Massachusetts Fires in 2018

25,504 Fires - Down 9% From 2017
45 Civilian Deaths
1 Fire Service Death
289 Civilian Injuries
425 Fire Service Injuries
$228.9 Million in Property Damage
551 Reported Arsons

Structure Fires
16,169 Fires - Down 6%
40 Civilian Deaths
1 Fire Service Death
236 Civilian Injuries
401 Fire Service Injuries
$202 Million in Property Damage
134 Arsons Reported

Motor Vehicle Fires
2,465 Fires - Up 3%
2 Civilian Deaths
14 Civilian Injuries
11 Fire Service Injuries
$22.9 Million in Property Damage
78 Arsons Reported

Other Fires
6,870 Fires - Down 19%
3 Civilian Deaths
39 Civilian Injuries
13 Fire Service Injuries
$4 Million in Property Damage
339 Arsons Reported

Structure arson decreased by 30% and motor vehicle arson increased 8% from 2017 to 2018. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98.5%. 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.
Massachusetts Fire Deaths in 2018

Civilians Fire Deaths

- 40 fatal fires killed 45 civilians - 24 men, 19 women and 2 people under age 18.
- 1 firefighter died in a fire-related incident.
- Forty-four percent (44%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
- Fire deaths decreased by 22% from the 58 in 2017.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- In 2018, smoking fires were the leading cause of residential fire deaths; smoking fires caused 13, or 33% of home fire deaths.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths

- Smoking: 33%
- Electrical: 13%
- Juvenile-set: 8%
- Arson: 5%
- Heating: 3%
- Heated furniture: 3%
- Cooking: 3%
- Butane lighter: 3%
- Undetermined: 31%

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