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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

**FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal**

DATE: July 1, 2013

RE: 2012 Massachusetts FireFacts Sheet

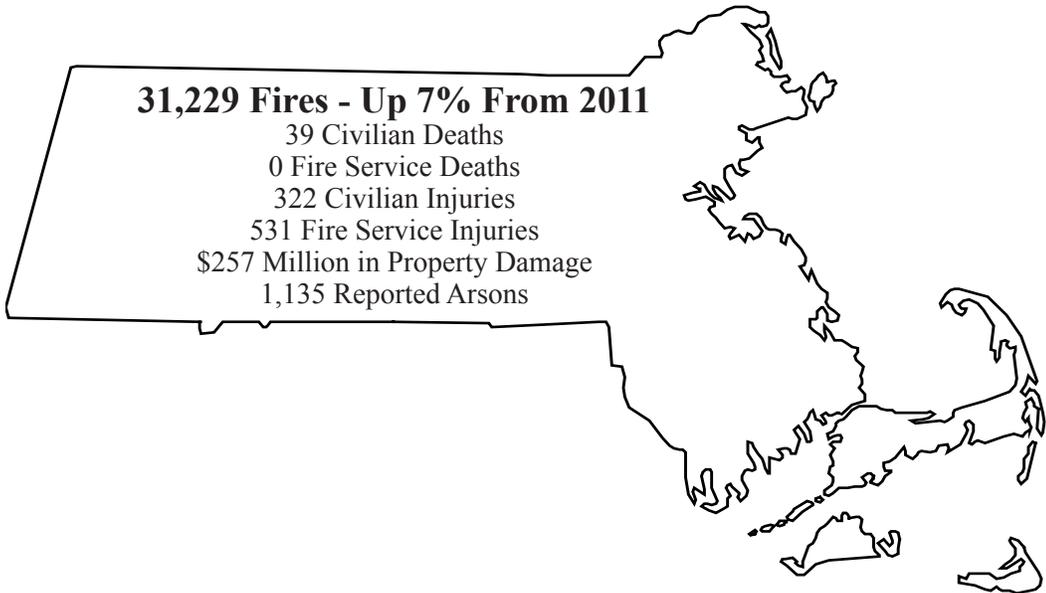
Attached please find the 2012 Massachusetts FireFacts Sheet summarizing the Commonwealth's fire experience in 2012. This is based on the individual fire incident reports submitted by Massachusetts fire departments to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS).

The statistics show that in 2012, there were:

- 39 Civilian deaths (21 men, 17 women and one child under the age of 18), a decrease from 54 deaths reported in 2011;
- 0 Firefighter fatalities;
- 12 suicide related fire deaths; five were in homes, making it the leading cause of residential fire deaths;
- Electrical fires were the second leading cause of residential fire deaths; and
- For the second time (since we started keeping records), smoking has not been the leading cause of home fire deaths.

If you have any questions about fire data, please call the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3382.

MASSACHUSETTS FIRES IN 2012



Structure Fires

17,536 Fires - Down 4%
 29 Civilian Deaths
 0 Fire Service Deaths
 267 Civilian Injuries
 471 Fire Service Injuries
 \$237 Million in Property Damage
 271 Arsons Reported



Motor Vehicle Fires

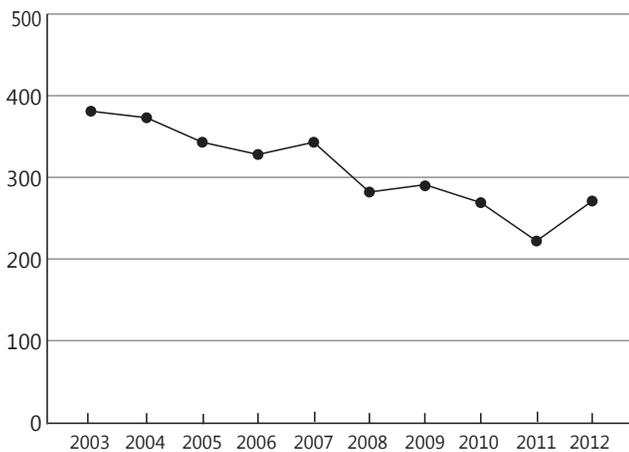
2,502 Fires - Down 17%
 6 Civilian Deaths
 17 Civilian Injuries
 9 Fire Service Injuries
 \$15.4 Million in Property Damage
 114 Arsons Reported



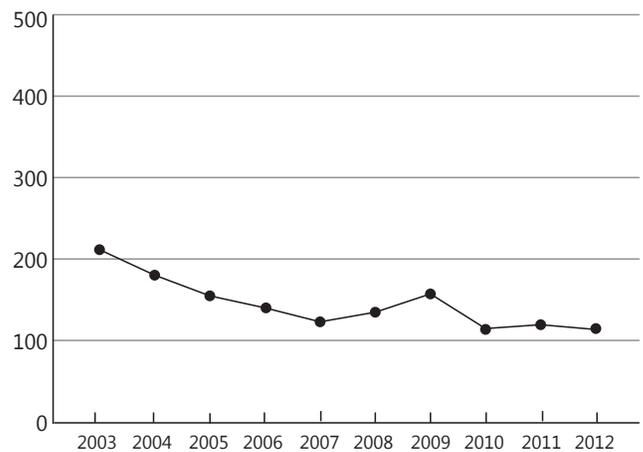
Other Fires

11,191 Fires - Up 40%
 4 Civilian Deaths
 38 Civilian Injuries
 51 Fire Service Injuries
 \$4.7 Million in Property Damage
 750 Arsons Reported

Structure Arson by Year



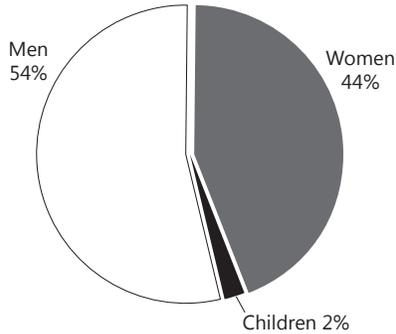
Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



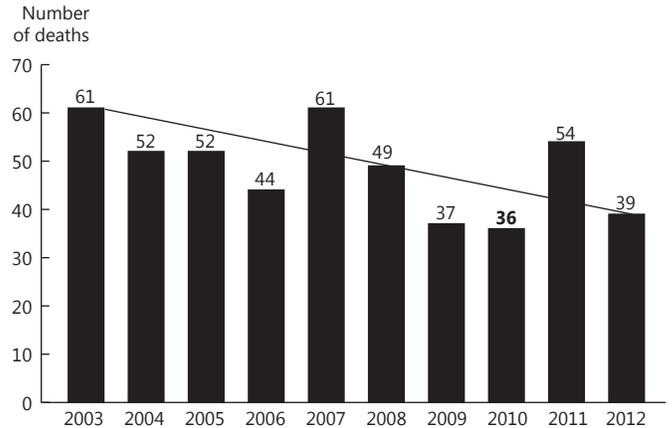
Structure arson increased by 22% and motor vehicle arson decreased 8% from 2011 to 2012. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98%. For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the cause is listed as intentional & age is not a factor or the person involved was over 18. This definition excludes many "suspicious" and juvenile-set fires.

MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DEATHS IN 2012

Civilian Fire Deaths

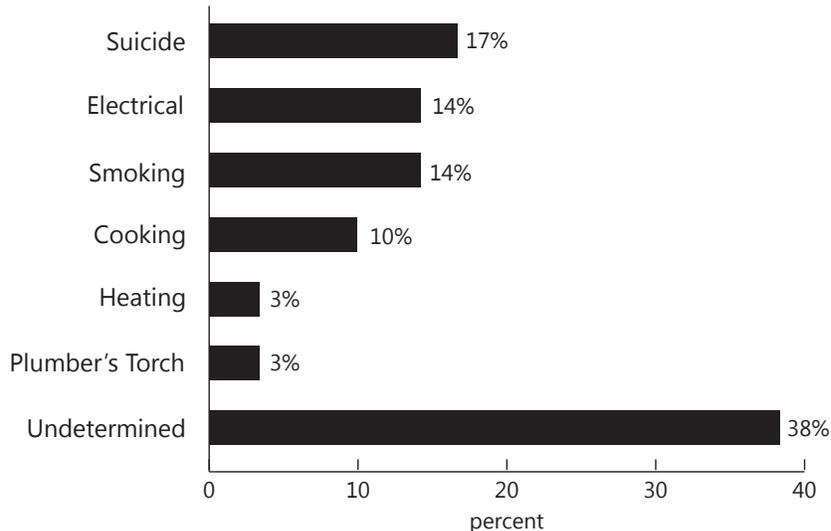


Fire Deaths by Year



- 37 fatal fires killed 39 civilians - 21 men, 17 women and 1 person under 18.
- No firefighters died in fire-related incidents.
- Thirty-three percent (33%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
- Fire deaths decreased by 28% from the 54 deaths reported in 2011.
- Almost 3/4 (74%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- For the second time since we started keeping records, smoking was not the leading cause of home fire deaths. In 2012, suicide was the leading cause with 5, or 17%, of residential fire deaths.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths



Test your smoke detector and plan your escape! *Fire doesn't wait!*