they were made and to whom paid.

Overview of State Fire Marshal’s Office Operations

The mission of the Division of Fire Prevention, also known as the Tennessee State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO), is to reduce the loss of life and property from fire. The SFMO and its seven sections are committed to protecting the safety of Tennesseans and their property through: education, codes enforcement, inspection, and regulation. Each section of the SFMO incorporates one or more of these core functions which aligns focus and provides vision for the future.

The Education and Outreach section assists the fire service, elected officials, and the communities they serve to realize the potential economic incentives of prevention by measuring trends, analyzing data, and compiling comprehensive loss reports. This section serves as the statewide resource for fire prevention efforts by reviewing fire loss data reporting for fire departments. The sections of Codes Enforcement, Electrical, Residential, and Marina Inspections, and Manufactured Housing and Modular Building work to ensure engineered environments are designed and constructed to applicable codes which reduces the susceptibility of buildings to fire and lowers the likelihood of a related fatality. The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA) and the Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education (Commission) are tasked with the training and certification of firefighters in Tennessee. Both TFACA and the Commission serve to promote professionalism and competency. Lastly, the Administrative Services section provides support for the SFMO overseeing the processing of over 20 types of permits, licenses, and certificates.

In working towards our mission, the SFMO interacts with the public, state and local elected officials, the fire service, and many regulated industries on a daily basis. The SFMO also collaborates with the Tennessee Mutual Aid System and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) to ensure resources are coordinated for fire service operations during widespread disasters.

Fire Prevention Division Sections

Education and Outreach
Codes Enforcement
Electrical, Residential, and Marina Inspections
Manufactured Housing and Modular Building
Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy
Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education
Administrative Services
State of the State

Tennessee has historically ranked among the highest states in the country in its rate of unintentional civilian fire deaths. The SFMO is committed to reducing the loss of life and property due to fires by focusing on education, codes enforcement, inspection, and regulation. Like most of the United States, Tennessee has experienced a reduction in fire deaths over the past several decades due, in part, to these programs. In 2021, Tennessee recorded a fire death rate of 13.6 per million, which is an improvement over the previous 5-year average of 14.9 deaths per million.

The preliminary 2021 fire data shows a 15% decrease in unintentional civilian fire deaths from last year. According to SFMO records, there were 94 such fire deaths in Tennessee during 2021, which is down from the 111 fire deaths the previous year. The overall trend of fire deaths since 2007 has been slightly downward.

![TENNESSEE CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS]

Most unintentional civilian fire deaths occur in residential structures. Last year, 87 (92.6%) of the 94 deaths were from household fires. More than three quarters of the fire deaths in 2021 occurred in single-family homes, which is consistent with previous years. From 2017-2021, 79.8% of fire deaths occurred in single-family homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure Type</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>75.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment/Condominium</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplex</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townhouse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fire departments reported 8,429 structure fires which is a slight decrease from the 8,623 structure fires reported in 2020. Although, it should be noted, the number of reported fires is expected to marginally increase as fire departments continue to submit reports from the 2021 calendar year during the first part of 2022.

The adjacent table represents all incidents and dollar loss as reported to the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System (TFIRS) for the 2021 calendar year. The data contained in the table is considered preliminary until April 2022 to ensure that all fire reports are complete.

The 24,070 total reported fires caused an estimated $380.7 million in property loss for Tennesseans last calendar year. These loss estimates are from incident reports submitted by fire departments. As with the structure fire data, the SFMO expects this number to increase slightly as fire departments are still submitting and updating incident reports. The preliminary estimate of $307.5 million in property loss from structure fires in 2021 is up significantly from the $228 million reported in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Incident Type</th>
<th>Reported Incidents</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire: Structure</td>
<td>8,429</td>
<td>1.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire: Vehicle</td>
<td>5,206</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire: Other</td>
<td>10,435</td>
<td>1.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Subtotal</td>
<td>24,070</td>
<td>3.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue: Medical Treatment</td>
<td>449,517</td>
<td>65.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue: Others</td>
<td>4,435</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue Subtotal</td>
<td>453,952</td>
<td>65.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Call: Malicious</td>
<td>4,729</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Call: Other</td>
<td>54,358</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Call Subtotal</td>
<td>59,087</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Condition</td>
<td>15,016</td>
<td>2.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explosions</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Calls</td>
<td>44,204</td>
<td>6.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Intent Calls</td>
<td>90,829</td>
<td>13.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Weather or Natural Disaster</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Incident</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Total Reported Calls</td>
<td>690,265</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Structure Fire Dollar Loss</td>
<td>$307,534,310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fire Dollar Loss</td>
<td>$380,700,337</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fire Department and Firefighter Statistics

The SFMO recognizes a total of 699 fire departments. Of these fire departments, 686 fire departments protect public property and 13 fire departments solely protect private property, such as an industrial or military facilities, and airports.

Most recognized fire departments provided staffing information and after a complete review, 75.3% of the fire departments in Tennessee are staffed entirely by volunteers. Only 8.0% are career fire departments, where all firefighters receive financial compensation for their services. The remaining 16.7% of the fire departments are staffed by a combination of volunteer and career firefighters. Most firefighters in Tennessee are volunteers who receive either no compensation or a nominal fee for their services.

Based on information from fire departments, the SFMO estimates there are about 19,510 active firefighters in Tennessee. Fire departments reported 8,281 career firefighters, which comprises about 42.5% of all firefighters in the state. Determining the number of volunteer firefighters is more complicated because department rosters are subject to change and firefighters may volunteer for multiple departments. The SFMO estimates that there are currently 11,229 volunteer firefighters, which is 57.5% of the fire service in Tennessee. Of these 11,229 volunteer firefighters, an estimated 2,301 receive a small payment or stipend for responding to emergency calls.
Education and Outreach Section

The Education and Outreach section provides fire safety education materials, resources to the citizens, and fire departments of Tennessee. The section’s programs include fire data analysis, fire department recognition, public education, and community risk reduction. The section works with partners at both national and local levels to share the latest information in fire prevention.

A highlight of this area is the “Get Alarmed Tennessee!” program, which provides free smoke alarms to fire departments and volunteer organizations for installation in Tennessee homes. Since “Get Alarmed Tennessee!” started in 2012, at least 324 residents have been alerted to fires in their homes and escaped without serious injury due to smoke alarms installed through the program. In 2021, the program worked through partners across the state to install 11,672 free smoke alarms.

In 2021, the section continued to deliver custom community risk assessments and community risk reduction workshops for fire departments. There were 46 fire departments who submitted community risk reduction plans to the SFMO based on these risk assessments, with 7 of these departments applying for the SFMO’s Excellence in Community Risk Reduction Award. Gilt Edge Volunteer Fire Department was selected by a panel of national experts as the winner of the award for their commitment to preventing and mitigating risks to life safety and property in their community.

Throughout the year, the SFMO visited volunteer fire departments monthly to donate rehabilitation supplies and gather feedback on how to best assist. In 2021, the SFMO met with 46 volunteer fire departments, including a trip with First Lady Maria Lee in July to highlight Governor Lee’s support of the volunteer fire service. These events have provided key insight to the fire departments while connecting state and local officials to critical information about the needs of the volunteer fire service across the state.

Codes Enforcement Section

The Codes Enforcement section enforces statewide adopted fire and building construction safety codes to afford a reasonable degree of safety to life and property from fire. This section oversees the design, construction, alteration, and repair of buildings or structures across the state. These types of buildings or structures include state buildings, commercial residential structures, high hazard occupancies, jails and prisons, covered malls, assembly spaces with 300 or greater occupants, schools, and daycares. The section also conducts annual inspections for schools, daycares, and other buildings requiring an inspection from the SFMO to receive an initial license from the Administrative Services section and other state agencies.

This section, under the jurisdiction of the SFMO, investigates complaints relating to buildings, licensees, or entities licensed by the Administrative Services section. The section conducts safety inspections at annual and seasonal fireworks locations as well as the review of all public fireworks displays to ensure a reasonable degree of safety.

Plans Review and Inspections in Calendar Year 2021

- Plan Submittals Received: 839
- Total Inspections Performed: 16,646
- Schools Inspected: 1,550 (75 Schools Inspected in Distressed Counties)
- Annual Fireworks Retailers Inspections: 79
- Seasonal Fireworks Retailers Inspections: 864
- Public Fireworks Displays Reviewed: 407
Electrical, Residential, and Marina Inspections Section

The Electrical, Residential, and Marina Inspections section is responsible for critical safety inspections in Tennessee. This section issues permits and performs inspections to enforce the provisions of the adopted electrical code, residential building code, and energy conservation code.

This section investigates complaints that are received by the SFMO, which often requires immediate attention due to the severity of the life safety concern. The work of this section plays a critical role in fulfilling the mission of the SFMO as the safety of residential structures and all electrically engineered environments are a cornerstone to fire prevention.

In 2021, this section celebrated the one-year milestone for the launch of the Online Permitting System that modernizes the electrical and residential permit purchasing and inspection process. The Online Permitting System updated the process from paper to electronic by providing an online platform allowing for requests to be made 24/7 while still maintaining physical selling locations. Mobile inspections and online permitting have drastically reduced the amount of time in permit issuance and receipt, making it virtually instantaneous. Since the launch of the system, 75% of all electrical permits have been sold through the online platform which has saved consumers in fees collected by physical selling locations. Cumulatively, the program has saved customers $1,061,625 in fees since the launch in January 2020.

Permits and Inspections in 2021

- Total Residential Building Permits Issued: 1,450 (41 Permits Issued in Distressed Counties)
- Total Residential Building Inspections Performed: 5,386
- Total Electrical Permits Issued: 161,604 (5,908 Permits Issued in Distressed Counties)
- Total Electrical Inspections Performed: 265,308
- Total Marinas Inspected: 43

Manufactured Housing and Modular Building Section

The Manufactured Housing and Modular Building section administers portions of the Uniform Standards Code for Manufactured Homes Act related to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Labeled Manufactured Homes and the Tennessee Manufactured Home Installation Act. This section acts as HUD’s State Administrative Agent (SAA) and exclusive In Plant Inspection Agency (IPIA) to administer certain aspects of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974. The section administers the Consumer Complaint Process, as well as the Dispute Resolution Process, which are two processes designed to provide direct assistance to any consumer that has safety concerns or feels they have been provided a defective product.

This section completes all licensing functions for the related industries and is responsible for inspection of the installation of new and used manufactured homes. Statutorily, this section is required to ensure that at least 5% of the manufactured homes installed in the state are inspected each year. In 2021, there were 2,912 inspections of new and used manufactured homes, which is approximately 66% of the new and used manufactured homes installed in Tennessee. This is a 4% increase over the 2020 inspection rate.

Manufactured housing continues to be an affordable means of housing nationwide, especially in Tennessee. Installation programs place an emphasis on distressed counties with a goal to inspect 70% of installations inside these counties. With this goal, the program ensures adequate coverage in these counties to deter the possibility of unsafe installations and consumer scams. Of the 217 reported installations in distressed counties, 148 (68%) were inspected by the section. This inspection rate fell just short of the goal due to staffing shortages, but it was an increase of 5% over the 2020 inspection rate.
Inspections and Activities in 2021

- Floors Inspected in Plant: 36,511
- Consumer Complaints Resolved: 14
- Installations: 4,431 (217 Installations in Distressed Counties)
- Installations Inspected: 2,912 (148 Installations Inspected in Distressed Counties)
- Modular Labels Sold: 2,450
- Modular Plans Reviewed: 560

Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy

The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA) plans, develops, and facilitates educational training programs to promote the professionalism and competency of fire service and codes enforcement personnel through a standardized statewide program. These programs enhance the individual and collective ability of those in the fire service to protect the life and property of Tennesseans. TFACA’s focus on both fire service and codes enforcement establishes it as a regional center for the training and testing of codes enforcement officials, firefighters, and other homeland security first responders.

TFACA continues to serve as the premiere training grounds for fire and codes events since the grand opening of a new conference center in November 2020. This space provides the perfect opportunity to meet the growing needs for training and support of the fire service and code officials in a state-of-the-art facility.

Training and Activities in 2021

- Total students enrolled: 14,824
- Total classes conducted: 922

Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education

The Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education (Commission) is responsible for the certification of volunteer and paid firefighters in Tennessee. The certification program is designed to be an incentive to firefighters to develop their skills and further their training. The Commission manages and administers the daily operations for the annual In-Service Training and Educational Incentive Pay Program, which provides an $800 supplement to career firefighters who complete a minimum 40 hours of in-service training at an accredited program.

Passed by the General Assembly in 2021, the Commission now administers the annual In-Service Training and Educational Incentive Pay Program for volunteer firefighters. The staff of the Commission spent much of 2021 working to provide an overview of the historic program requirements to volunteer firefighters across the state.

Testing and Activities in 2021

- Total Exams Administered: 9,249
  - Written Exams Administered: 6,203
  - Practical Exams Administered: 3,046
- Total Number of Test Events: 486
- Career Fire Departments Participating in In-Service Training and Educational Incentive Pay Program: 112
- Fire Service Professionals Receiving In-Service Training and Educational Incentive Pay: 6,998 ($800 per qualified firefighter; totaling $5,598,400)
Administrative Services Section

The Administrative Services section provides administrative support for the SFMO in the areas of budgeting, purchasing, and personnel management. The section ensures that qualified applications are properly processed and issues over 4,500 professional permits, licenses, and certificates of registration.

The section specifically processes regulatory permits, licenses, and certificates of registration for the certified inspector program, explosives, fireworks, fire extinguisher, fire sprinkler, and liquefied petroleum (LP) gas industries. Additionally, the section processes complaints for related licenses and refers violations to the Legal Division for potential disciplinary action.

Permits, Licenses, and Certification Programs in 2021

Below are the number of regulatory applications processed and individuals/entities licensed during the year 2021.

Portable and Fixed Fire Extinguisher Systems
- Firms: 177
- Branches: 12
- Specialists: 548
- Technicians: 55

Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gas
- Dealers: 498
- Managers: 19
- Responsible Managing Employee: 34

Fireworks
- Annual Retailers: 79
- Seasonal Retailers: 864
- Operators: 164
- Exhibitors: 17
- Display Permits Issued: 407

Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems
- Contractors: 215
- Responsible Managing Employee: 269

Certified Inspectors (Fire, Building, Mechanical, and Plumbing Inspectors; Electrical Inspectors)
- Inspectors: 457
- Certified Electrical Inspectors: 31

Explosives
- Firm: 45
- Handlers: 471
- Blasters: 189
- Limited Blasters: 10

Fire Safe Cigarettes
- Manufacturers: 19
SFMO/Division of Fire Prevention Operating Cost

 Entire Division of Fire Prevention: FY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$23,557,400</td>
<td>$22,132,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$23,557,400</td>
<td>$33,817,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Expenditures associated with the Fire Prevention Fund are included in Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 56-4-208, 56-4-205(c), 56-22-114, 68-102-142 and 68-102-203.

Recommended Amendments

There are no recommended amendments or suggested statutory changes as current law provides the SFMO/the Division of Fire Prevention the authority to carry out its mission of saving lives, reducing property loss, and preventing injuries.
Thank You!

The Tennessee State Fire Marshal’s Office sincerely expresses its support for the men and women currently serving in the Tennessee fire service. We remain dedicated to protecting the safety of Tennesseans and their property.

Department of Commerce & Insurance
State Fire Marshal’s Office

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