

FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

IDAHO FIRE STATISTICS

JANUARY 1, 1985 - DECEMBER 31, 1985



W. K. "BILL" WALLIS
State Fire Marshal

WAYNE L. SOWARD
Director

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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State of Idaho

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State Fire Marshal

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
By
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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PART I.

State Fire Marshal

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

HISTORY

After many attempts to implement the office of State Fire Marshal by state insurance directors, the insurance industry, and the fire service, it finally became a reality when on March 22, 1982, Governor John Evans signed HB 487 into law. This bill provided the Fire Marshal with funding from the insurance industry and placed the office in the Department of Insurance under the direction of Director Trent M. Woods. The bill also provided guidelines as to its function. The bill adopted the Uniform Fire Code statewide and made all fire chiefs assistants to the State Fire Marshal.

The proposal to set up the office of Fire Marshal got started when State Representative Larry Harris from Boise attended the national Legislative Conference on Arson in Dallas, Texas. He went there at the request of Representative Tom Stivers of Twin Falls. After he returned he called a meeting at the statehouse with several fire officials in the immediate vicinity, along with several representatives of the Legislature, to discuss the arson and fire problems in this state. It was the consensus of this group that in order to combat the growing arson and fire problem, the fire service needed a central authority to identify the arson and fire problems throughout the state and take measures to reduce them. Then, Representative Harris in a memo to Representative Stivers stated, "The prime officer to establish central authority would likely be the Idaho State Fire Marshal, a position authorized but unfunded, and an equally important function will be a comprehensive state arson reference information service."

With input from the fire service, the insurance industry, and the Legislative Committee, HB 487 was drafted and after many amendments it passed both houses of the Legislature. There were many people involved in the passage of this bill; both government and industry worked hand-in-hand in its promotion as they fully recognized something had to be done to lessen or stop the growing fire losses in our state.

It is interesting to note that Idaho was one of only two states without a Fire Marshal, but the concern over the office goes back many years.

A report from the State Insurance Commissioner C.D. Goaslind, dated January 1, 1909, states: "I believe that the present fire waste in this country is entirely unnecessary and that to reduce some of it is essential, first, that the public should be brought to understand that property once destroyed by fire is gone forever and is not, nor cannot be replaced by the distribution of insurance. Second, that the states should adopt and enforce a building code which requires an improved type of safe construction. Third, that the various cities should adopt an ordinance governing construction and improvements of buildings and as regards the question of explosives and inflammables, regulating the storing of refuse, waste, etc. and to provide for the enforcement of such ordinance. Fourth, that the states establish and support the office of Fire Marshal and confer on the Fire Marshal by law the right to examine the cause and origin of all fires, and in the event of arson or where crime has been committed, submit the facts to the grand jury or proper indicting body."

Again in January of 1921, State Director of Insurance, Howard J. Brace, in his report states: "We believe by creating a State Fire Marshal's Department much can be accomplished towards the reduction of fire waste in Idaho. This recommendation has been made in many previous reports of the Insurance Commissioner of this state and the need for legislation along this line is more pronounced today than ever before."

Again, on June 3, 1946, Edward B. McMonigle, Director of Insurance, stated: "Most all our western states now have a State Fire Marshal's Office under the direct supervision of the Insurance Department and in those states an effective fire prevention program is carried on."

Seventy three years after the first request, the office of the State Fire Marshal became reality. On July 15, 1982 William K. Wallis, former fire chief and native of Nampa, Idaho was chosen as the first State Fire Marshal.

Section 41-253, Idaho Code, is the statute that principally governs the office of State Fire Marshal. The purpose of the operation is stated within the statute as such: "The purpose of this act is to protect human life from fire, and to prevent fires. This act is intended to prescribe regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practice for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosions arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials, and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life and property in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises, and there is hereby adopted the Uniform Fire Code, as the minimum standards for the protection of life and property from fire and explosions in the state of Idaho."

NARRATIVE

I am pleased to report that our fire reporting records indicate that our efforts in fire prevention are paying off. Estimated fire losses for 1985 are significantly lower than in the three previous annual reports I have written. I can only relate this to the work put forth by our district deputy fire marshals bringing to the local fire departments the training necessary to carry on their own fire prevention programs. When the deputies began their efforts there were about 30 certified fire inspectors in the State of Idaho. There are now over 370. These increased numbers, I am sure, has made the difference. The deputies have also made significant contributions providing expertise and support when local fire departments or citizens have called upon their services.

Another factor has been the efforts put forth by our deputy in charge of arson/fraud investigations. He has been able to organize and train many city, county, and multi-county arson task forces made up of fire, police, sheriff, and prosecutors in his district. He has also lent his direct assistance in many arson cases to the local authorities which have led to successful arrests.

In summary I can only state that our programs are starting to have an effect. But our efforts would have been in vain if the local fire and police services had not shown their most enthusiastic support. The local effort is the key to lower loss of life and property to the ravages of fire. We can only assist in seeing this job done. There are still some fire departments who have chosen not to be a part of this overall effort. I can only hope this report and others that follow will convince them and their community leaders that good fire prevention practices and fire investigations will lead to a safer community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

My basic goals and objectives still remain as I first saw them and related to in previous reports. To understand these goals and objectives one must first realize that there are certain parameters that you work within. These parameters, in my case, are the limits of authority granted by the legislature and the funding limitations. My authority and responsibilities are in two areas. Fire prevention and arson control. The funding is limited to an assessment placed upon all insurance companies licensed to do business in the State of Idaho. Knowing these things I believe the best we can accomplish is within the four goals I have written about in three previous reports. These are:

1. REGULATORY

The regulatory function is based upon the Uniform Fire Code which has been adopted as our statewide minimum standard. The Uniform Fire Code is a model code that has become the most widely used fire-safety standard in the United States. It was designed in the west and is owned and kept up to date by the Western Fire Chiefs Association. The fire code is intended to prescribe regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practice for the safeguarding to a reasonable degree of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the use of or occupancy of buildings or premises.

The enforcement of this code is carried out by the local fire authorities after being trained in its use by the District Deputy State Fire Marshals. The State Fire Marshal's office also offers training every year to keep fire inspectors up to date. Assistance is offered as well to local authorities for enforcement and technical information.

2. ARSON INVESTIGATIONS

The effort to control arson is directed by our Deputy State Fire Marshal in charge of Arson/Fraud investigations. At the present time he works alone but we have found that he cannot cover the entire State by himself. Our plans are to place two more investigators, one in the North and one in the Southeast. The legislature has already granted one of these positions. They have also authorized the purchase of three arson investigative vehicles equipped with the latest forensic tools. One each will be located in three strategic areas of the State. We also have found that the crime of arson demands a cooperative effort of fire departments, police, sheriff, and prosecutors in order to successfully bring arsonists to justice. We have formed five county and multi-county arson task forces made up of all these players, but only in the Boise district. We plan to carry out this operation throughout the State when we can employ more investigators.

3. FIRE DATA, COLLECTION, AND ANALYSIS

This goal has, for the most part, been achieved. However we did make some real progress in computerizing the fire reports from the fire departments. We are now completely operating on our own personal computers which translates into more control for us and an annual savings of about twenty thousand dollars. We also have developed a data entry program for the fire departments' use. In this way we can exchange fire data via computer thus saving paper transfer and labor. So far Boise, Twin Falls, Jerome, and Pocatello Fire Departments are on the new system or are in the process of going on it. We are currently processing more fire reports than we ever have even though two major departments dropped off the system. I would encourage those who are not reporting to contact my office or your district deputies office to learn how to become a part of this most important system. We have to know what is causing our fires if we are to truly prevent them. I like to refer to the reporting system as our intelligence arm in the war against fire. Fighting fire with facts should be our byword.

4. PUBLIC EDUCATION

As reported before I still have not been able to make any headway in this area for a full blown state program. I have no doubt that someday we will have a good public education program, but we will have to convince a lot of folks of the worth of it. Most fires are caused by people doing foolish and unsafe things that they are simply not aware of. We can teach them not to do these things and probably cut our fire losses another twenty percent given the opportunity to do the education job. I believe this job can be accomplished by one employee coordinating through local governments in our State. It would be money well spent. I estimate the cost of providing a program at about 80-90 thousand dollars per year. If we cut the fire loss twenty percent per year the savings would amount to 3-4 million dollars in property saved. Lives also would be saved in the process.

SIGNIFICANCE

The people of Idaho have and will receive many benefits from this program if carried on as outlined in the goals and objectives section of this report. Property and lives will be saved because we know from experience that fire prevention, code enforcement programs do work in lowering the cost of fire damage and protecting a much valued tax base. The programs design is to assist local units of government in doing their own fire prevention and arson control. We train their personnel, assist them, and lend our technical expertise when requested.

We have the funds to do the job statewide as outlined, but there are certain fire departments who have not, as yet, availed themselves of our services. If more is requested to be done than we have funds to carry out the requests, then we will be looking for ways to self-fund these types of projects. One example would be the fire sprinkler contractors who want this office to regulate their industry similar to what is currently being done for the electricians and plumbers. We have drafted this regulation and if it passes the scrutiny of the legislature it will be self-funded by the fire sprinkler industry.

Fire chiefs, fire prevention personnel, insurance companies, police agencies, mayors, city councils, county commissioners, fire district commissioners and the general public have been very supportive of our efforts. We have had some critics, as does any regulatory program, but they generally come from people who do not feel that fire prevention practices are worthwhile, especially when mandated on property that they happen to own. We assure them that the fire prevention practices we enforce are recognized nationally and the fire codes are drafted from actual fire experience. We cannot fly in the face of all this national experience. Tragic fires do happen in Idaho as well as in other parts of the country as this report will show. If our program ceased I am positive that fire losses would increase over time.

FINANCE

Our finances come directly from the insurance industry who are one of the direct benefactors of less life and property loss from fire. Property casualty companies are assessed currently at \$410. All others at \$205 or one half the property casualty assessment. The total potential assessment is capped at \$500 and \$250. We also receive monies from time to time from federal grants but only for specific programs. We have never been on the receiving end of a continual grant. One good thing though, we do not rely on federal grants for the meat of our program. The budget for fiscal year 1986-87 is as follows:

Personnel-----	\$230,500
Operating Expenses----	\$165,700
Capital Outlay-----	\$116,100
(for purchase of investigative vehicles)	

ANALYSIS

Overall our program is going as well as can be expected for a relatively new one. We now have over 370 fire inspectors certified throughout the State. This in itself will go a long way to prevent a lot of fires. The arson problem will continue until such time we have more staff to deal with it. It is a crime that demands a lot of investigative time and a special focus. I am hoping we can address this in the next legislative session. Our existing statutes are well drafted and I do not see how they could be improved to the point where they would be better with the funding we have available to enforce them at this point in time. We could improve the program by enacting more regulations, but more regulation means more funding for enforcement. A self-funded regulation governing the installation and inspection of all installed fire protection appliances such as fire sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and fixed hazard systems would assist. With funds derived from such regulations we could be assured that people installing and maintaining such systems are qualified to do the job. We presently do not have that assurance.

There have been demands for more services from this office. For example state agencies would like to see their buildings inspected by qualified state fire inspectors rather than local fire inspectors. Architects would like to see a central plans review office to review building plans for compliance to the fire code. Fire sprinkler contractors would like to see a central plans review for sprinkler plans. Fire Chiefs would like to see a statewide fire safety public education program. Petroleum dealers and jobbers would like to see minimum standards for the installation of underground flammable liquid tank installations. There are and will be many other demands made in the future I am sure, but funding sources to govern these demands will have to come along with any future programs. The ones I have mentioned above could all be funded through fees or user taxes of some kind.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The legislation I feel is most lacking in Idaho related to fire safety is that of an adopted statewide building Code. What we are currently under is an optional building code relying solely on local authorities to maintain standards of training for their building officials. Local officials also may also opt to not have a building standard adopted. Not having a building code is opening the door to unscrupulous developers and contractors and we have seen the results in substandard buildings in many areas of the state. Fire safety starts with buildings that are built to withstand fire and the assurance that there are proper exits from the building. I am hoping that professional groups such as architects and engineers will propose this in the near future.

Another piece of legislation that must be considered is a change in our fireworks law. Our law is good in providing the basic description of fireworks allowed to be used in the state, but it does not provide the mechanics of enforcement. We will be pursuing these changes in the next legislative session in a cooperative venture with many legitimate fireworks companies.

SUMMARY

I feel we are moving along at a fair pace when one realizes that we did not have this office a few years ago. I have always felt that fire safety and arson control could and should be done mostly by local authorities. They know who the arsonists are and they know where the fire code violations are. Given the expertise and tools to do the job, they will get it done. We already see evidence of this. There are, however, several fire and police agencies in the state that need further assistance and always will because they are too small in population to afford employees that can devote the time necessary to develop their expertise. Especially the fire departments that are all volunteer.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL ACTIVITY REPORT

Summary for 1985

FIRE INSPECTIONS	129
FIRE/ARSON INVESTIGATIONS	107
FIRE CODE INTERPRETATIONS	319
BUSINESS MEETINGS	394
PUBLIC APPEARANCES	55
TRAINING COURSES GIVEN	111
SCHOOLS SEMINARS ATTENDED	13
FIRE LOSSES FROM INSURANCE	\$25,447,236

SUMMARY: These activities represent our first full year with the new district deputies. As one can see many training courses were given to the local fire and police authorities. The total number is somewhat misleading when you consider how many hours it really represents. For example our code class is 40 hours, inspection class 12 hours, investigation class 12 hours, and reporting class 12 hours. This averages out to be 19 hours per class or a total of 2,109 instructional hours. This is an enormous amount of time spent, especially when you consider the preparation time that goes into each class. I am very pleased with these results.

I am also very pleased to see all the activity in the other areas as well. Inspections are being done, many business meetings are held, and fire investigations as well. A very productive year all told.

We are definitely going to make a difference in the overall fire loss picture with this much effort given time. I only hope that we can keep progressing, as much more could be done, given the resources to do the job.

The fire losses reported by insurance companies do not necessarily represent a calendar year. Losses are not reported until they are paid. In many cases payment is not made for many months after a fire.

DISTRICT #1 ANNUAL REPORT
James E. Macklin
Deputy State Fire Marshal

During the year 1985-86 three Uniform Fire Code classes were conducted for 40 students, many of which were already certified but felt they needed some refresher. Thirty-three students were certified as inspectors. The same number of students were also taught the Basic Fire Prevention Inspection course.

A Uniform Fire Code Class is scheduled at Post Falls in September for all interested departments in the area. This course should conclude the need of further classes, at least for this year.

Three arson type classes were presented in the district, one at Kellogg for fire and police and two others at North Idaho College for fire, police, sheriffs and prosecutors.

A large number of code interpretation requests were answered during the year, a surprising number from architects about the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Code. There is a growing number from contractors.

I think the given area of responsibility, as written, is broad enough to give the latitude to respond to the needs of the fire service and any other organization that should require our services. We are not locked into specifics like so many state agencies, therefore, we can and do provide a service.

As I stated earlier, the Uniform Fire Code classes are about completed in this district for at least a year or two. I think now would be the time to monitor each participating department's progress in code enforcement programs. I've already been requested to return to some departments to clarify parts of the code and provide some continuity mainly because of the personalities of the people enforcing the code.

Overall, I think we are having an effect in the district, the involved people feel they have an organization to turn to for help and information at their level of understanding for implementation.

DISTRICT #2 ANNUAL REPORT
 John Boros
 Deputy State Fire Marshal

This report contains activities for the year 1985. From the contacts I have made, I have found everyone to be very receptive and very appreciative of our assistance in all of our services. Since October 15, 1984, I have traveled approximately 18,000 miles within my assigned district providing services to at least 80 percent of the cities and fire departments in my district. The services which I have provided have been in the following categories:

Visits and Meetings - My visits and meetings consisted of explaining the role and functions of the State Fire Marshal's office and what services our office had to offer. I have met with fire chiefs, mayors and council members, fire district commissioners, police chiefs, sheriffs and other law enforcement officials, insurance adjusters and legislators. I have received a warm welcome and everyone appeared to be very appreciative of our efforts in what our office is attempting to accomplish in assisting them in reducing the loss of life and property in their communities. My records reveal that I have visited with 65 fire departments within my district thus far.

Training - The classes that I have conducted covered the following subjects:

1. Conducting Basic Fire Prevention Inspections
2. Uniform Fire Code and Fire Inspector Certification
3. Fire/Arson Detection
4. Uniform Incident Reporting
5. Version IV update (Incident Reporting)

I have also provided fire/arson task force training in Payette and Canyon Counties and have assisted several fire departments in developing a fire prevention program. I was very pleased with the interest and enthusiasm expressed in all of the classes by the students.

Course Title	No. of Classes	No. of Depts. Represented	No. of Students
Uniform Fire Code	4	27	67
Fire/Arson Detection	6	22	126
Uniform Incident Rpt	3	3	6
Version IV Update	3	15	25
Arson Task Force Trng	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>41</u>
Totals	18	76	265

Fire Inspectors Certified 63

Public Education/Fire Safety Presentations - During the past year I have given several talks and presentations to civic organizations, clubs, mayors and council members, law enforcement officials, educators and other groups. My talks and presentations consisted of explaining the role and functions of the State Fire Marshal's Office, wood burning stoves fire safety and what services we had to offer etc. My records indicate I have talked to nine groups and total attendance was approximately 700.

UFC Inspections - I have assisted several departments in conducting fire inspections. The inspections were related to underground and above ground flammable liquid storage tanks, schools, commercial buildings, dwellings, day-care and group youth centers, manufacturing complexes, state penitentiary, envirosafe complex (hazardous materials) and lumber yards. My inspection record indicates I conducted 49 UFC inspections and 25 reinspections.

Fire/Arson Investigations - I have assisted several departments in conducting fire and arson investigations. My records indicate I have conducted 27 investigations, 11 suspected arson investigations and 16 fire investigations.

Court Appearances - I have worked with several attorneys and prosecutors preparing cases related to arson, etc. I appeared in federal court to testify as an expert witness. I have assisted Don Dillard in many other investigations. I have also spent many hours preparing for court.

Report/Office Duty - Several hours are spent on inspection reports, fire/arson investigation reports, preparing reports and files for insurance companies, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies. I am also involved in scheduling classes and preparing lesson plans etc.

Phone Calls - During my time in the office I spend several hours answering phone messages relating to code interpretations, new construction plan checks and class scheduling, UFC inspections (497 long distant calls).

I am very please to report that several of my goals and objectives for my district, have been accomplished. However, several departments still lack a commitment on a fire prevention program and an understanding of the fire code, as well as enforcement of the code. The departments that have adopted a fire prevention and inspection program are now experiencing a reduction of fire within their jurisdiction. I have noticed arson fires are on the increase. I feel this is due to the economy, and because of the arson classes we are conducting the departments are now starting to recognize the arson type fire more so than in the past. I have also encountered several departments' need to concentrate on

building a better relationship with their local enforcement agencies to develop a team concept in arson investigations.

My goals and objectives for 1986 would be to continue to make visits to my assigned departments encouraging them to adopt a fire prevention and inspection program and to get involved. I still plan to continue assisting the departments with inspection and code enforcement, training, and fire/arson investigations and any other assistance we can provide.

The general condition of the fire prevention programs in District #2 range from good to poor to nothing at all. I plan to continue to make a great effort to upgrade this area by the time of my next annual report.

I still find my job to be very rewarding and interesting and it is certainly a pleasure to work with all those individuals who are in my district.

DISTRICT #3 ANNUAL REPORT
Hal Call
Deputy State Fire Marshal

The following report describes the activities and events transpiring in District 3 for 1985.

Classes presented:

Uniform Fire Code	10 cities	49 students
Fire Arson Detection	4 cities	26 students
Basic Firefighting/Breathing Apparatus		10 students

I have received a number of requests for assistance from police departments, sheriff's offices, fire departments, mayors, fire commissioners and for public education/fire safety presentations as follows:

Fire Safety Inspections	25
Fire/Arson Investigation	5
Hazardous Building Abatement	1
Talks to Various Groups	7
Meetings with Fire Chiefs	58
Meetings with Mayors /Fire Commissioners	12

The support from cities, counties and fire districts appears to be strong. They appreciate our efforts and assistance in helping to educate the fire departments.

Although we now have a number of cities with certified fire inspectors, I am seeing some reluctance on the part of administrators to encourage their personnel to do inspections. This is due primarily to a fear of liability and the difficulty in obtaining and keeping insurance.

A major deterrent to more efficient fire departments in this area is due to inadequate funding, with short budgets very little can be done in the area of public fire safety education. This is an area that our office could provide much needed assistance.

Our future role should be one of continuing support and help as the needs arise. One area that needs particular attention is in arson investigation/prosecution. Most areas are not equipped to deal with this growing problem.

My goals for the coming year are to provide the help and assistance necessary to further reduce the staggering losses from fire and arson in this part of the state.

PROGRAM ANALYSIS

ARSON/FRAUD UNIT

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

HISTORY

1. The Arson/Fraud Unit was established under the State Fire Marshal's Office in January, 1982.
2. The original purpose of this unit was to provide investigative expertise to local law enforcement and fire agencies in the areas of arson and insurance fraud detection.
3. The most significant changes in our program since its inception have been:
 - (a) To increase the unit's role to include the development and training of county and multi-county arson task force teams made up of personnel from local law enforcement and fire agencies; and
 - (b) To expand our direct assistance role in field investigations of arson and suspicious fires.
4. The major accomplishments of this unit have been to be directly involved in increasing the number of arson fires detected and the prosecution of the culpable party or parties in many outlining areas, and to see a marked reduction in arson and suspicious fires in those areas where local arson task force teams have been developed.
5. The Arson/Fire Unit of the State Fire Marshal's Office derives its authority from Chapter 41 of the Idaho Insurance Code, Subsections 41-211 and 41-257.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. The benefits to Idahoans derived from our units' activities have been a marked increase in the prosecution of arsonists and a marked reduction in the number of arson or suspicious fires in those areas where arson task force teams have been developed and are currently operating. The reduced number of arson fires in these areas have had a direct positive relationship on tax reduction and budgeting problems now faced by local county government agencies.
2. The major purpose of the Arson/Fraud Unit is to provide to local county and other state agencies investigative expertise in field investigations of arson and suspicious fires, and to

provide a program whereby local agencies are more self-reliant in detecting arson fires and prosecution of the culpable parties.

ANALYSIS

1. Because arson is the most financially damaging crime on the books, I feel any restructuring of the Arson/Fraud Unit should include any advanced training available in arson investigation detection and prosecution so this training could be passed on by the unit personnel to those agencies or group of agencies who avail themselves of the unit's expertise and training programs available.

2. Changes in statewide procedures for the unit should include sufficient manpower and equipment in order to provide the services the unit has been trained for to all state districts within its jurisdiction.

3. I feel the arson statutes (Section 18-801 through 18-804) should be changed to include a mandatory prison sentence and ordered restitution in all arson violations falling under Section 18-801, Idaho Code.

4. There is a high probability that additional demands for investigative expertise and training will be placed on the arson/fraud unit because:

- (a) The unit will make available to certain areas of the state high-tech mobile arson detection vans and manpower which heretofore have not been available in this state; and
- (b) Under the system currently used, the state is divided into three (3) separate districts by the State Fire Marshal's Office. One van and one arson investigator will be located in each of the districts and made available to those authorized agencies within those districts for investigation and training use.
- (c) Revenues for the additional manpower and equipment would be made available through the current funding used to fund the State Fire Marshal's Office, i.e., the assessment of insurance carriers now authorized to write insurance business in the State of Idaho.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL
ARSON AND FRAUD UNIT

Year-End Report
December 31, 1985

Total number of cases handled-----46
 Arson - 26 (pending 7)
 Fraud - 10 (pending 2)
 Fire - 10

Total number of cases filed
 with prosecuting attorneys -----12

Total number of criminal complaints
 issued/arrests-----11
 Arson - 4
 Fraud - 7

Monetary recovery made in restitution and/or saved by
insurers not having to pay claims-----\$190,755.54

Total number of miles traveled in investigations-----14,033

The arson/fraud unit was involved in the investigations of
the first two RICO (racketeering) cases to be filed in
Idaho.

The unit has also been instrumental in setting up the first
two multi-county arson task force teams in Idaho. Three
more teams are scheduled for training and implementation the
early part of 1986.

The arson/fraud unit also was involved in one of Idaho's
longest running extradition cases involving an arson/fraud
case. From date investigation was initiated to date of
conviction - five years passed.

Meetings were held with P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and
Training Academy) council on issues of peace officer
certification and recognition of the State Fire Marshal's
Office as a law enforcement agency. P.O.S.T. council agreed
to certification of qualified State Fire Marshal deputies as
peace officers and to recognize the State Fire Marshal's
Office as a law enforcement agency.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL
ARSON AND FRAUD UNIT

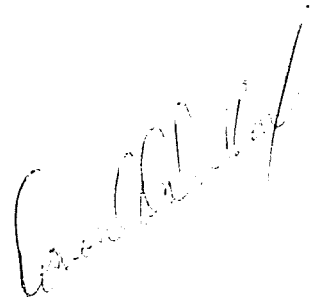
Over the last 12-months, the State Fire Marshal's office has helped establish two trial multi-jurisdictional Arson Task Force teams -- one in Canyon County and the second in Payette County.

The Arson Task Force concept is to train local and county agencies in arson detection and prosecution, utilizing the manpower and collective knowledge of those in the local agencies to investigate and prosecute arson set fires.

The team concept allows for sufficient diversification to not only establish the cause and origin of suspicious and/or arson set fires, but further to move the investigation to a prosecutable stage.

The teams are being trained in arson detection by John Boros and Don Dillard of the State Fire Marshal's office and should the Arson Task Force team concept prove viable, other teams throughout the state will be formed.

Within 4-months after the initiation of the Canyon County Arson Task Force team, a major fire was investigated and established to be arson and the case is now being prepared for prosecution.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to a representative of the State Fire Marshal's office, is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

Part II

REPORT AND ANALYSIS OF FIRES IN IDAHO January 1, 1985 - December 31, 1985

The statistical data contained in part II of this report is made up from reports this office receives from many, but not all, fire departments from every geographical area of the State. We received and processed over 9,000 reports in 1985 as compared to just over 8,000 in 1984. The increase in reports is due to more departments reporting rather than more fires. The reports are entered into our own computer and processed in the format you are about to see in the following pages.

The reporting system is a part of a national effort to find out what is causing fires in our country so that programs can be developed to prevent them. Fighting fire with intelligence is the national theme. The system also offers a fire department the same opportunity for prevention data, as well as a having a nationally recognized legal document of a fire occurrence. I would urge those fire departments that are not reporting to give serious consideration to becoming a part of this system. It is not only a good business practice but a duty to the state and the nation.

IDAHO FIRE INCIDENT SUMMARY

Situation Found Catagory	Incidents
Building Fires	2,329
Vehicle Fires	699
All Other Fires	1,899
Total Fires	4,927
Overpressure Ruptures	30
Rescue Calls	93
Hazardous Conditions	847
Service Calls	559
Good Intent Calls	1,446
False/Malicious Calls	1,404
All Other Calls	127
Total Incidents Reported **	9,433
Times Mutual Aid Given	380
Times Mutual Aid Recvd	226
Total Fire Dollar Loss \$	18,598,928
Civilian Fire Injuries	66
Civilian Fire Deaths	10
Fire Service Injuries	122
Fire Service Deaths	0

All Fires by Area of Origin	FIRES	INJURY	DEATHS
Hallway, Corridor, Mall	11	0	0
Exterior Stairway	4	0	0
Interior Stairway	2	0	0
Escalator	1	0	0
Lobby, Entrance Way	2	0	0
Means of Egress - not classified	13	0	0
Large Assembly Area	4	0	0
Large Open Room	3	3	0
Small Assembly Area	5	0	0
Lounge Area	116	23	2
Sales, Showroom Area	9	0	0
Library	4	0	0
Swimming Pool	8	3	0
Assembly, Sales Areas-not classif.	2	0	0
Sleeping Room Less Than 5	96	10	1
Sleeping Area For More Than 5	3	0	0
Dining, lunchroom, Cafeteria	17	0	0
Kitchen, Cooking Area	224	22	2
Lavatory, Locker Room, Cloakroom	39	3	0
Laundry Room, Area	44	2	0
Office	7	0	0
Laboratory	5	0	0
Printing, Photographic room, area	1	0	0
First Aid, Treatment Room	1	0	0
Operating Room	2	0	0
Electronic Equipment Room	2	0	0
Projection Room Area	2	0	0
Process, Manufacturing Area	13	3	0
Function Areas - not classified	10	0	0
Product Storage Areas	47	1	0
Closet	18	1	0
Supply Storage Room or Area	30	5	0
Records Storage Room, Vault	2	0	0
Shipping, Receiving, Loading Area	2	0	0
Trash or Rubbish Area, Container	196	1	0
Garage/Carport/Vehicle Storage Area	131	14	0
Storage Area - not classified	37	1	0
Elevator, Dumb-Waiter	3	1	0
Utility Shaft	1	0	0
Light Shaft	1	0	0
Chute	1	0	0
Duct	5	0	0
Display Window	3	1	0
Chimney	728	8	0
Conveyor	7	0	0
Service Facility - not classified	8	0	0
Machinery Room Area	12	1	0
Heating Equip./Water Heater Area	62	3	0
Switchgear Area, Transformer Vault	11	0	0
Incinerator Room, Area	4	1	0
Maintenance Shop, Area	14	2	0
Enclosure with Pressurized Air	2	0	0
Service, Equip. Area-not classified	9	0	0
Crawl Space, Substructure Space	49	4	0
Exterior Balcony, Open Porch	10	0	0
Ceiling and Floor Assembly	30	1	0
Ceiling and Roof Assembly	80	9	0

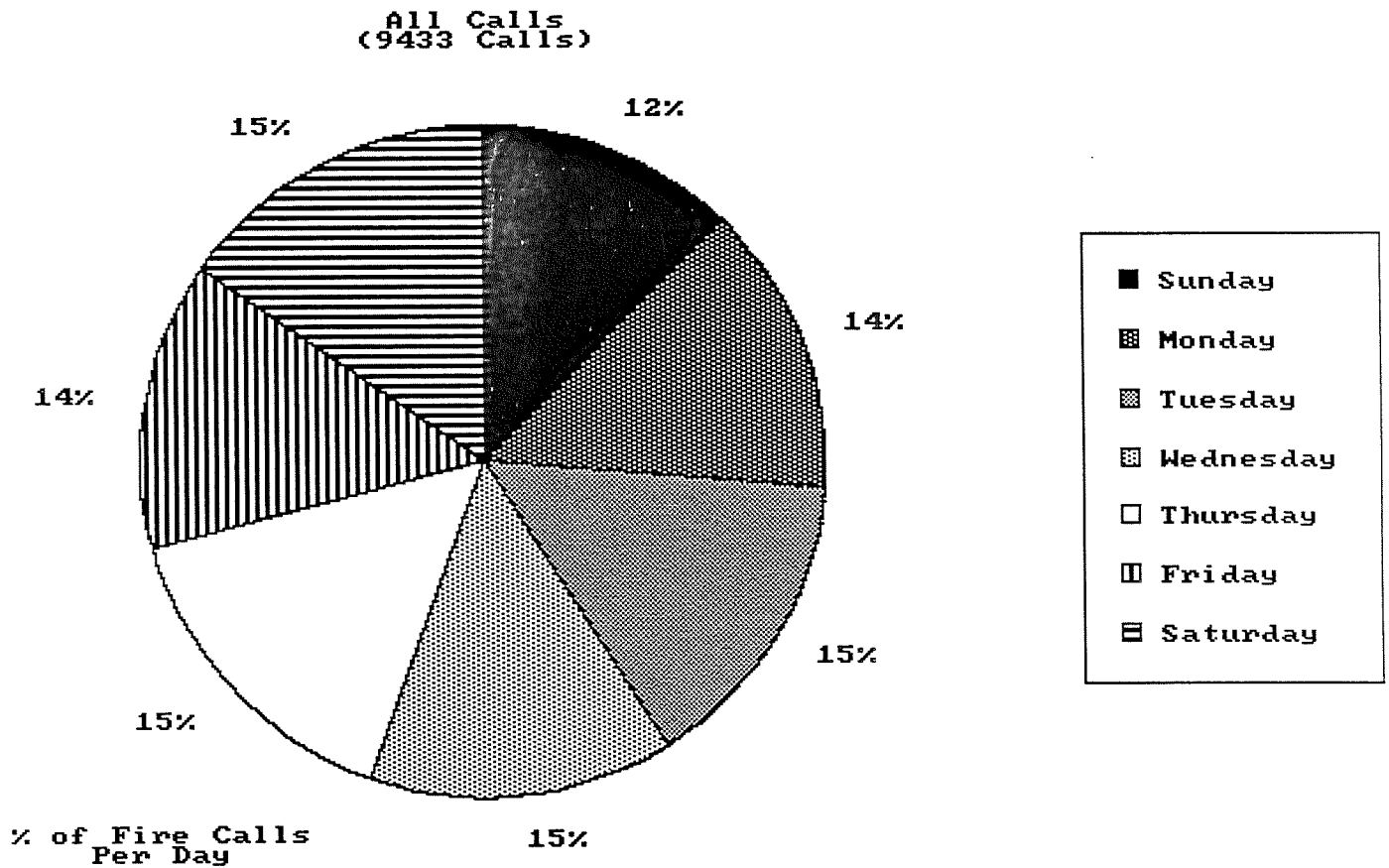
Wall Assembly	79	5	0
Exterior Wall Surface	91	3	0
Exterior Roof Surface	34	1	0
Structural Area - not classified	27	1	0
Passenger Area of Transport Equip.	78	2	0
Trunk, Load Carrying Area	32	0	0
Engine Area/Running Gear/Wheel Area	439	1	0
Fuel Tank, Fuel Line Area	27	0	2
Operating, Control Area	19	0	0
Exterior Exposed Surface	21	0	0
Transportation Vehicle Areas-not cl	19	0	0
On or near Railroad Right of Way	31	0	0
Highway, Public Way, Street	176	2	0
Court, Terrace, Patio	21	0	2
Lawn, Field, Open Area	1,106	8	0
Wildland Area, Woods	81	5	0
Multiple Location, Use Area	12	5	0
Not Applicable	21	0	0
Other, Not Classified	74	0	1
ORIGIN Unknown or Not Reported	293	14	0
Total All Fires - Area of Orig	4,692	163	10

All Fires by Ignition Factor	FIRES	INJURY	DEATHS
Incendiary, Not during civil dist.	113	11	0
Suspicious, Not during civil dist.	228	15	0
Abandoned discarded material	266	10	2
Thawing	27	2	0
Falling asleep	10	3	0
Inadequate control of open fire	373	3	0
Cutting, welding too close	57	5	0
Children with, child playing	198	2	0
Unconscious, mental/phys impairment	10	0	0
Misuse of heat - not classified	88	4	0
Fuel spilled, released accidentally	22	2	0
Improper fueling technique	16	6	0
Flamm. liquid used to kindle fire	7	1	0
Washing part, cleaning, painting	6	3	0
Improper container	16	1	0
Combustible too close to heat	98	2	0
Improper storage	20	0	0
Children with, child playing	121	2	0
Misuse of material - not classified	51	1	0
Part failure, leak, break	181	2	0
Automatic control failure	19	0	0
Manual control failure	3	0	0
Short circuit, ground fault	223	11	0
Other electrical failure	73	5	0
Lack of maintenance, worn out	163	2	0
Backfire	127	0	0
Mechanical failure - not classified	29	1	0
Design deficiency	23	0	0
Construction deficiency	49	7	0
Installed too close to combust	80	6	1
Other installation deficiency	25	2	0
Property too close to	43	2	0
Design/Const/Instal.-not classified	12	0	0
Collision, overturn, knockdown	22	1	0
Accidentally turned on	23	1	0
Unattended	131	9	1
Overloaded	43	0	0
Spontaneous heating	44	0	0
Improper startup, shutdown proced.	13	4	0
Operational Deficiency-not classif.	692	6	0
High wind	58	0	0
Lightning	28	1	0
Natural Condition - not classified	9	0	0
Animal	3	0	0
Rekindled from a previous fire	96	2	0
Not Applicable	15	0	0
Other Fires Not Classified by Code	242	3	1
Cause Unknown or Not Reported	510	25	5
Totals of All Fire Causes	4,706	163	10

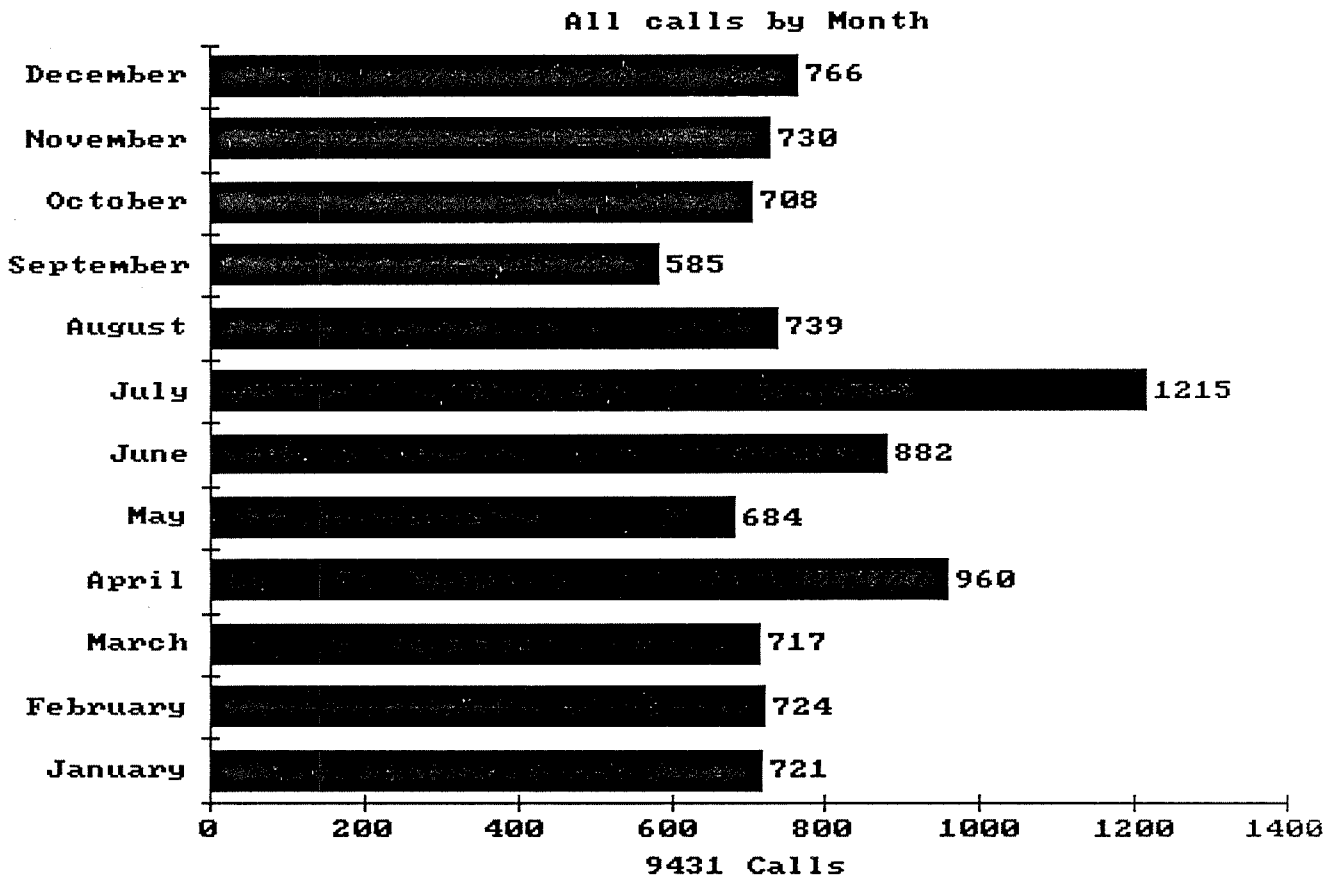
All Fires by Form of Heat	FIRES	INJURY	DEATHS
Fuel-Fired/Powered equip.-insuffic.	18	0	0
Spark, ember, flame/gas fueled eq.	36	1	0
Heat from gas fueled equipment	89	11	0
Spark, ember, flame/liquid fuel eq.	44	0	0
Heat from liquid fueled equip	56	0	0
Spark, flame - solid fueled equip.	103	2	1
Heat from solid fueled equipment	845	19	0
Spark, flame from equip-fuel unknow	9	0	0
Heat from equip - fuel not known	7	0	0
Heat from fuel Powered/Fired eq unk	18	2	0
Electrical - insufficient info.	43	3	0
Water caused short circuit arc	7	0	0
Short circuit arc/mechanical	38	1	0
Short circuit arc/worn insulation	101	9	0
Unspecified short circuit arc	171	4	0
Arc from faulty contact, loose conn	39	0	0
Arc, spark from operating equip.	36	1	0
Heat from overloaded equip.	52	1	0
Flourescent light ballast	7	1	0
Electrical - not classified	8	0	0
Heat from Smoking Material -insuff.	23	0	0
Cigarette	155	7	0
Pipe	2	0	0
Heat from Smoking Material-not clas	8	0	0
Heat from Open Flame/Spark-insuffic	87	9	0
Cutting torch operation	27	1	0
Welding torch operation	15	2	0
Torch operation-not cutting/welding	33	6	0
Candle, taper	15	4	0
Match	413	8	1
Lighter	26	0	0
Open fire or flame	427	3	0
Backfire from engine	106	0	0
Heat from Open Flame/Spark-not clas	46	1	0
Heat from Hot Object-insuffic. info	61	2	0
Heat spark from friction	60	2	2
Molten, hot material	17	2	0
Hot ember, ash	105	4	0
Electric lamp	36	0	0
Rekindle, reignition	82	2	0
Properly operating elec. equipment	171	13	1
Improperly operating elec. equip.	41	0	0
Hot object not classified	52	4	1
Explosive, Fireworks-insuffic. info	7	0	0
Explosive	4	0	0
Fireworks	194	0	0
Paper cap, party popper	2	0	0
Model rocket - not amateur	1	0	0
Incendiary device	3	0	0
Natural Source-Insufficient Info.	12	0	0
Sun's heat	4	0	0
Spontaneous ignition/chemical react	50	0	0
Lighting discharge	27	1	0
Static discharge	1	0	0
Natural Source not classified	1	0	0
Hostile fire - insufficient info.	1	0	0
Direct flame	23	1	0

Radiated heat	23	1	0
Flying brand, ember, spark	25	2	0
Conducted heat	9	0	0
Hostile fire - not classified	10	1	0
Multiple forms (multiple ignitions)	3	0	0
Form of Heat - not classified	40	0	1
Heat Form Unknown or Not Reported	1,010	64	6
Total All Fires - Form of Heat	4,692	163	10

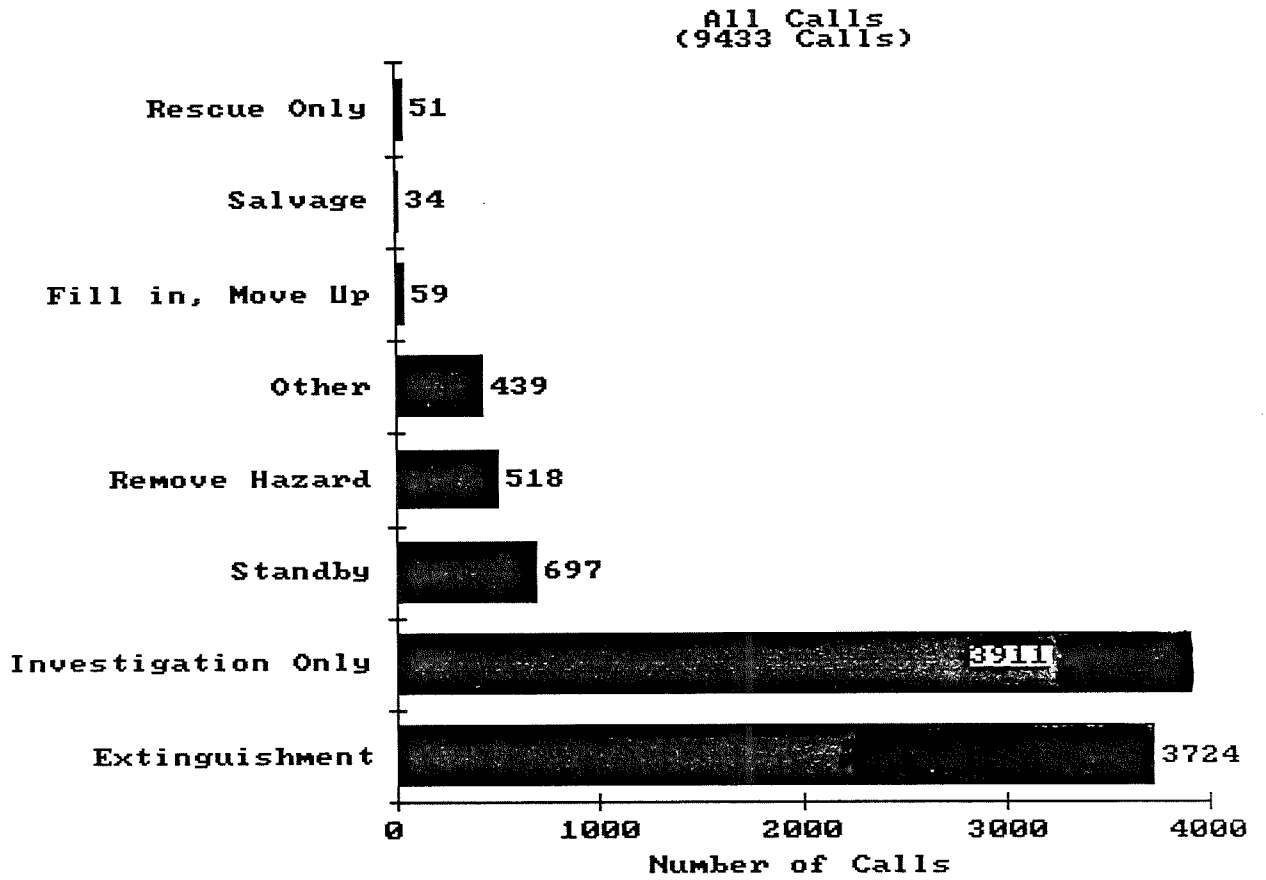
ALL CALLS
BY DAY



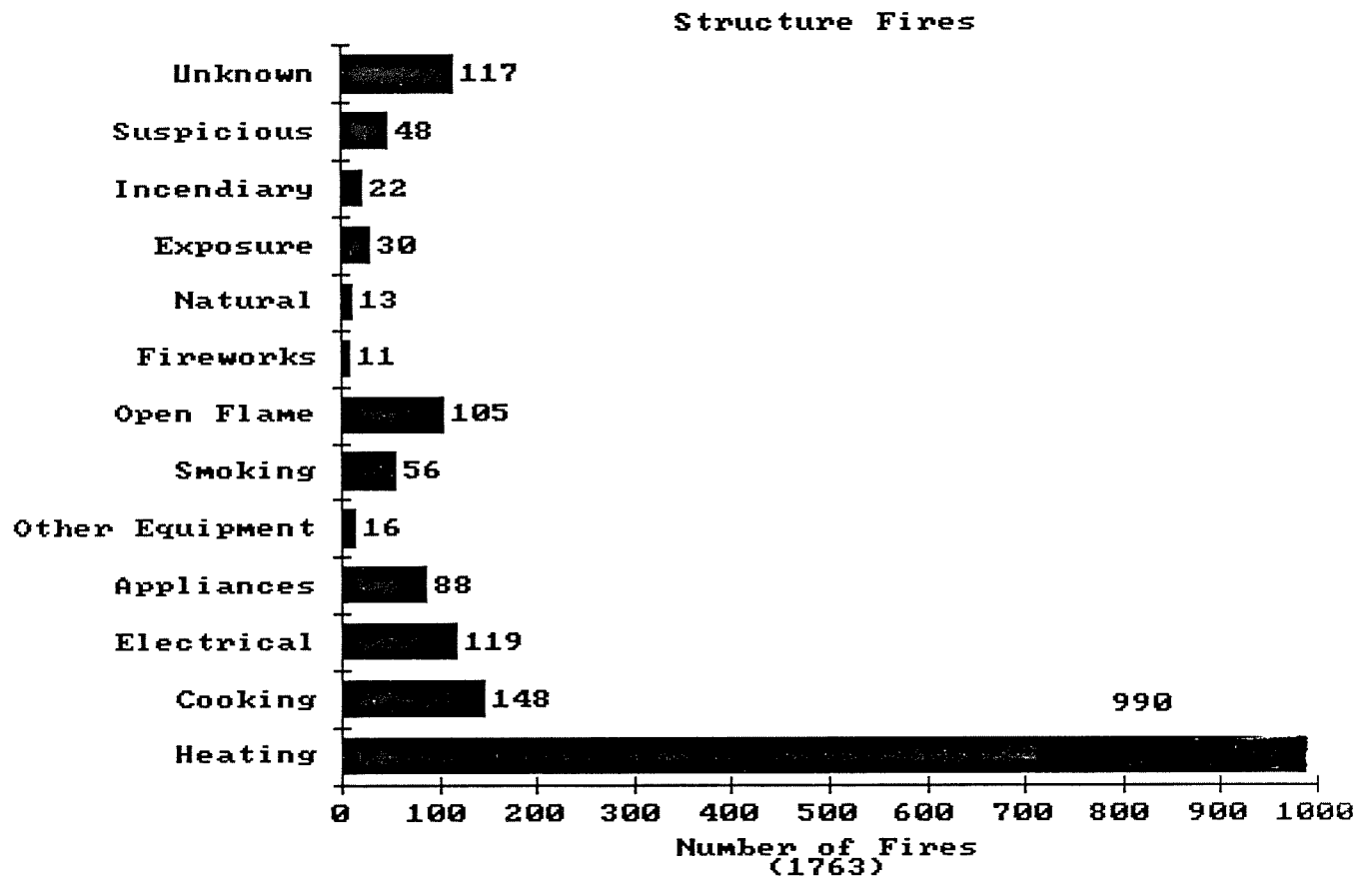
ALL CALLS
BY MONTH



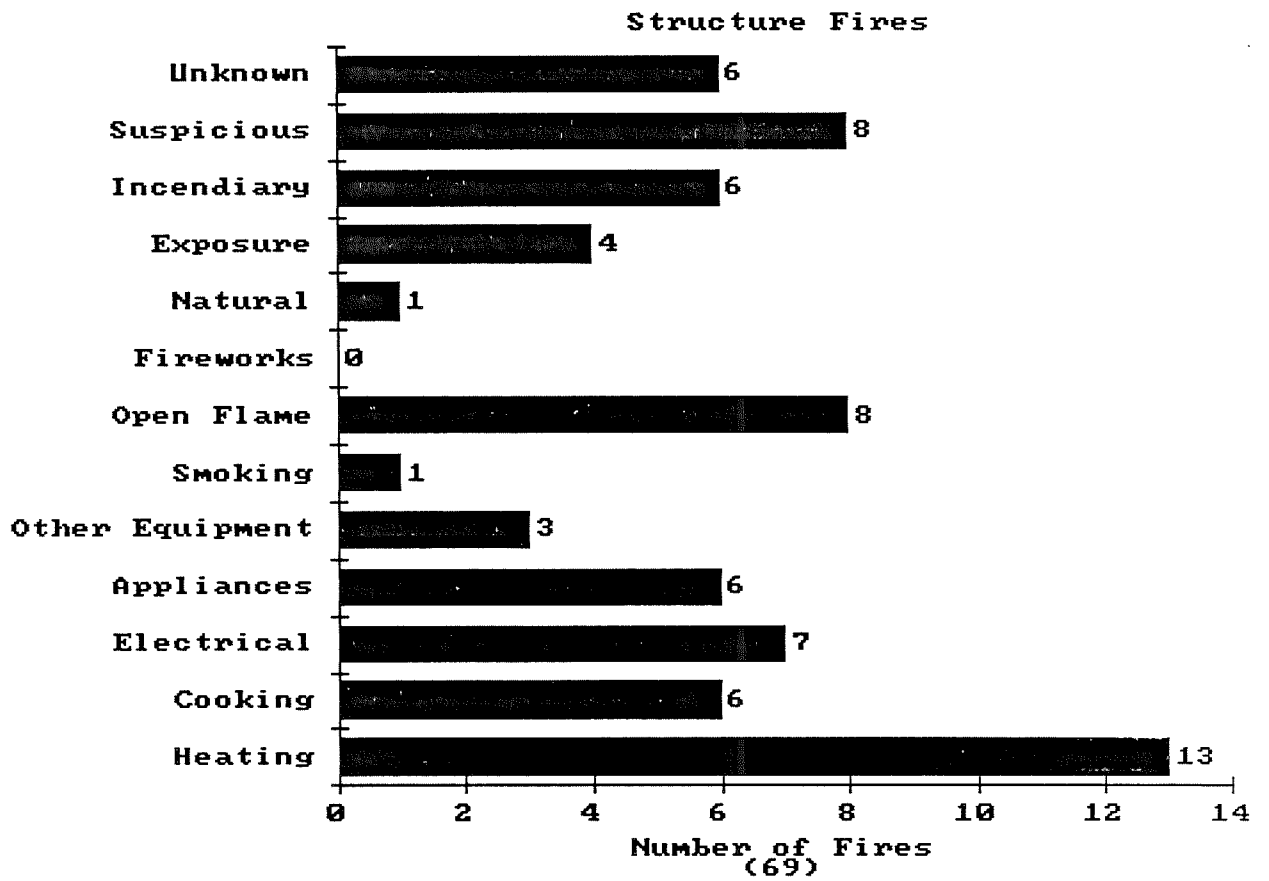
ALL CALLS
BY TYPE OF ACTION TAKEN



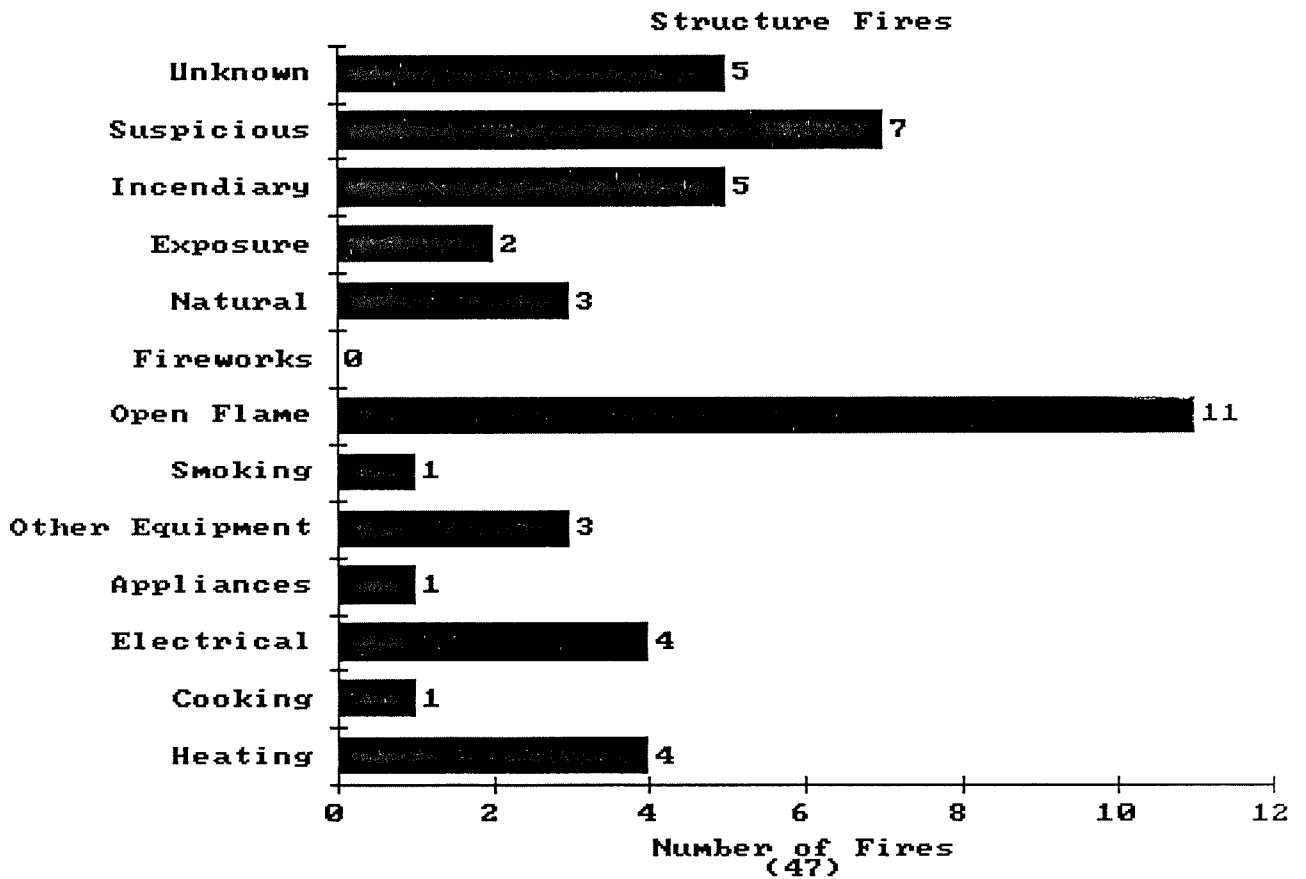
STRUCTURE FIRES
RESIDENTIAL FIRE CAUSES



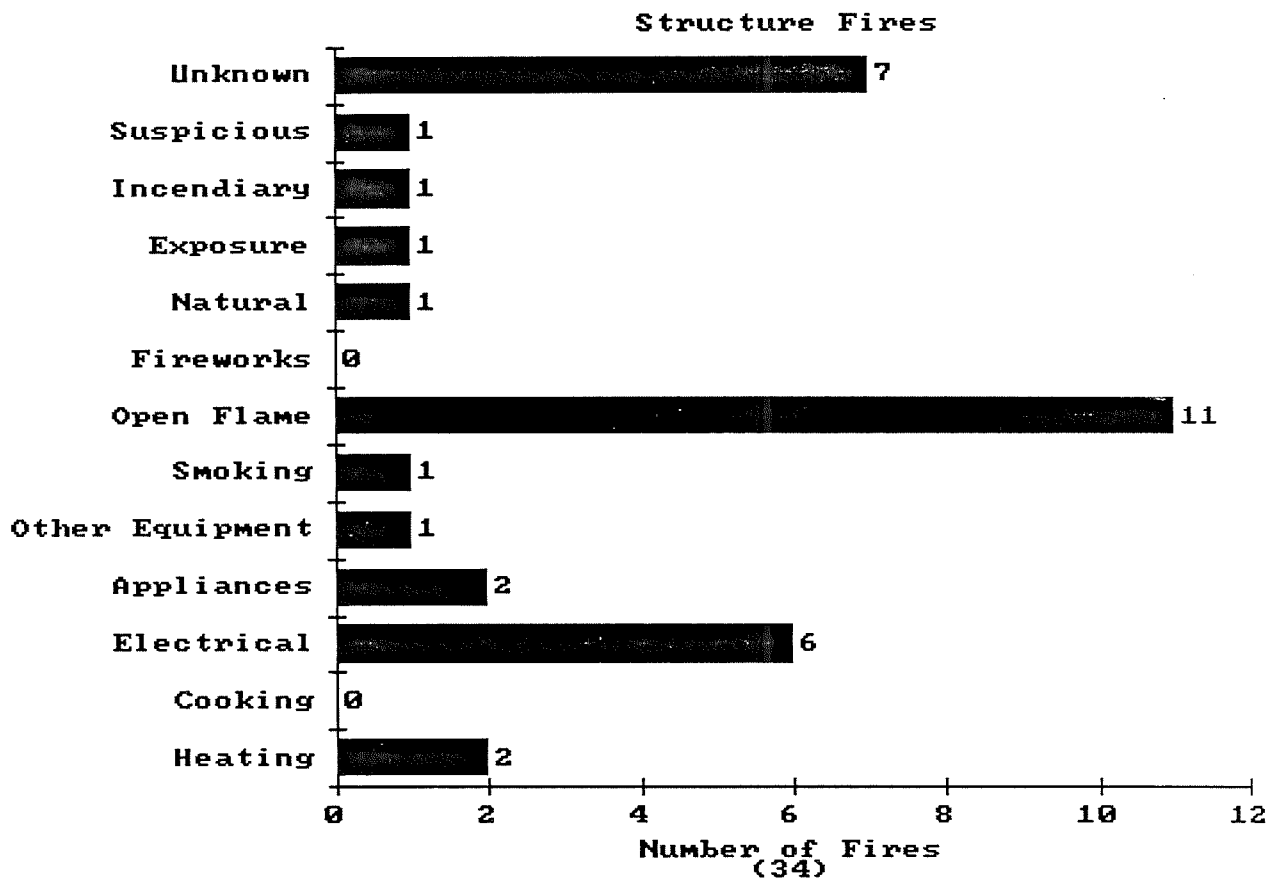
STRUCTURE FIRES
STORE/OFFICE FIRE CAUSES



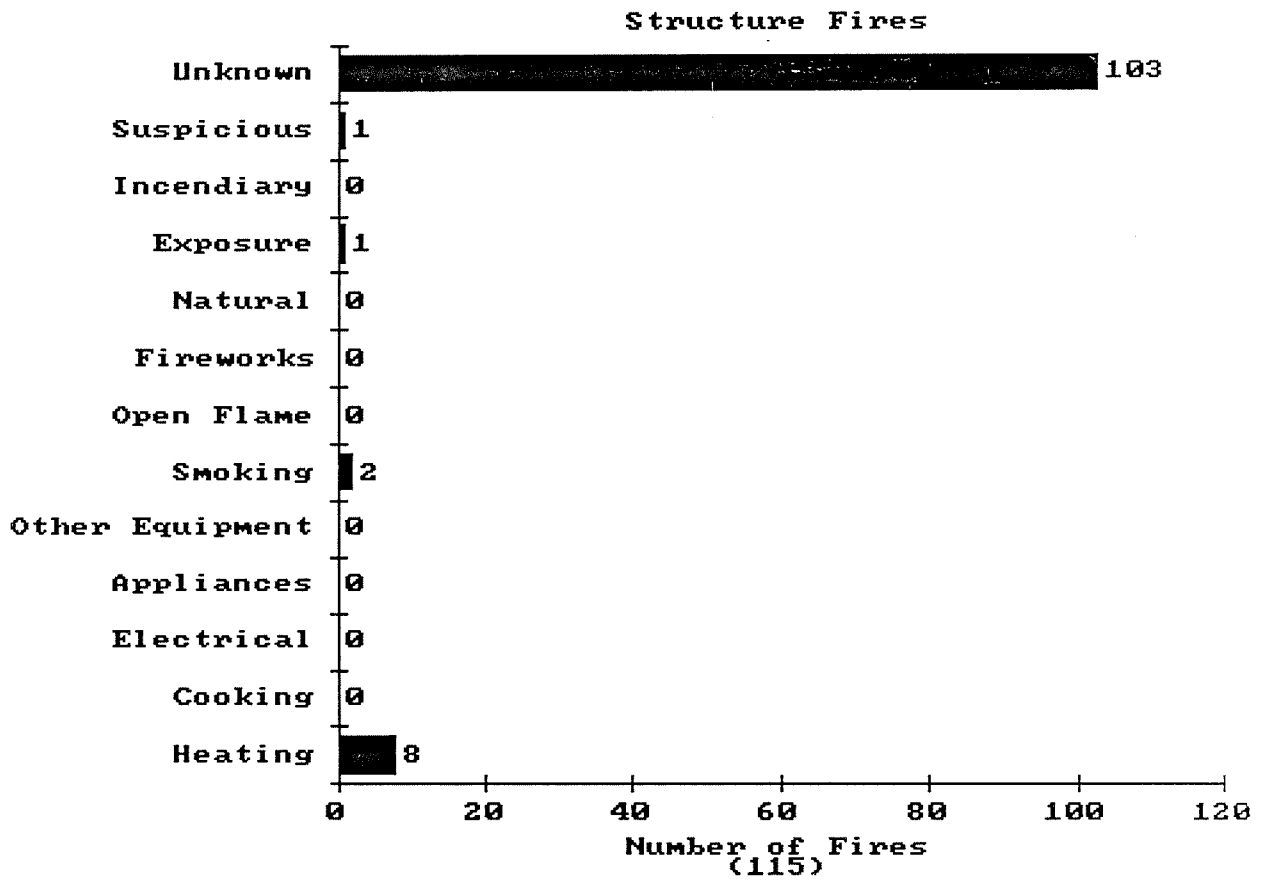
STRUCTURE FIRES
SPECIAL PROPERTIES



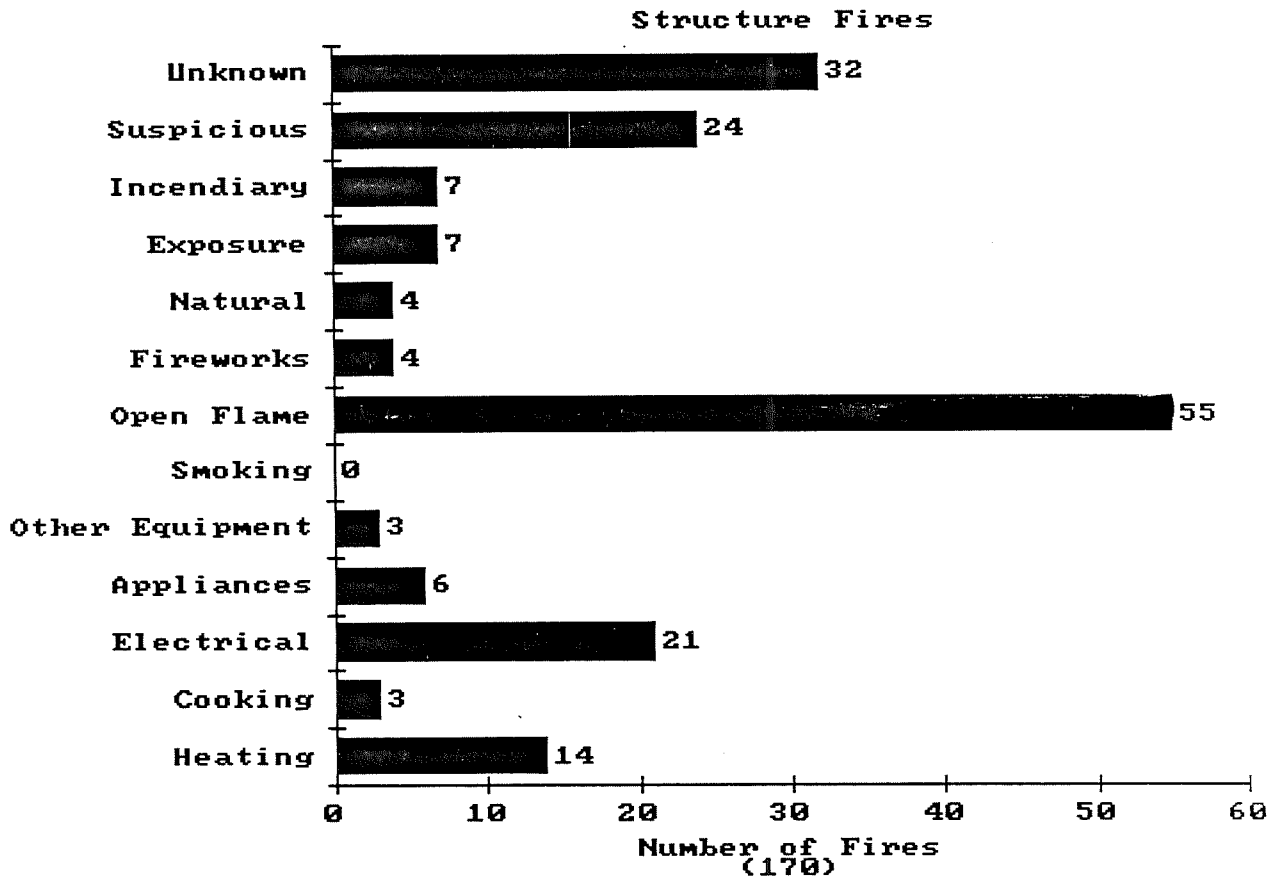
STRUCTURE FIRES
BASIC INDUSTRIAL FIRE CAUSES



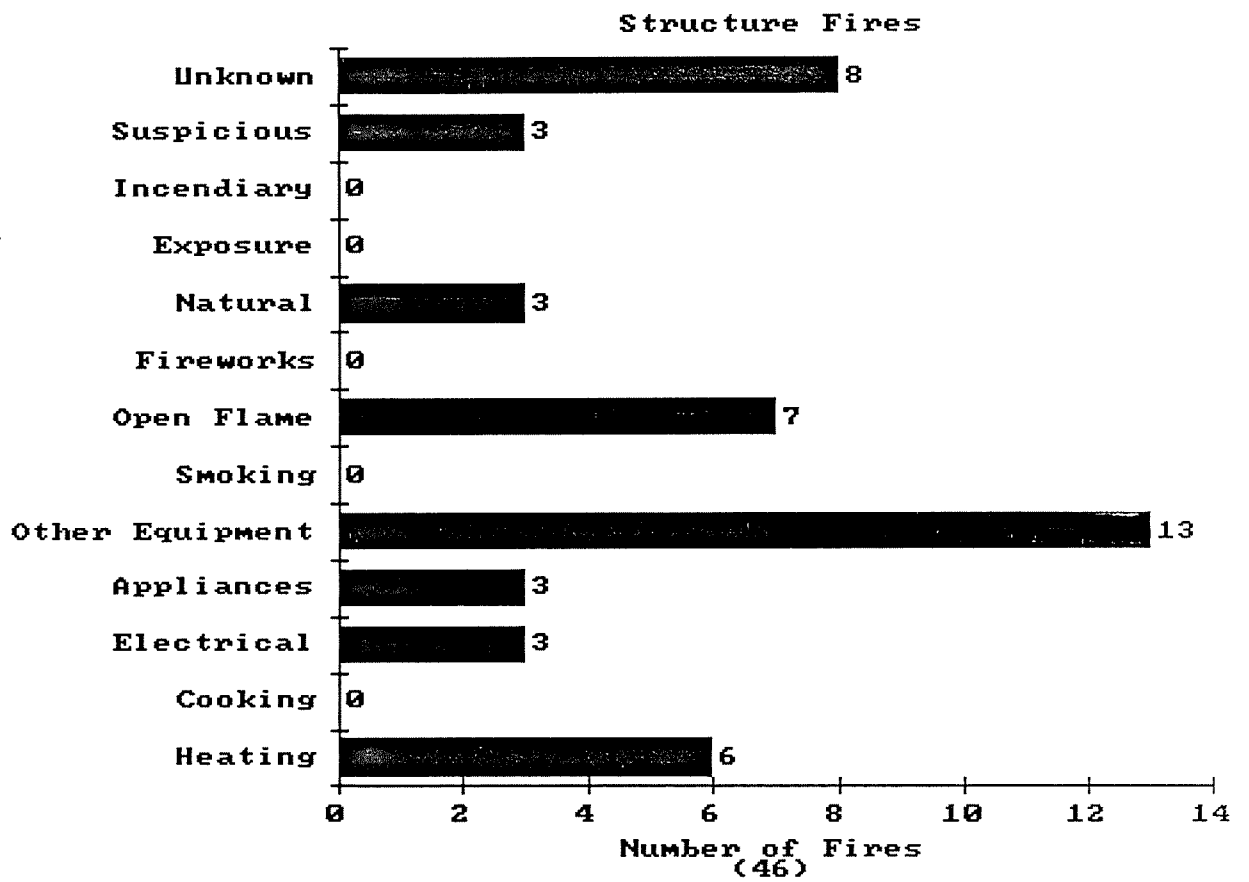
STRUCTURE FIRES
UNCLASSIFIED PROPERTY



STRUCTURE FIRES
STORAGE FIRE CAUSES

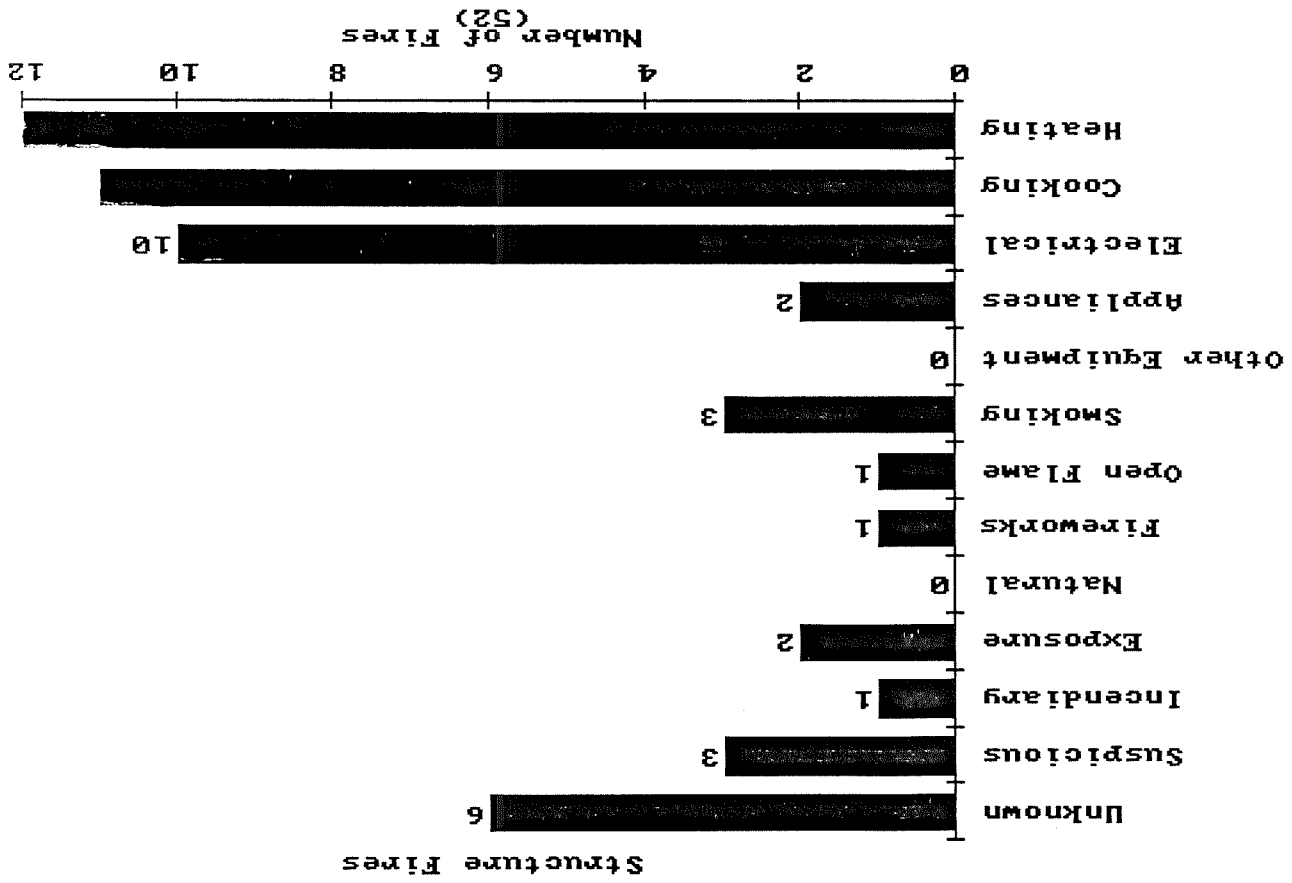


STRUCTURE FIRES
MANUFACTURING FIRE CAUSES

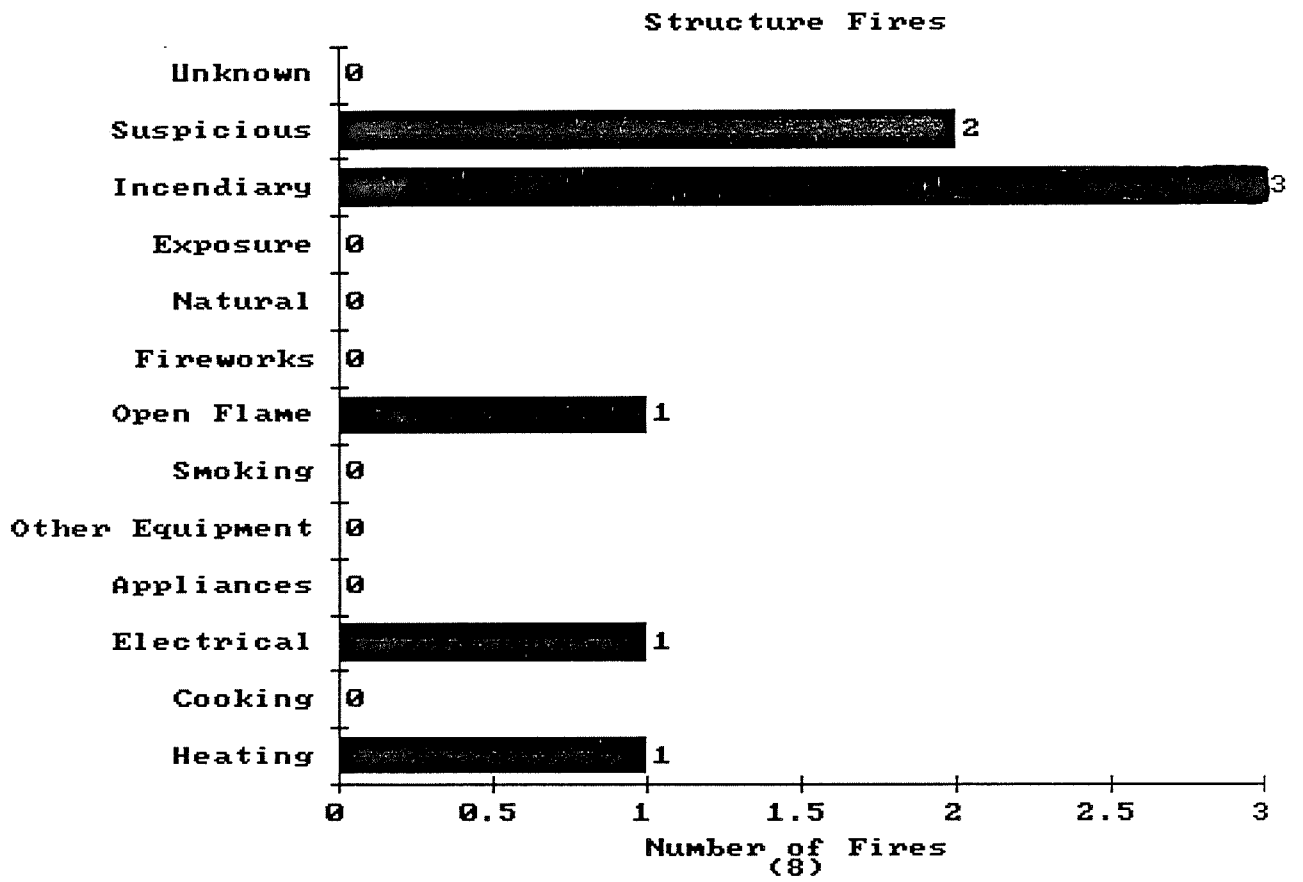


PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PROPERTIES

STRUCTURE FIRES

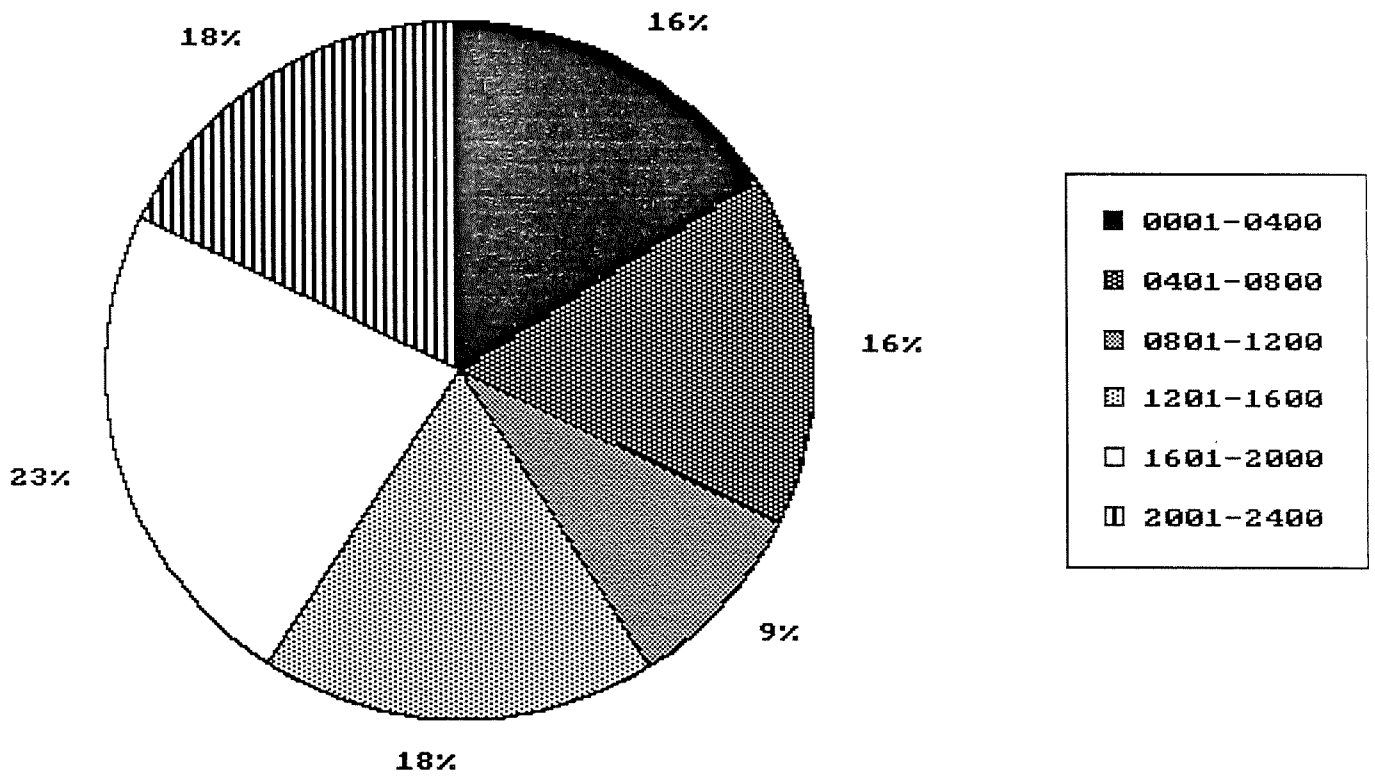


STRUCTURE FIRES
SCHOOL PROPERTIES

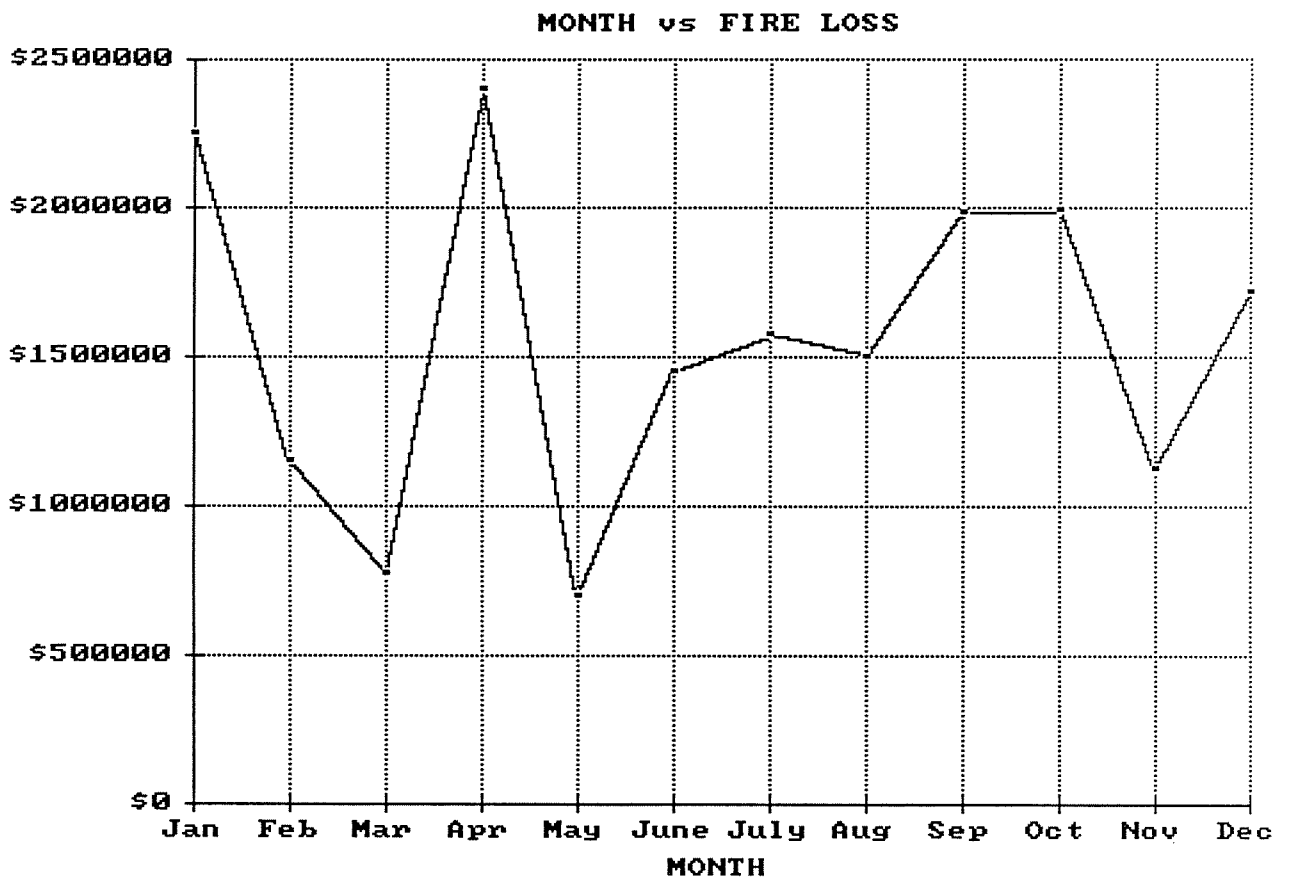


FIRE LOSS
ALARM TIME

ALARM TIME vs. FIRE LOSS

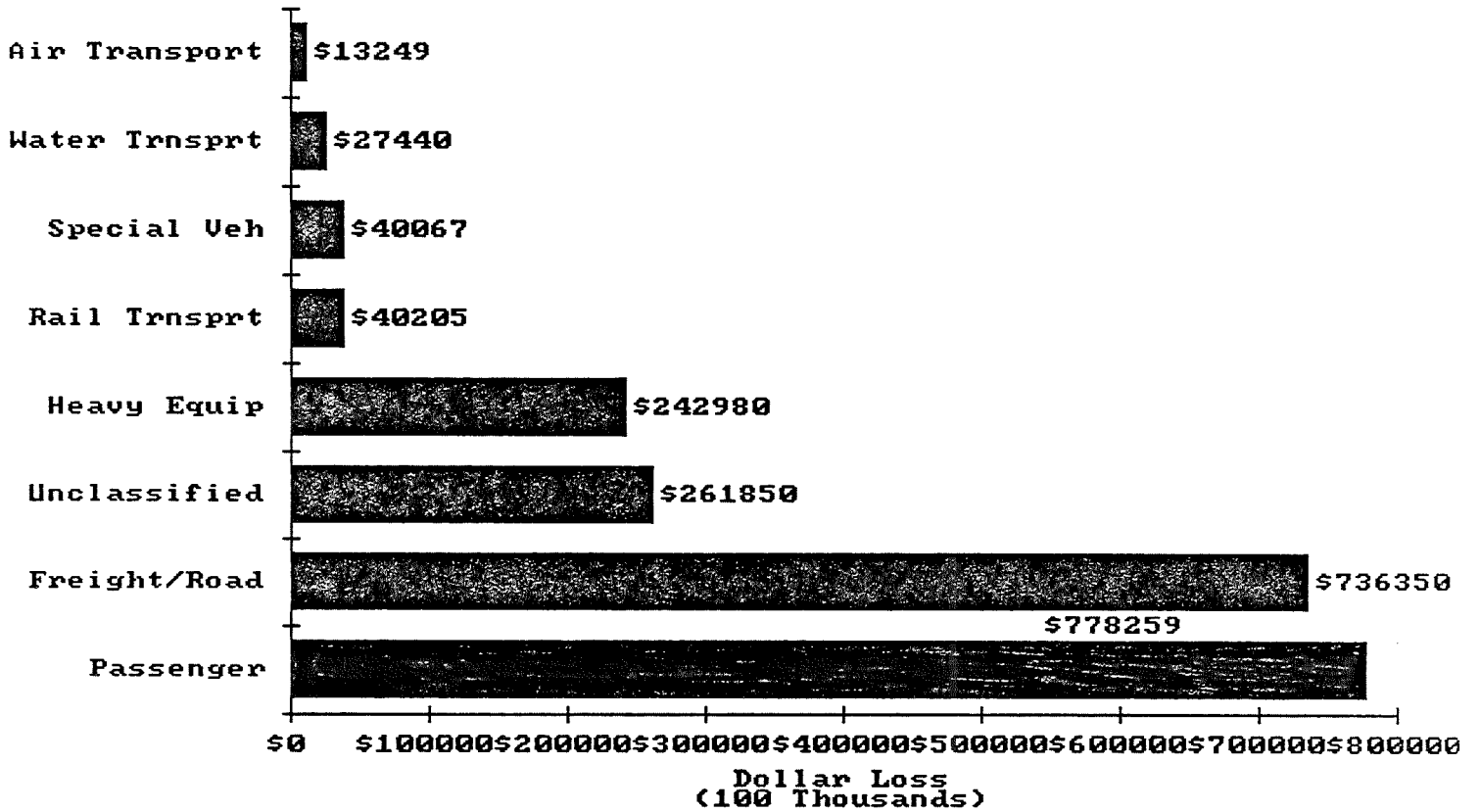


FIRE LOSS
BY MONTH

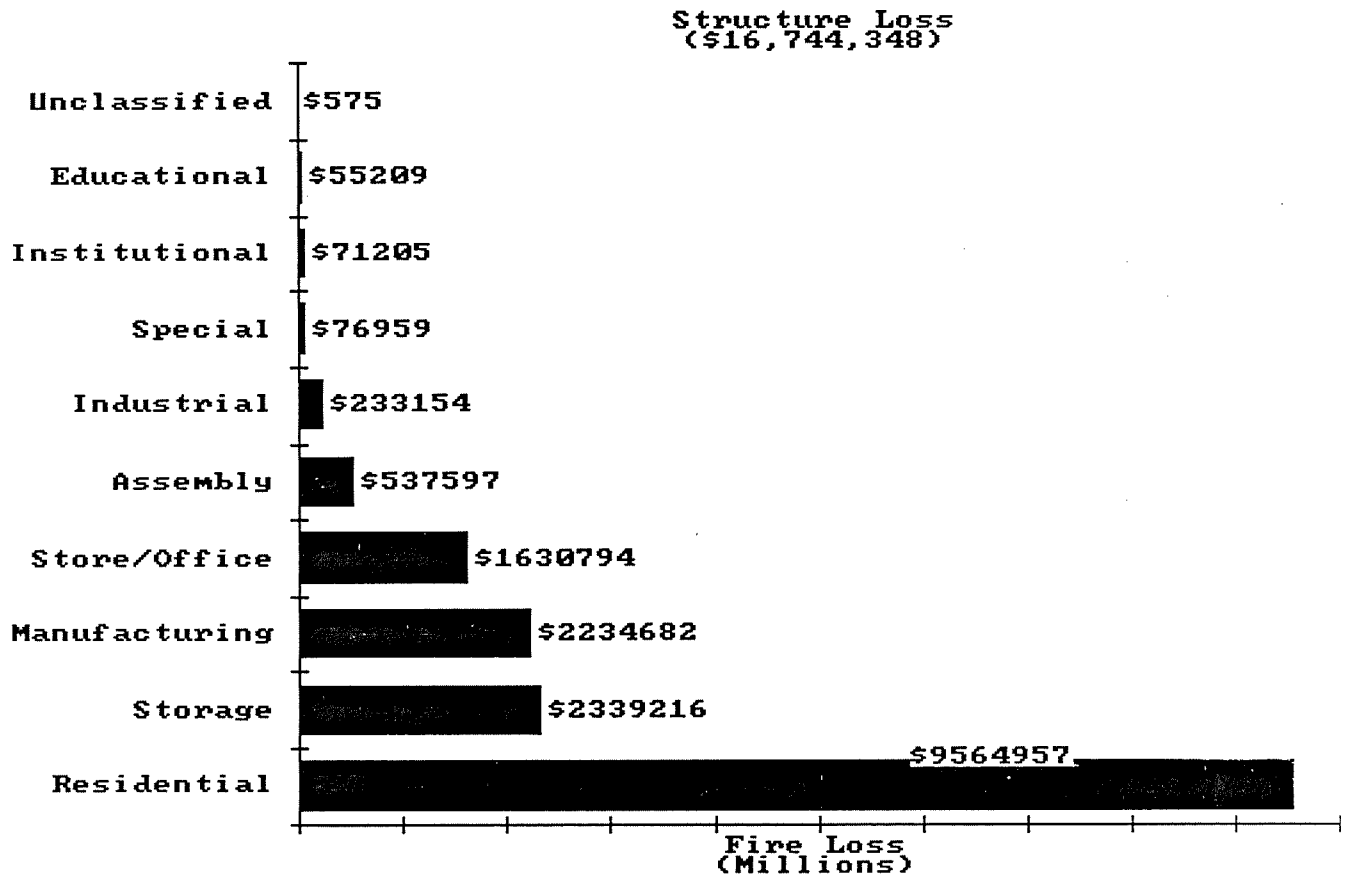


FIRE LOSS
MOBILE PROPERTY TYPE

Fire Loss by Mobile Property Type
(\$2,140,400)

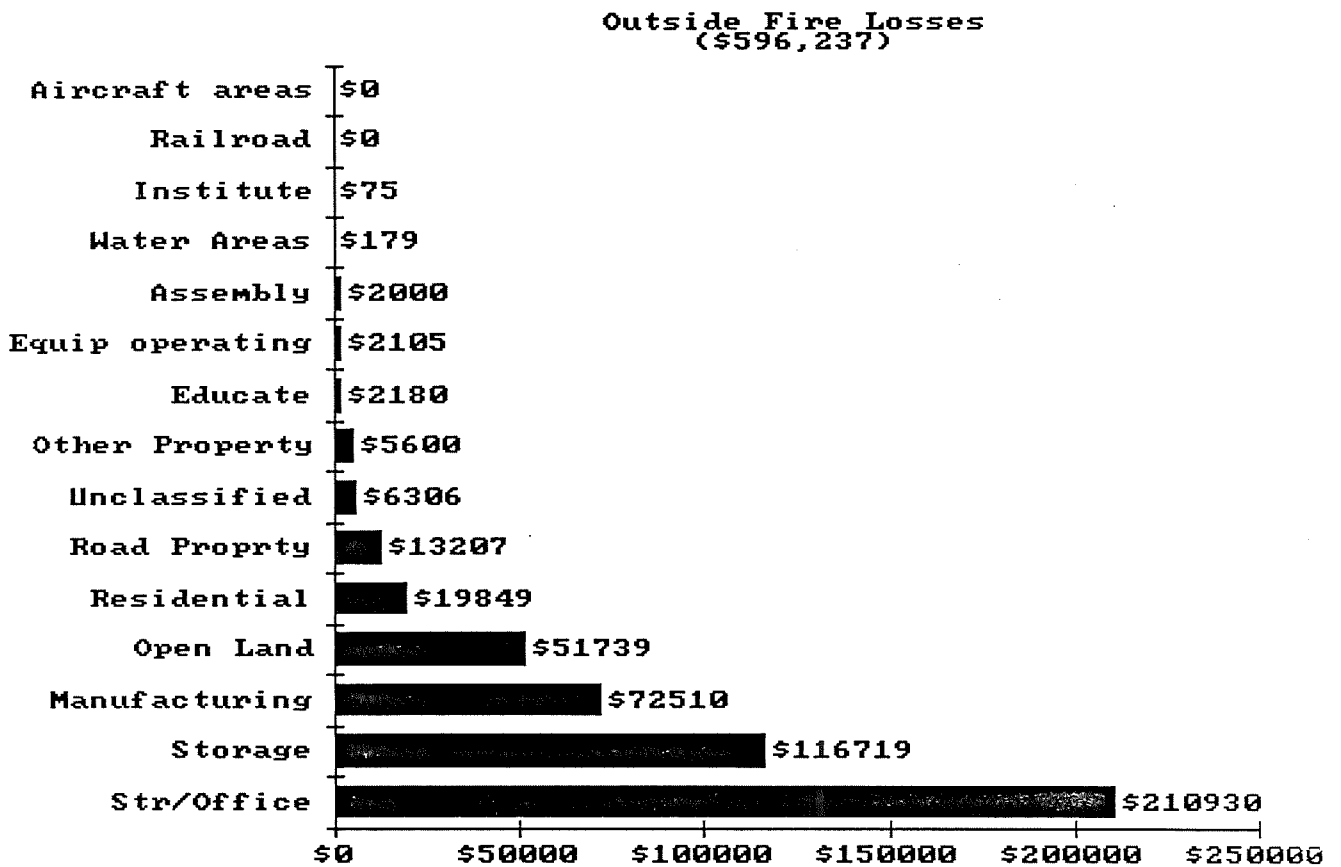


FIRE LOSS
PROPERTY TYPE

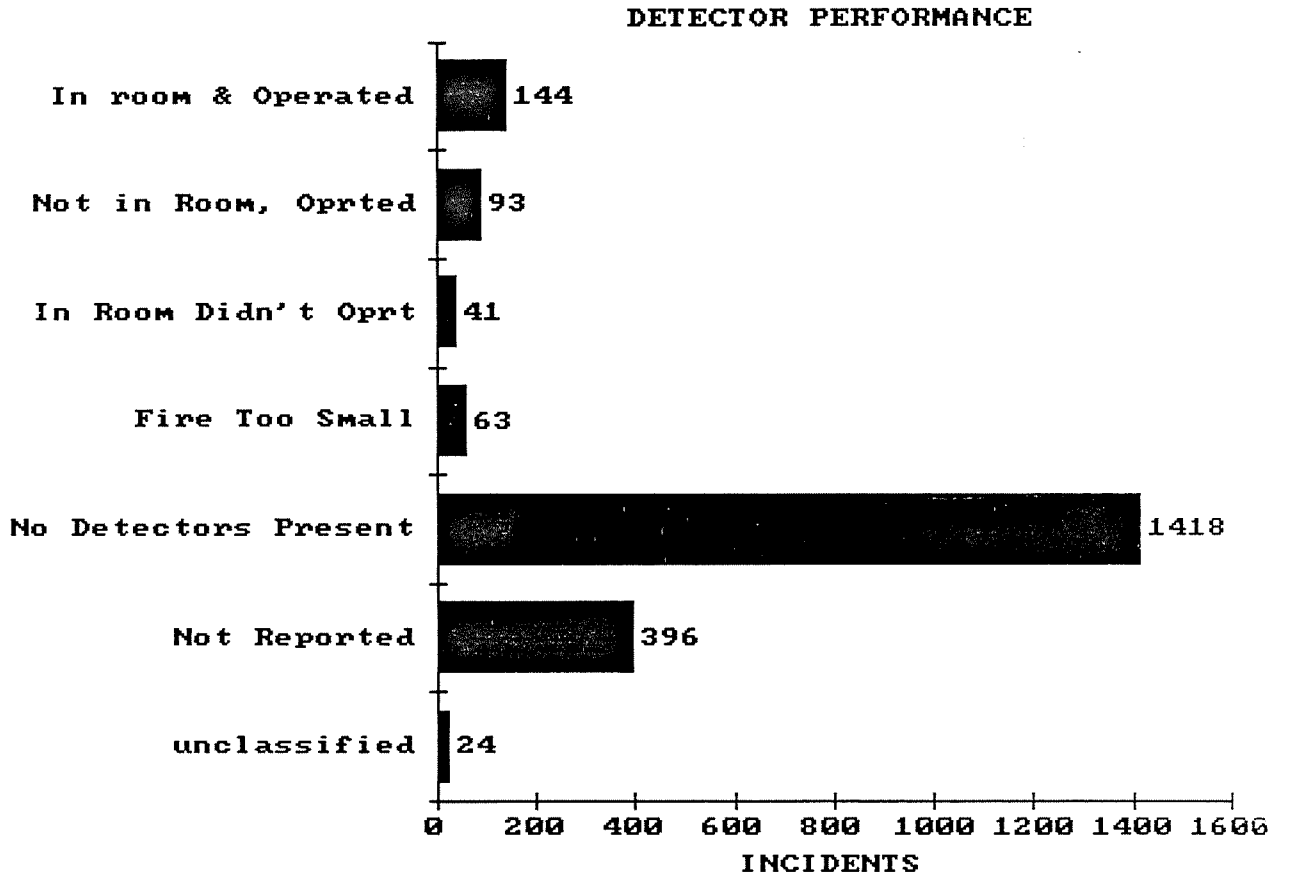


OUTSIDE FIRE LOSS

BY PROPERTY TYPE



DETECTOR PERFORMANCE



SPRINKLER PERFORMANCE

