

# **West Virginia State Fire Commission**

## **Annual Report FY 2014**

**West Virginia State Fire Commission/  
West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office  
1207 Quarrier Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Charleston, WV 25301**

**Phone: (304) 558-2191      Fax: (304) 558-2537**

**[www.firemarshal.wv.gov](http://www.firemarshal.wv.gov)**

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**Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety**

Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor  
Joseph Thornton, Cabinet Secretary  
Anthony W. Carrico, State Fire Marshal

Phone: (304) 558-2191

Fax: (304) 558-2537

**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

1207 Quarrier St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Charleston, WV 25301  
[www.firemarshal.wv.gov](http://www.firemarshal.wv.gov)

November 06, 2014

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor of West Virginia  
State Capitol Building  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

On behalf of the members of the West Virginia State Fire Commission and in accordance with the West Virginia Code, I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report for FY 2014.

The support you have shown for the entire Fire Service of West Virginia, the State Fire Commission, and the Office of the Fire Marshal is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission if you or your Office should have any inquiries in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. E. Sizemore".

Carl E. Sizemore  
Chairman



**Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety**

Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor  
Joseph Thornton, Cabinet Secretary  
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November 06, 2014

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor of West Virginia  
State Capitol Building  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

In compliance with the West Virginia Code, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 20, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014 of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office is hereby submitted for your review.

This report is a representative, but by no means complete, look at the myriad of services provided to West Virginia's citizens by the dedicated personnel of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

Since 1909, the State Fire Marshal's Office has consistently increased its level of public service to the State of West Virginia through emergency response, code inspection, licensing and regulatory enforcement, public fire education, fire investigation, and many other duties.

This report is in part also a reflection of the efforts of West Virginia's fire departments and the fire service organizations that represent full-time career, volunteer and part-paid departments. It should not be forgotten that on a daily basis, these brave men and women are ready to give their lives protecting their communities from fire and other emergency incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony W. Carrico".

Anthony W. Carrico  
West Virginia State Fire Marshal

# State Fire Commission

## Mission Statement

To provide, through leadership, the best possible fire prevention and life safety for our citizens by legislation, education, training, standards, and resource allocation.

### COMMISSION REPRESENTATION

3 members.....full-time paid firefighters  
1 member.....full-time paid fire chiefs  
3 members.....volunteer firefighters  
2 members.....volunteer fire chiefs  
2 members.....business & industry  
1 member.....fire insurance industry  
1 member.....registered architects

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Training  
Fire Marshal Operations  
Legislation, Codes & Regulatory  
Fire Department Services  
Disciplinary

## FIRE COMMISSION OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: Carl E. Sizemore  
Represents: Paid Firefighters  
Term Expires: 6/30/13

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Grant Gunnoe  
Represents: Paid Firefighters  
Term Expires: 6/30/14

SECRETARY: Larry Goodwin  
Represents: Volunteer Firefighters  
Term Expires: 6/30/15

## FIRE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Gary Bonnett Represents: <i>Volunteer Fire Chiefs</i> Term Expires: 6/30/16	Dave Camp Represents: <i>Insurance</i> Term Expired: 6/30/19
John Holstein Represents: <i>Volunteer Firefighters</i> Term Expires: 6/30/17	Thomas Keefer Represents: <i>Business &amp; Industry</i> Term Expires: 6/30/16
Robert Miller Represents: <i>Volunteer Fire Chiefs</i> Term Expires: 6/30/13	Doug Mongold Represents: <i>Volunteer Firefighters</i> Term Expires: 6/30/13
Rick Scott Represents: <i>Paid Fire Chiefs</i> Term Expires: 6/30/15	Ted A. Shriver Represents: <i>Registered Architects</i> Term Expires: 6/30/12
Vic Stallard Jr. Represents: <i>Business &amp; Industry</i> Term Expires: 6/30/17	Virgil White Represents: <i>Professional Firefighters</i> Term Expires: 6/30/12

# State Fire Marshal's Office

## Administration Division

STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Vacant
CHIEF DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Anthony W. Carrico (Acting State Fire Marshal)
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ASSISTANT III:	Melissa Hapney
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ASSISTANT I:	Leslie Racine

## Regulatory and Licensing Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Vacant
SECRETARY:	Tanya Bradshaw
OFFICE ASSISTANTS:	Valerie J. Lacy Shenandoah Gore

## Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Clarence J. Leake
ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:	
Douglas E. Gregory	Allan Casto
Rudy L. Raynes	Mike Trabert
Charles Vannatter	Norm Fetterman
John Oliver	Bobby Light
Terry Rinehart	Robert Tribbie
Bryan Casto	Timothy W. Mouse
George Harms	Jeff Armentrout
Nathan Bushek	Nevin Kilmer
Bradley Scott	Mark Stewart
PLANS REVIEWERS:	Clyde Cummings Chris Martin Nathan Rimmey

SECRETARY: LaTara Seagraves  
OFFICE ASSISTANTS: Monica J. Ingram  
Annie Humphrey

### Fire Investigation Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Mark Lambert  
ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:  
Shawn Alderman Timothy Chastain  
Josh Amos Brad Hartley  
Mackey Ayersman Ryan McFarland  
Jason Baltic Scott Rodes  
Patrick Barker VACANT  
VACANT

SECRETARY: Cathy Green

### Public Education Division

Division Director (Temporary): Timothy S. Provaznik  
OFFICE ASSISTANT: Heather Bostic

### Fire Department Services Division

SUPERVISOR: Timothy S. Provaznik  
OFFICE ASSISTANT: Alice Carpenter

# **Regulatory & Licensing Division**

## **Annual Report**

*Vacant*  
*Deputy State Fire Marshal*

## **Regulatory & Licensing Division**

### **STAFF**

Division Director:	Vacant, DSFM
Secretary:	Tanya Bradshaw
Office Assistants:	Valerie Carpenter Shenandoah Gore

### **DIVISION OBJECTIVE**

The Regulatory & Licensing Division aims to provide a better and safer standard of living for the citizens of West Virginia by ensuring only qualified applicants obtain licensure, by validating and referring customer complaints, by checking for compliance with all applicable codes and regulations and by providing citizens with information on State Laws and Regulations.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Regulatory & Licensing Division enforces and interprets laws, rules and regulations and issues licenses relating to the electrical industry, the explosive industry, the fireworks industry, Building Code Officials, Electrical Inspectors, Home Inspectors, and Fire Protection Workers.

As charged in State Code, the Licensing & Regulatory Division writes and updates in-house testing for 8 different classifications of Electrician exams as well as Indoor and Outdoor Pyrotechnician exams.

## FY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Fireworks:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Fireworks Display	313	\$ 15,942.00
Pyrotechnic Operator Licenses	322	\$ 6,600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$22,542.00</b>

### Explosives:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Manufacturing Permit	4	\$ 4,000.00
Black Powder Permit	7	\$ 350.00
Permit to Sell	25	\$ 12,500.00
Explosive Magazines	657	\$ 66,620.00
Individual Licenses	808	\$ 49,235.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 132,705.00</b>

### Inspectors, Code Officials & Fire Protection Workers:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Home Inspectors	147	\$ 15,550.00
Electrical Inspector	50	\$ 4,900.00
Building Code Officials	19	\$ 1,200.00
Fire Protection Workers	336	\$ 26,510.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 48,160.00</b>

**Electricians:**

<u>Type of License</u>	<u>Number Issued</u>	<u>Total Fees Collected</u>
Issued	16,291	\$ 830,305.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 830,305.00</b>

**Test Fees:**

<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Fees Collected</u>
Issued	2,339	\$ 38,715.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 38,715.00</b>

**78 Letter of Good Standing Fees Collected \$ 1,950.00**

**48 Duplicate License Fees Collected \$ 480.00**

**Total Special Revenue Collected FY 14 *\$ 1,074,857.00***

**Received 31 valid complaints**

# **Fire Safety Inspection/ Plans Review Division Annual Report**

*Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Clarence J. Leake*

## **Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division**

### **STAFF**

Division Director: Clarence J. Leake, DSFM

#### Field Personnel:

Douglas E. Gregory	Allan Casto
Rudy L. Raynes	Mike Trabert
Charles Vannatter	Norm Fetterman
John Oliver	Bobby Light
Terry Rinehart	Robert Tribbie
Bryan Casto	Timothy W. Mouse
George Harms	Jeff Armentrout
Nathan Bushek	Nevin Kilmer
Bradley Scott	Mark Stewart

Plans Reviewers: Clyde Cummings  
Chris Martin  
Nathan Rimmey

Secretary: LaTara Seagraves  
Office Assistant: Monica J. Ingram  
Annie Humphreys

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division staff consists of one (1) Field Deputy Fire Marshal, three (3) Field Supervisors, eighteen (18) Assistant Fire Marshals, three (3) Fire Safety Plans Reviewers, one (1) Divisional Secretary and two (2) Office Assistants. The Assistant Fire Marshals are assigned to a designated geographical territory ranging from two (2) to six (6) counties. Three (3) Divisional personnel also assist with the review of plans when necessary in addition to their inspection duties. One Assistant Fire Marshal also serves double duty as he is also assigned a geographical to investigate fires in addition to his inspection duties. Three Assistant Fire Marshals are assigned additional duty for the evaluation of fire departments in addition to their inspection duties. All Assistant Fire Marshals serve as liaison for all Fire Marshal services with the local fire departments and the general public.

The division's duties and responsibilities include:

- Inspection of all types of occupancies except one and two family dwellings.
- Issue citations for fire code violations.
- Assists the Licensing & Regulatory Division in the enforcement of the licensing programs, electrician, fire protection worker, fireworks, etc.

- Enforcement of fireworks regulations; monitoring of display sites, investigation of complaints, seizure of illegal fireworks.
- Enforcement of blasting regulations and inspection of explosives magazines and blasting complaints.
- Enforcement of forest fire burning laws
- Regulation of aboveground flammable liquid storage tanks.
- Conduct fire safety training educational seminars and public fire education.
- Provide assistance to the Fire/Arson & Explosives Division and other law enforcement agencies.
- Assist federal government in the implementation of the Federal Hotel/Motel Fire Safety Act.
- Response to disasters
- Administers licensing tests
- Administers the Certified Fire Inspector Program for NFPA
- Conduct fire department evaluations
- Conduct fire investigations in buildings that are normally inspected by this office.

This fiscal year, six thousand three hundred and one (6,301) fire safety inspections, consultations, and complaints were conducted by the division. This is a substantial increase from the previous year and is partly due to the increase in knowledge of the personnel reassigned to this division to have the ability and experience to conduct inspections without assistance. Inspections continue to be prioritized and limited to certain occupancies.

In addition to fire safety inspections, a significant number of man-hours were expended conducting fire safety training and educational programs, complaint investigations, assisting the fire investigation division and department training. Additional educational programs include: in-service training to county school maintenance and educational staffs, presentations to the West Virginia Landlords Association, Department of Health and Human Services social workers and sanitarians, West Virginia Advocate employees day care and Residential Board & Care providers, Building Code officials and the West Virginia Hospital Engineers Association.

Professional development of our divisional staff continues to be a high priority. Our focus on technology will continue to simplify our business processes, making our services more accessible to our customers. Our divisional personnel are constantly striving to improve their skills and knowledge by attending advanced educational programs. This fiscal year a total of two thousand six hundred and thirty-five (2,635) hours was spent on training.

Our most significant project during this past fiscal year was onsite inspections and assistance with the National Boy Scout Jamboree. Twelve divisional personnel were involved in this ten day event. During this event, which was comprised of approximately 40,000 scouts from all over the United States and some from foreign countries, we conducted daily inspections of the various vendor locations and area base camps, assisted with the fireworks display and monitored the nightly concerts.

Numerous citations were issued this past fiscal year for various fire code violations, ranging from locked exits, illegal storage of fireworks to improper licensing and illegal/improper explosives/blasting. One of our most high profile cases of the enforcement of blasting regulations occurred with the demolition of the Nitro-St. Albans bridge.

The Plans Review Section dedicates a significant amount of time and research to telephone calls and walk-in consultations regarding code interpretations. These direct contacts assist designers and owners with proper code requirements during the early development of the project under consideration. These contacts are not a formal review of plans; however, this procedure has proven to eliminate costly and time-consuming changes during the design and construction phase of the project.

This section accomplishes a formal review of the plans when construction documents are submitted. This is an in-depth review of all architectural and mechanical plans for code compliance. Specialized systems such as fire alarms, automatic sprinkler systems, hood suppression and smoke management systems are reviewed at the time of submittal of the construction documents.

This fiscal year one thousand six hundred seventy-four (1,674) plans were reviewed. This is an increase over the previous year. Due to the fact that each year there is an increase in the number of plans received we were able to hire an additional full-time plans reviewer. This allowed the three individuals who were assigned to the office on a scheduled basis to spend more time conducting inspections.

Of these plans one hundred forty-five (145) were projects that exceeded one million dollars. In the past five years we have reviewed and provided construction inspections for occupancy for over seven billion dollars of construction. In an effort to become more efficient during the review, construction and final inspection for occupancy stages, on large projects both the reviewer and area fire marshal will conduct both the review process and inspection stages until the building is occupied.

## FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION DIVISION

### LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS 2010 - 2014

OCCUPANCY	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
EDUCATIONAL	2626	1509	1708	2752
ASSEMBLY	296	366	369	404
BUSINESS	818	795	808	1019
DETENTION	130	51	38	85
HEALTH CARE	469	433	461	559
HAZMAT	1	1	3	3
INDUSTRIAL	43	51	79	86
RESIDENTIAL	586	437	422	892
MERCANTILE	159	225	253	352
MISCELLANEOUS	13	6	116	45
STORAGE	57	84	41	104
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	5198	3958	4298	6301

## LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS BY OCCUPANCY 2013 - 2014

	INITIALS	CONSTRUCTION	RE-INSPECTIONS	FINALS W/ CO	COMPLAINTS	CONSULTS	TOTALS
<b>ASSEMBLY</b>	83	186	38	51	14	32	<b>404</b>
Class A	15	65	19	16	3	6	124
Class B	5	28	1	4	2	3	43
Class C	63	93	18	31	9	23	237
<b>BUSINESS</b>	131	397	294	132	17	48	<b>1019</b>
<b>DETENTION</b>	1	4	71	0	5	4	<b>85</b>
<b>EDUCATIONAL</b>	300	343	1854	50	34	171	<b>2752</b>
Day Cares	119	23	376	12	4	19	553
Schools	166	277	1367	35	24	127	1996
Colleges & Universities	15	43	111	3	6	25	203
<b>HAZARD. MTRLS</b>	0	1	0	1	0	1	<b>3</b>
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>	37	161	279	31	7	44	<b>559</b>
Hospitals	17	119	162	22	2	30	352
Nursing Homes	20	25	111	6	5	13	180
Ambulatory Care	0	17	6	3	0	1	27
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>	12	44	4	10	4	12	<b>86</b>
<b>MERCANTILE</b>	42	201	14	58	16	21	<b>352</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	13	19	3	1	9	0	<b>45</b>
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	107	301	283	47	120	34	<b>892</b>
Hotel/Motel	16	57	2	5	9	2	91
Apartments	44	164	22	29	53	7	319
Dormitory	3	26	16	6	1	6	58
Rooming/Lodging	17	35	108	4	5	13	182
Dwellings	2	3	4	0	52	2	63
Board & Care	25	16	131	3	0	4	179
<b>STORAGE</b>	32	34	13	11	7	7	<b>104</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>1691</b>	<b>2853</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>6301</b>

## PLANS REVIEWED BY OCCUPANCY 2010 – 2014

<u>OCCUPANCY</u>	<u>2010 – 2011</u>	<u>2011 – 2012</u>	<u>2012 – 2013</u>	<u>2013 - 2014</u>
EDUCATIONAL	294	231	188	210
ASSEMBLY	235	325	315	302
HEALTH CARE	141	113	127	143
DETENTION	15	11	4	11
RESIDENTIAL	155	151	136	170
MERCANTILE	205	206	262	272
BUSINESS	300	355	356	423
INDUSTRIAL	32	47	71	34
STORAGE	56	72	63	63
DAY CARE	34	29	25	28
RB&C	21	19	29	18
TOTALS	1488	1559	1576	1674

## PLANS REVIEWED BY TYPE 2013 – 2014

<u>TYPE OF PLAN</u>	<u>2012 – 2013</u>	<u>2013 – 2014</u>
ARCHITECTURAL	607	648
SPRINKLER SYSTEM	238	284
HOOD SUPPRESSION SYSTEM	169	192
FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	479	472
FM 200 SYSTEM	0	2
AGST	43	33
CARPET	43	42
UNCLASSIFIED	0	1
TOTALS	1579	1674

**PROJECTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN  
1 MILLION DOLLARS  
PER FISCAL YEAR  
FY 2002 – FY 2014**

<b>FY 2002-2003</b>	<b>64 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2003-2004</b>	<b>88 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2004-2005</b>	<b>130 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2005-2006</b>	<b>121 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2006-2007</b>	<b>134 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2007-2008</b>	<b>124 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2008-2009</b>	<b>140 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2009-2010</b>	<b>135 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2010-2011</b>	<b>106 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>151 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2012-2013</b>	<b>134 Projects</b>
<b>FY 2013- 2014</b>	<b>145 Projects</b>

## **MONIES COLLECTED FOR THE LAST FIVE (5) FISCAL YEARS**

FY 2013/2014	INSP -	\$104,600.00
	P&R -	\$831,871.33
FY 2012/2013	INSP -	\$117,687.00
	P&R -	\$888,587.40
FY 2011/2012	INSP -	\$113,541.00
	P&R -	\$850,180.78
FY 2010/2011	INSP -	\$129,052.00
	P&R -	\$687,556.88
FY 2009/2010	INSP -	\$112,119.00
	P&R -	\$827,283.78

# **Fire Investigation Division Annual Report**

*Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Mark R. Lambert*

# **Fire Investigation Division**

## **STAFF**

Division Director: DSFM Mark R. Lambert, MPA, CFI,

Field Personnel:

Shawn Alderman, ASFM, CFI	Timothy Chastain, ASFM
Josh Amos, ASFM	Brad Hartley, ASFM, CFI
Mackey Ayersman, ASFM, CFI	VACANT, ASFM
VACANT, ASFM	Ryan McFarland, ASFM
Jason Baltic, ASFM, CFI	Scott Rodes, ASFM, CFI
Patrick Barker, ASFM, CFI	

Secretary: Cathy Green

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Investigation Division currently authorized staffing level is one (1) Field Deputy State Fire Marshal, eleven (11) Assistant State Fire Marshals and one (1) Secretary.

Each Fire Marshal has a designated geographical territory ranging in size from four (4) to eight (8) counties. The Fire Marshals primary duties encompass all aspects of fire/arson identification and enforcement including determining fire origin and cause, fire death investigations, executing state or federal search/ arrest warrants and subsequently giving expert testimony in criminal or civil trials. In addition, each Fire Marshal is responsible for explosives related investigation/enforcement in their respective areas. Many non-arson related violations are identified during the course of an arson investigation, and are generally referred to other federal, state or local law enforcement agencies for prosecution.

This fiscal year 937 investigations were conducted, compared to 838 for the same period in the previous year.

The diligent, professional work of the Division's Fire Marshals continues to give West Virginia an excellent arson case resolution record; however, the objective of a reduction in the total number of incendiary fires has not been achieved. The

sustained operation of the Arson Hotline (1-800-233-FIRE) made possible by a generous grant from the WV FAIR PLAN continues to enable the State Fire Marshal to better define the scope and severity of the continuing arson problem in West Virginia, and providing quicker investigative response and making monetary rewards available for information leading to the arrest of arsonists.

## **FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

Requests for fire investigations from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 increased by ninety nine (99) cases. No quantitative or qualitative research has been done to thoroughly analyze and substantiate the reason for this increase.

CAUSE DETERMINATION	2012 – 2013
INCENDIARY	246
ACCIDENTAL	95
UNDETERMINED/ PENDING	488
NO INVESTIGATION	108
TOTAL	937

## **FIRE INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUED**

OCCUPANCY TYPE	2013 – 2014
ASSEMBLY	15
BUSINESS	13
CORRECTIONS	0
EDUCATIONAL	4
GRASSLANDS	3
INDUSTRIAL	5
MERCANTILE	10
RESIDENCE	629
STORAGE	40
VEHICLE	57
HEALTH CARE	3
UNUSUAL/OTHE R	158

## **FIRE-RELATED DEATH INVESTIGATIONS**

This fiscal year there were 54 fire-related deaths. It must be noted that West Virginia continues to experience a grossly unacceptable fire fatality death rates per capita. This once again points to West Virginia finishing in the top 3 states for fire deaths per capita. It should also be noted that the above fatal fire numbers do not reflect instances where the victim was dead prior to the fire, such as murder concealment or car wreck.

The majority of fire deaths were preventable through increased fire safety awareness by the public, use of smoke detectors, statewide fire code enforcement and increased media attention to fire safety as an important year-round topic. This division, in the last 6 months, has begun tracking fatal fires that are or likely are methamphetamine or alcohol related.

# **Public Education Division Annual Report**

*Division Director (Temporary)  
Timothy S. Provaznik*

## **Public Education Division**

### **STAFF**

Division Director: Timothy Provaznik, ASFM 2  
Office Assistant: Heather Bostic, OA2

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Public Education Division staff consists of one Field Deputy Fire Marshal and one Office Assistant (OA2).

The Public Education Division is responsible for duties which include, but are not limited to, fire and injury prevention education (primary); media communications; coordination of continuing training for deputized assistant fire marshals, SFMO sworn personnel and other code enforcement personnel; administration of the testing certification program for the sales of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes in West Virginia for tobacco manufacturers; and enhancement/upgrades to the SFMO website.

The Public Education Division promotes programs that aim to reduce loss of life and property through education, including but not limited to, the following:

- Fire and injury prevention for all groups, including high-risk (seniors, people with disabilities, young children)
- Train-the-trainer instruction in public fire/life safety education for firefighters and other emergency responders
- Fireworks law and safety for general audiences
- Smoke alarm education and distribution programs
- Fire safety and emergency planning for public facilities
- Public speaking for civic, governmental and advocacy organizations
- Participation in health and public safety fairs/seminars, and career days
- Membership and active participation in health/safety organizations
- Press conferences, TV, radio interviews, media promotion of fire safety and related topics
- Coordination of FEMA grant writing workshops for WV fire departments
- Coordinating loan and distribution of educational materials to fire departments, safety groups, schools, businesses and the general public

### **Fire in West Virginia FY 2014**

The fire problem varies from region to region in the United States. This can be a result of poverty, education, demographics and other causal factors. According to the National Fire Protection Association's Sept. 2007 publication "U.S. Unintentional Death Rates by State", West Virginia easily ranks among the top ten (10) states on three (3) of the major correlating factors for fire

deaths: poverty level, education level, and percentage of smokers. Additional risk factors in West Virginia include a large rural population, and some of the largest populations of people with disabilities and senior citizens in the United States.

The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) recent report on "*Relative Risk of Dying in a Fire by State*" relates "In addition to the District of Columbia, the states with the highest relative risk in 2010 included West Virginia, Alabama and Mississippi. **The populace of West Virginia was 3.3 times more likely to die in a fire than the general population....**"

**This risk rate again shows that West Virginia remains by far the deadliest state in terms of fire death rates.**

Statistics reflecting smoke alarm use and operation for the state also continue to paint a disturbing picture in terms of inadequate residential fire protection.

Although the Public Education Division has significantly increased media outreach promoting public awareness of fire safety issues as well as the number of smoke alarms distributed over the past few years, much more needs to be done at the State, fire department, and community levels.

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS FY 2014:**

- National Fire Prevention Week (October 6-12, 2013) Activities:
  - Smoke alarms and fire safety pamphlets were donated by the SFMO for distribution during National Fire Prevention Week by WCHS Talk Radio (Charleston-Metro News Radio).
  - Public Education Officer provided live interview with WCHS Talk Radio on smoke alarms and home fire prevention.
  - Press releases on Fire Prevention Week sent to all media contacts: TV, radio, newspapers, and other media partners.
  - Partnered with Charleston Newspapers for their "Newspapers in Education" Fire Safety program.

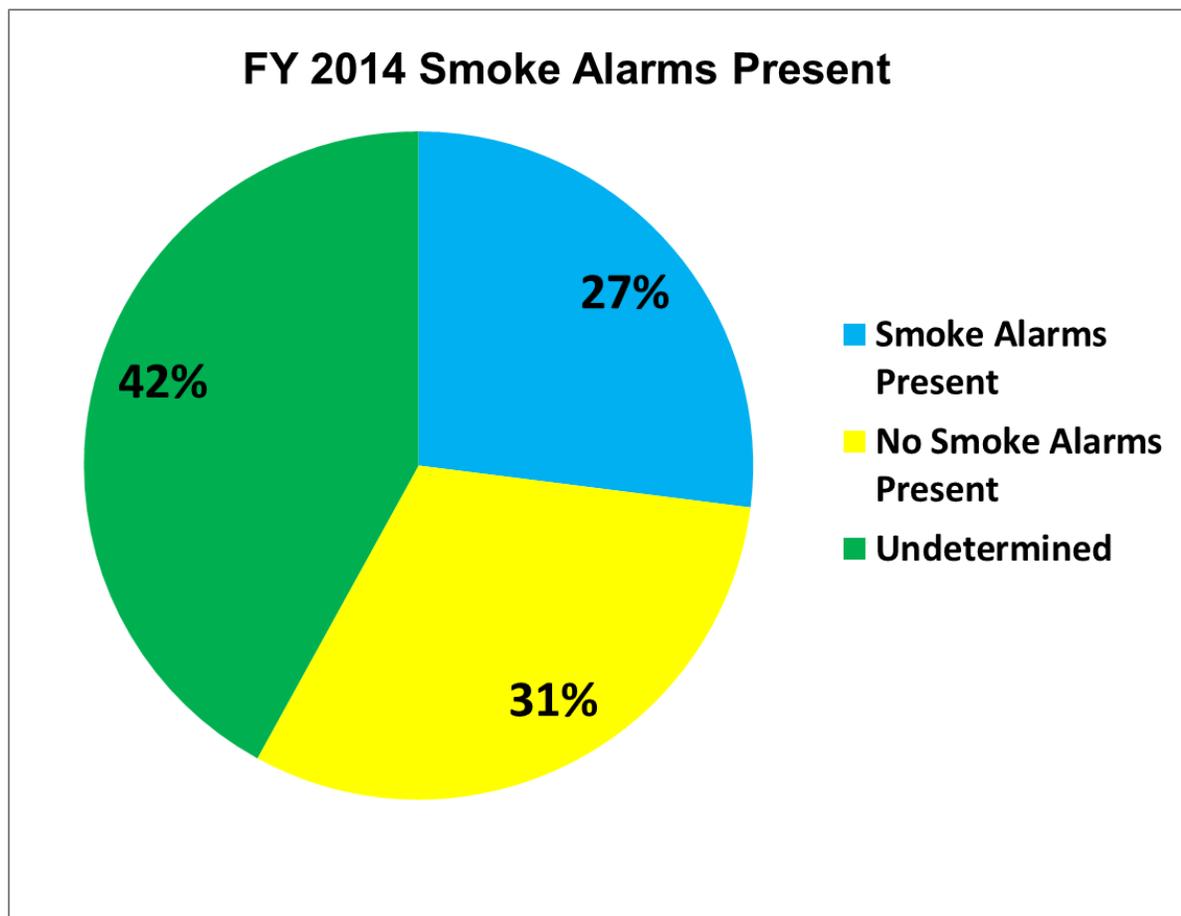
#### **MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES FY 2014**

- TV, Radio and Newspaper Interviews
- Press Releases to television and radio stations, newspapers, fire departments and State agencies
- Assisted in providing National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) class at State EMS Conference/Pipestem.

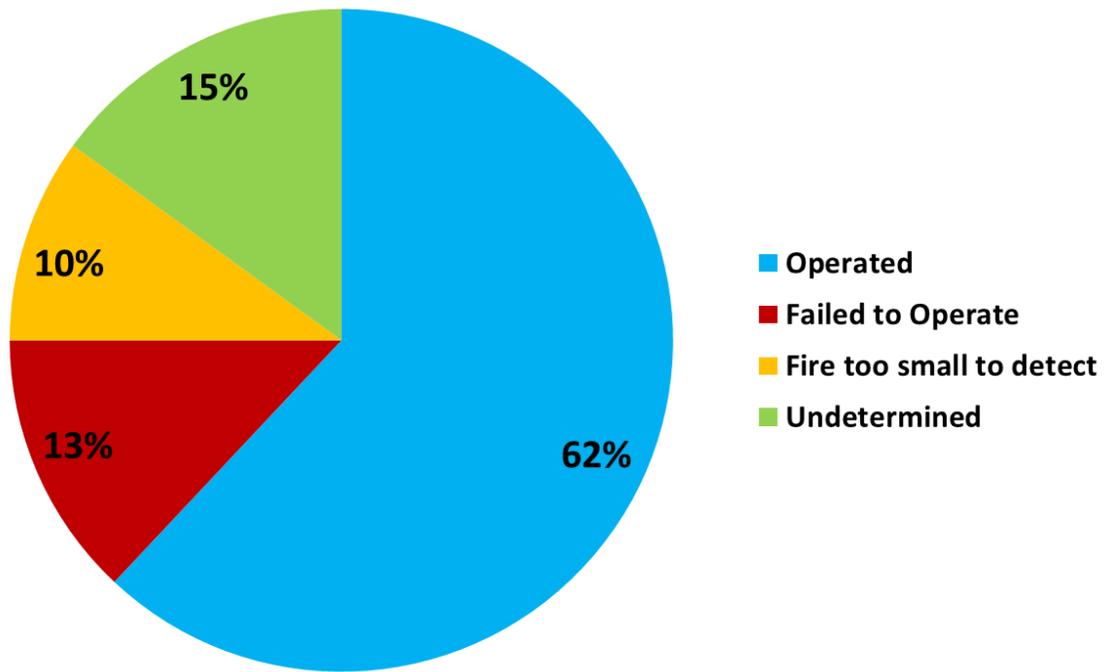
- Participated in WV Violence and Injury Prevention Program conferences.
- Participated in WV Office of EMS Children’s Advisory Board task force.
- Participated in Child Fatality Review Board meetings.
- Testing certifications issued to tobacco manufacturers under the Fire Safe Cigarette Certification program.

### **SMOKE ALARM PROJECTS FY 2014**

- Assisted in the development of a new smoke alarm project (Appalachian Smoke Alarm Project - ASAP) in partnership with the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Centers. This program provides specialized smoke alarms to consumers based on the degree of hearing impairment.



### FY 2014 Residential Smoke Alarm Operation



# **Fire Department Services Division Annual Report**

*Assistant State Fire Marshal II  
Timothy S. Provaznik*

## **Fire Department Services Division**

### **STAFF**

Division Director: Timothy S. Provaznik, ASFM

Office Assistant: Alice Carpenter

The Fire Department Services Division is responsible for duties that include administration and oversight for all fire and non-fire data collected through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and related data analysis and fire department training, evaluation of fire departments and the coordination and issuance of emergency vehicle permits for all West Virginia fire departments and certain other entities.

The Division also oversees, consults and assists all 442 certified fire departments in the State of West Virginia and provides information and guidance to new fire departments seeking certification.

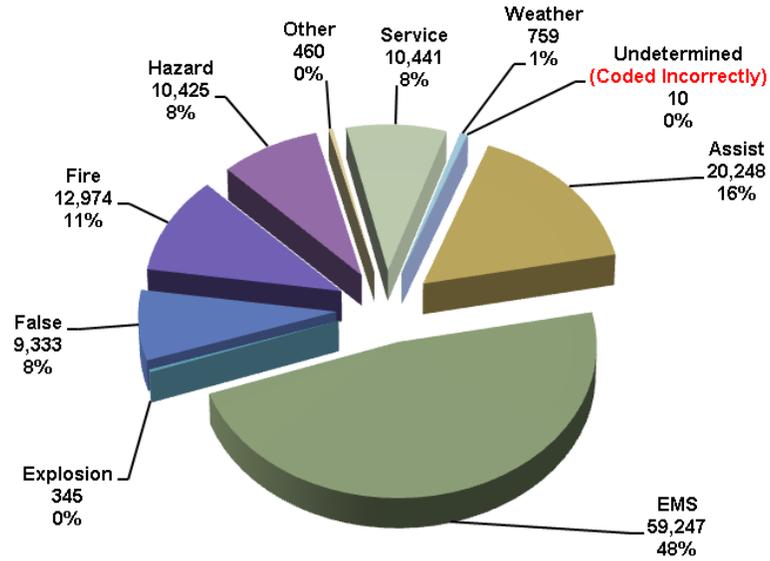
During the fiscal year 2013-2014 the division has:

- Completed 57 evaluations of Fire Departments. 31 of those Fire Departments were Re-Certified.
- Worked with the WV Division of Labor and Fire Departments concerning the safe operation of the Junior Firefighter program.
- Issued 513 Emergency Vehicle Permits (133 Apparatus and 380 Private).
- Deactivated 633 Emergency Vehicle permits (105 Apparatus and 528 Private).
- Total Active permits now stand at 9460 (3581 Apparatus and 5879 Private).
- The office staff has fielded approximately 2000 calls, with the majority of those asking for assistance with the National Fire Incident Report filing.

Due to Legislation allowing for a grace period for submission of fire loss data, Fiscal year 2013-2014 will not be available until after January 01, 2015. The following data is from FY2013. A total of 124,242 responses were reported by all reporting West Virginia Fire Departments. Attached below are charts and graphs depicting a limited breakdown of those responses.

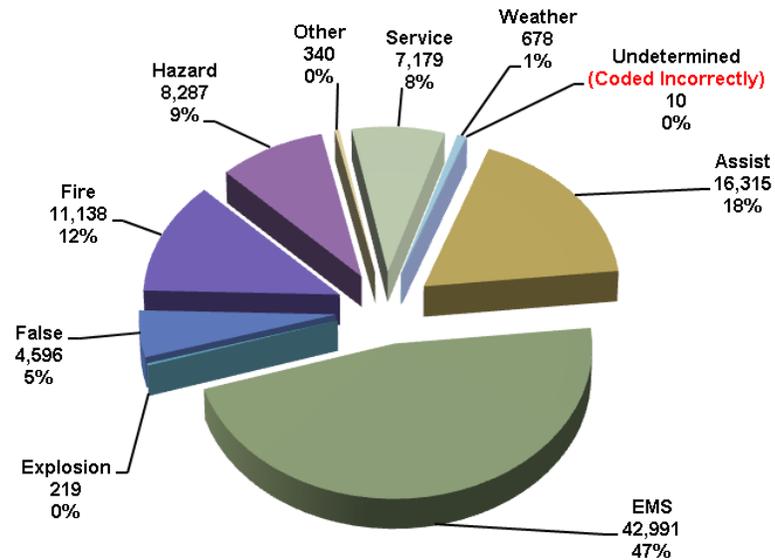
### Type of Calls FY2013 - All Departments

(124,242 Total Calls)  
ALL CALL TYPES



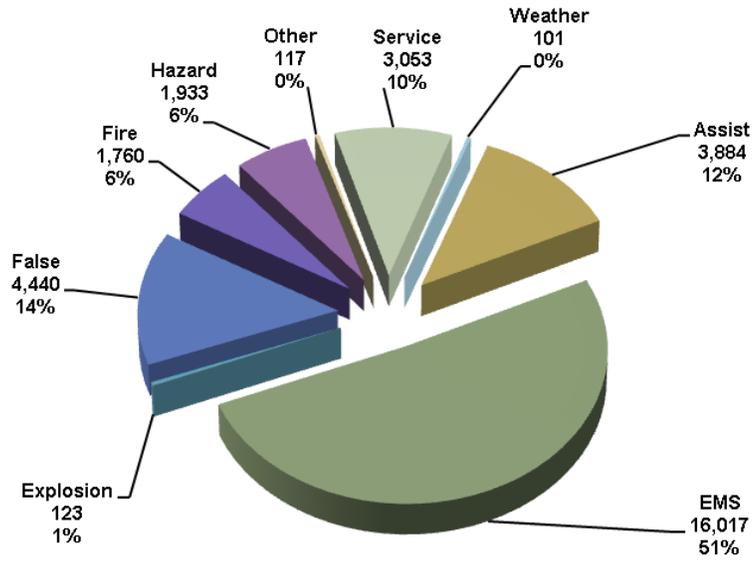
### Type of Calls FY2013 - Volunteer/Pt-Paid Departments

(91,753 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
ALL CALL TYPES



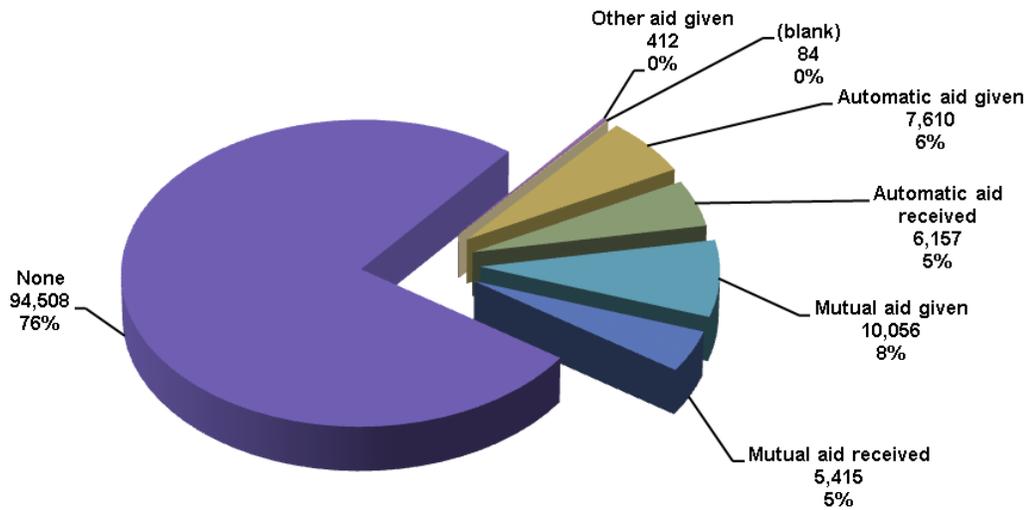
### Type of Calls FY2013 - Paid Departments

(31,428 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
ALL CALL TYPES



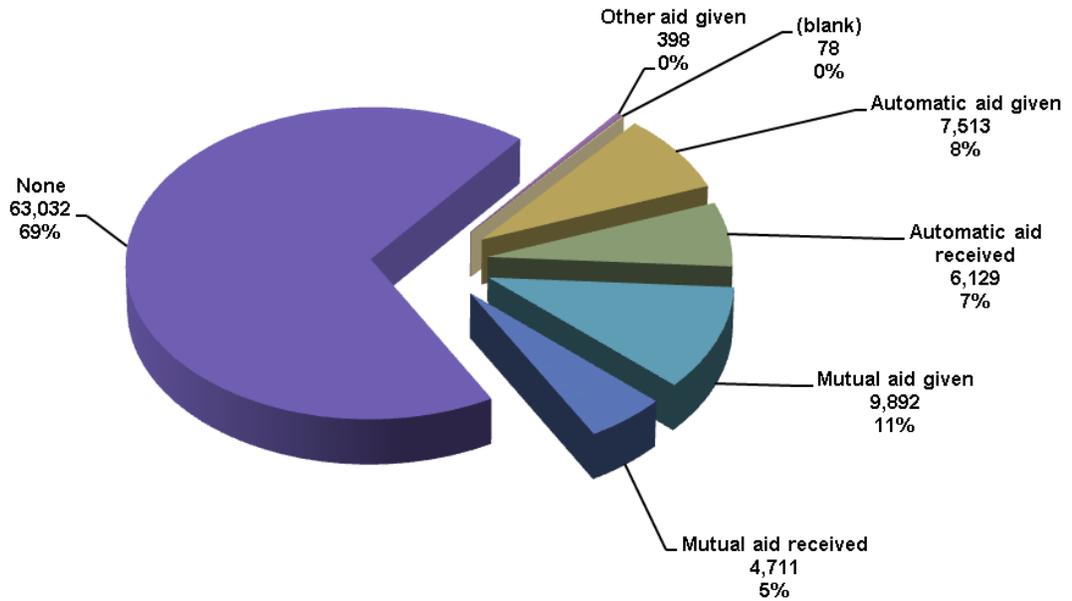
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - All Departments

(124,242 Total Calls)  
ALL CALL TYPES



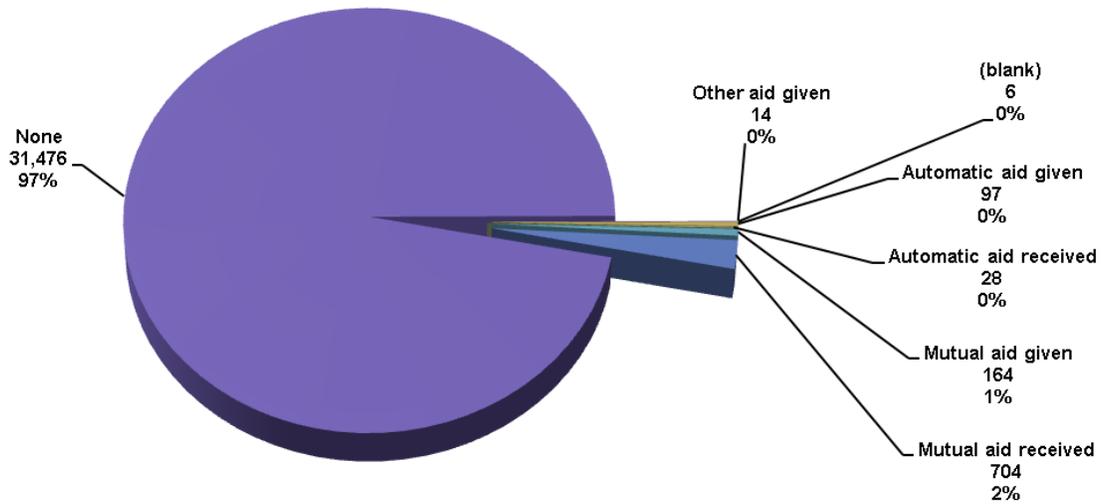
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - Volunteer/Pt-Paid Departments

(91,753 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
ALL CALL TYPES



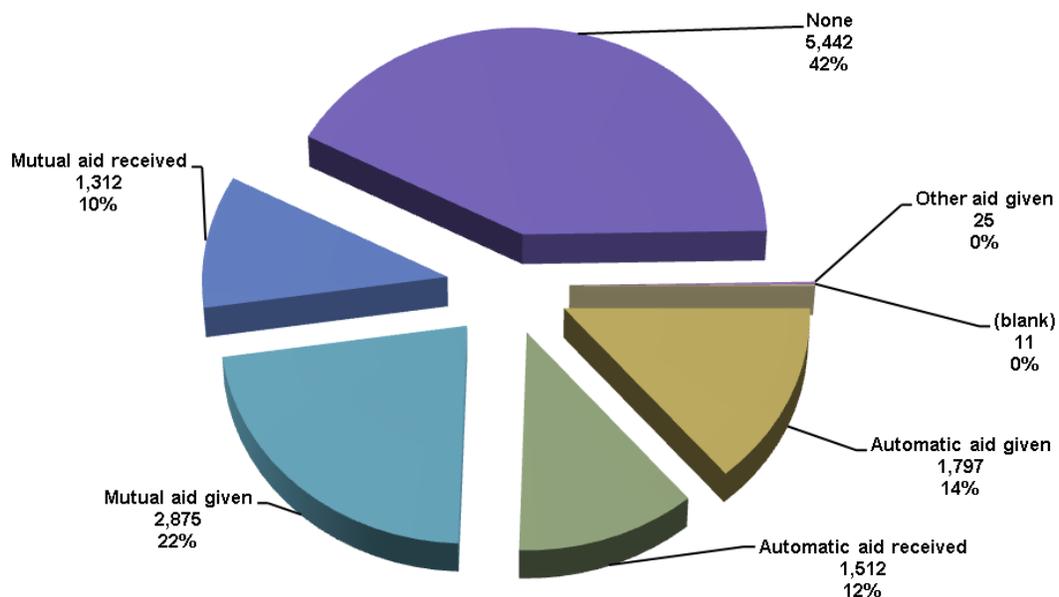
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - Paid Departments

(32,489 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
ALL CALL TYPES



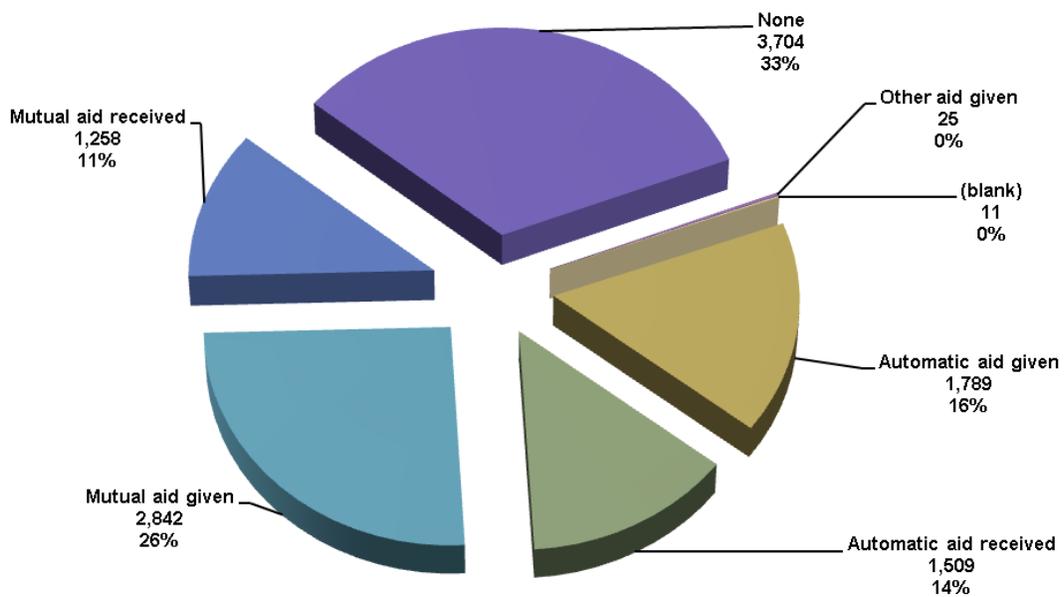
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - All Departments

(12,974 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
FIRES



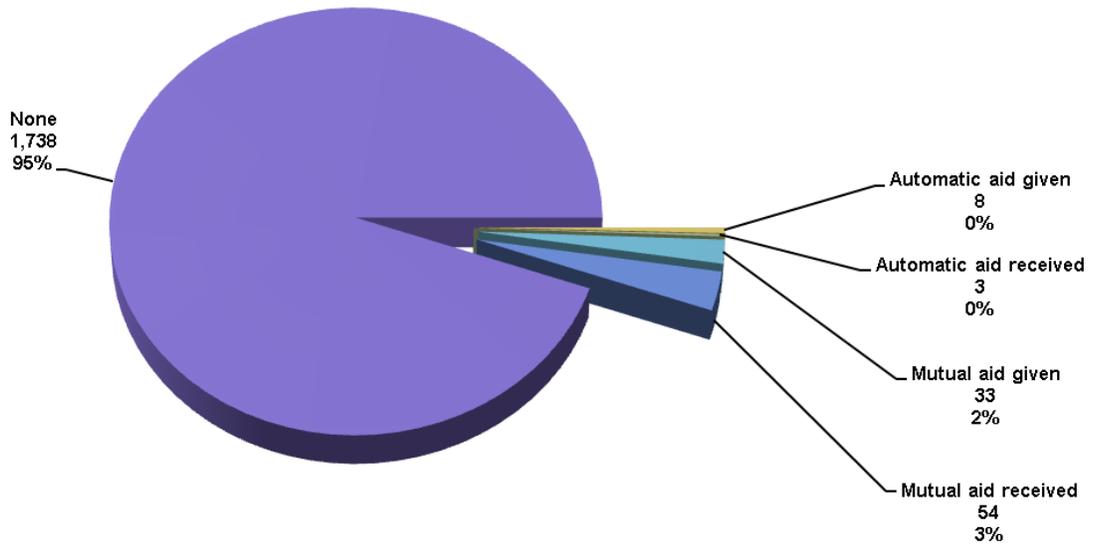
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - Volunteer/Pt-Paid Departments

(11,138 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
FIRES



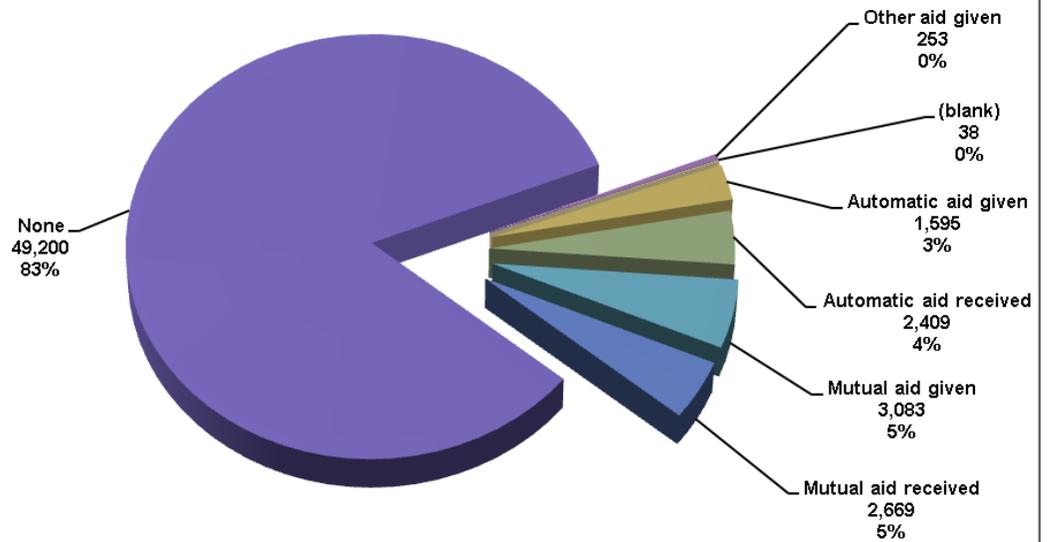
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - Paid Departments

(1,836 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
FIRES



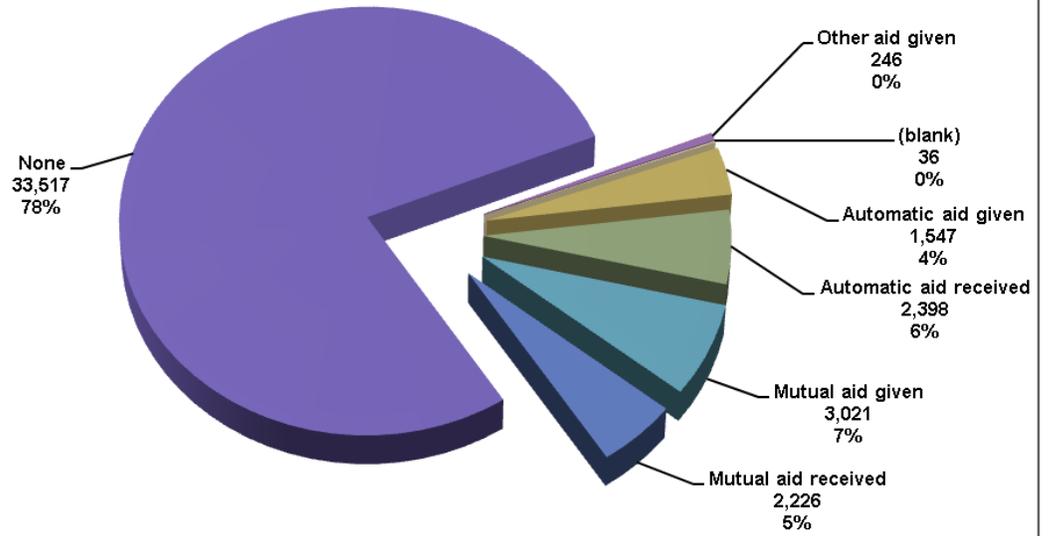
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - All Departments

(59,247 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
EMS



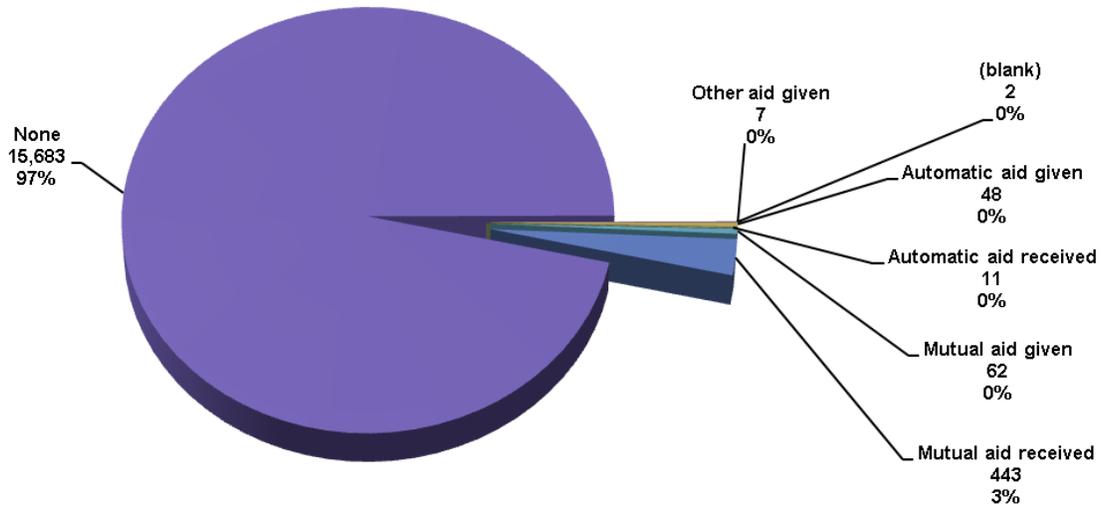
### Mutual Aid FY2013 - Volunteer/Pt-Paid Departments

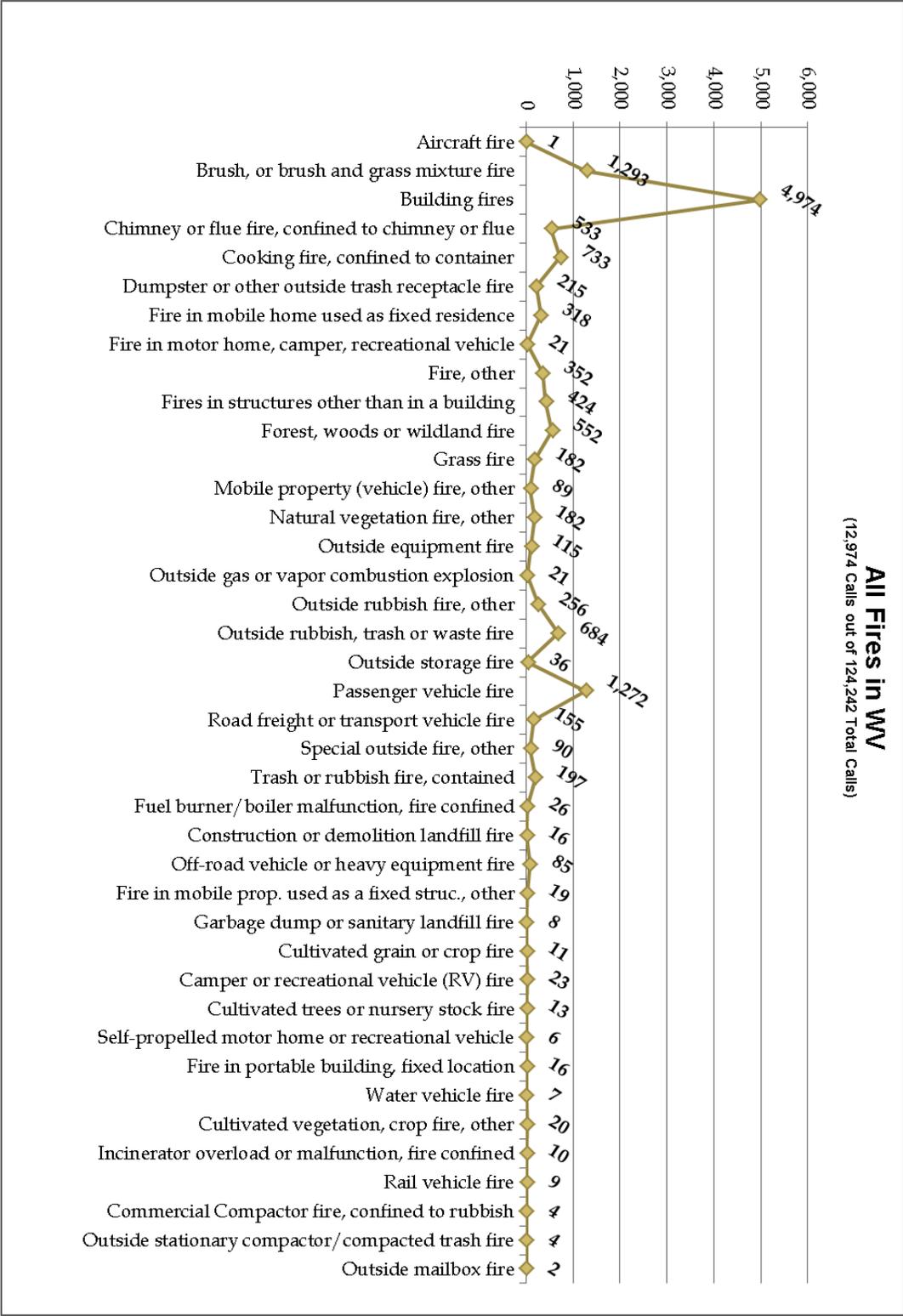
(42,991 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
EMS



### Mutual Aid FY2013 - Paid Departments

(16,256 Calls out of 124,242 Total Calls)  
EMS







## **STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Critical Need for Mandatory Residential Fire Sprinkler Requirements**

*The above Risk Rate factors for West Virginia point to a critical need for increased fire protection in the home.* Residential fire sprinklers, when used in conjunction with smoke detectors, can result in survival rates of over 90%. This would obviously be a tremendous boost to life safety, especially given the fact that most fire deaths continue to happen in the home. Legislation continues to be sought by the State Fire Marshal's Office to require these systems in all new residential construction, but much remains to be done regarding public awareness and education about the value and functioning of sprinkler systems, as well as dispelling misinformation about how sprinklers actually work, and expenses related to installation.