Massachusetts Fires in 2017

27,895 Fires - Down 13% From 2016
- 56 Civilian Deaths
- 2 Fire Service Deaths
- 269 Civilian Injuries
- 434 Fire Service Injuries
- $390.4 Million in Property Damage
- 671 Reported Arsons

Other Fires
- 8,430 Fires - Down 34%
- 0 Civilian Deaths
- 40 Civilian Injuries
- 33 Fire Service Injuries
- $4.6 Million in Property Damage
- 416 Arsons Reported

Structure Fires
- 17,098 Fires - Down less than 1%
- 49 Civilian Deaths
- 2 Fire Service Deaths
- 210 Civilian Injuries
- 382 Fire Service Injuries
- $364.7 Million in Property Damage
- 187 Arsons Reported

Motor Vehicle Fires
- 2,367 Fires - Down 1%
- 7 Civilian Deaths
- 19 Civilian Injuries
- 19 Fire Service Injuries
- $21.2 Million in Property Damage
- 68 Arsons Reported

Structure arson increased by 19% and motor vehicle arson decreased 25% from 2016 to 2017. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98.7%. For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the cause is listed as intentional & age is not a factor or the person involved was over 18. This definition excludes undetermined and juvenile-set fires.
• 43 fatal fires killed 56 civilians - 32 men, 19 women and five people under age 18.
• 2 firefighters died in fire-related incidents.
• Forty-one percent (41%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
• Fire deaths remained the same with 56 deaths reported in both 2016 and 2017.
• Eighty-six percent (86%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
• In 2017, smoking fires were the leading cause of residential fire deaths; smoking fires caused 15, or 31% of home fire deaths.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths

- Smoking: 31%
- Electrical: 21%
- Heating: 13%
- Arson: 6%
- Cooking: 4%
- Lawn tractor: 2%
- Undetermined: 23%

Test your smoke alarm and plan your escape! Fire doesn’t wait!