



Office of the State Fire Marshal



2022 Annual Report

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STAY CONNECTED



AGENCY MISSION

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion, and natural/man-made disasters. The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property loss of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

AGENCY PHILOSOPHY

The personnel of OSFM act in accordance with the highest professional standards of ethics, accountability, dedication, and efficiency. We assure the public and the regulated community a balanced and sensible approach to fire and life safety initiatives.

AGENCY FUNDING

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is 100 percent fee funded.

AGENCY STAFF

- Total Positions: 71.3;
- Positions headquartered in the Topeka Office 31;
- Staff returned to Topeka Office on January 3, 2022, after most COVID restrictions were lifted in Kansas;
- Most of Topeka staff work a hybrid schedule of three days in the office and two days at home;
- Investigator and inspector positions covering the various territories across the state, working from a home base: 38.

Message from the Fire Marshal...

This Annual Report represents the efforts in 2022 of our staff to provide Kansans with a fire/life safe environment in all places where they live, work and congregate. We were able to accomplish and maintain the core principles of our agency mission and philosophy. While COVID-19 still causes some disruptions to our mission, we are getting back to normal operation with all divisions.

We met our goals in 2022, and I would like to see our progress grow and continue in 2023 and beyond.

Highlights from 2022:

- We continued to strengthen our zero-based agency budget, maintaining services and programs impacted by funding and staffing shortages.
- We awarded \$1.3 million to volunteer and part-time fire departments across Kansas through our Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant.
- The statewide smoke alarm installation program, which includes options for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Development and implementation in the strength and training of task force members of the state search and rescue strategic program.
- On-going collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security to detect and respond to nuclear and chemical attacks and hazardous materials incidents within the state.
- We continued to assist all long-term care facilities with the new Emergency Preparedness plans required by the Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) for facility accreditation.
- The Commercial Industrial Hemp Processing Program is issuing licenses following the applications process, which includes the hemp processing facility fire and life safety plans review and prevention inspection stages.
- Implementation of The Elevator Safety Act.

Thank you for taking the time to view our agency's progress over this past year. Please let me know if I, or anyone in our agency, can be of assistance to you. I can be reached directly at doug.jorgensen@ks.gov.



Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen

Agency Programs

Administration Division

- Support Services - Fiscal Management, Personnel, Educational Training, Legal
- Publication of Press Releases and Public Education Materials
- Maintaining Agency Website and Information Technology Services
- Agency Emergency Management Support Function to State Emergency Operations Center
- Fire Incident Reporting Systems
- Commercial Industrial Hemp Processing Program
- Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant
- Get Alarmed Kansas Free Smoke Alarm Program

Investigation Division

- Fire Origin, Cause and Determination
- Criminal Fire Investigations
- K-9 Units
- Explosive/Post Blast Investigations
- Explosives Permits (User/Blaster/Handler/Storage)
- Fireworks (Permits/Storage/Sales)
- State Certified Fire Investigator Program
- Fire Investigation, Explosive Training and Education
- Fire Safe Cigarette Program

Emergency Response Division

- Hazardous Materials Incident Response
- Hazardous Materials Education and Training
- Search and Rescue Incident Response
- Search and Rescue Education and Training

Prevention Division

- Life Safety and Building Code Rules and Regulations
- Life Safety Inspection/Enforcement Program and Code Enforcement
- Education, Health Care, Correctional, Child Care, Restaurants, Hotels, Hemp Facilities, Propane Facilities, Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- Fire and Life Safety Training and Education
- Building Plan Review
- Technical Code Interpretation
- Licensing Fire Extinguishment Systems and Fire Extinguishers
- Licensing Propane Companies
- Boiler Code Rules and Regulations
- Boiler Safety Inspections/Enforcement Program and Code Enforcement
- Licensing Elevator Mechanics, Contractors, and Inspections
- Elevator Safety Program



Investigation Division

OSFM investigators instructed 30 Kansas firefighters and law enforcement officers in the 80-hour Fire Investigation course for certified fire investigators at the Kansas Law Enforcement Center in Hutchinson with a 100 percent pass rate. They also instructed 30 Kansas firefighters in the 80-hour (fire) law enforcement training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Center in Hutchinson with a 100 percent pass rate.

The Division presented the US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management's Wildland Fire Origin and Cause seminar with City of Newton hosting the class. Thirty fire investigators from across Kansas attended the 40-hour class held in September.

Our investigators continue to assist local agencies with the investigation of several different serial arsonist cases involving structure fires, as well as numerous grass and wildland fires. Several suspects have been arrested and are in the judicial processes or have taken plea agreements and been sentenced for the crimes that they committed.



Chief Wally Roberts



OSFM Fire Investigators (from left): Lamar Shoemaker, Kris Smyth, Wally Roberts, Keith Thomas (KS Chapter of the International Association Arson Investigators, 2022 Investigator of the Year), Mike Tippie (KSIAAI Photography Award winner), Chris Mercer, Michael Windholz and Eric Lawrence. Not pictured: Jason Reece and Parker Smith.

Arson is one of the hardest crimes to convict. The national conviction rate for arson is 3 percent. We consistently average a conviction rate between 10 and 14 percent annually.

Alongside the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as joint instructors, division staff will again facilitate teaching Kansas and out-of-state investigators in the utilization of the Bomb and Arson Tracking System (BATS).

We have a seat on the advisory group at ATF, and we are involved in assisting ATF in making periodic improvements to the BATS database system.

Our team has assisted many agencies with making 3D scans of various fire and/or crime scenes. Scans of crime scenes have been used in court trials. It is often noted that 3D scans are very instrumental in showing the scene in real-world dimensions and environments.

In 2022, OSFM investigators assisted local agencies in over 514 investigations that involved fire and explosives, as well as providing other technical assistance.

We scheduled or provided six polygraph examinations to assist local agencies.

Our two canine teams responded to 77 requests to assist in OSFM or local agency investigations.



Prevention Division



Chief Brenda McNorton

We will continue to provide Fire and Life Safety rules and regulations training to all facilities encompassed by the State and Federal rules and regulations. By sharing the needed information to complete inspections, it helps the facility owners understand our process. In 2022, OSFM conducted 17 presentations with 832 people attending throughout Kansas. These presentations gave valuable training and expectations on what OSFM requires and how they can better manage the requirements set forth by Centers for Medicare/Medicaid (CMS) and OSFM.

Our agency is responsible for assuring Fire and Life Safety Inspections where people work, live and congregate. We have 21 building inspectors in the field that are at the Inspector I level, and four inspectors at the Inspector II level, who will inspect and conduct plan reviews for new construction.

In 2022, agency building inspectors inspected over 8,663 buildings for Life Safety compliance. OSFM is contracted to perform Life Safety Compliance for CMS. In 2022, we performed 228 inspections on certified facilities. We also have the responsibility to assure all USD schools have annual inspections. We inspected 2,178 school buildings in 2022. We issued five Cease & Desist Orders and issued 17 variances to facilities that did not meet code compliance.

Our agency is also responsible for boiler inspections. We have five boiler inspectors for the state. In 2022, we had 720 new boilers put into service, and we performed over 3,433 inspections.

In 2018, OSFM formed a code advisory group and determined that it would be beneficial for OSFM to move toward adoption of the current National Fire and Life Safety Codes. We started the process in 2019, 2020, 2021 and continued to do so in 2022. We attempted to navigate Kansas' cumbersome code adoption process, which requires approval by multiple state agencies. The process has hampered our ability to stay current with the code adoptions and other state agencies and local municipalities. By having an old code, many facilities are hampered by the fact that we cannot provide them with cost saving measures that the new codes allow.

In 2022, the Kansas Legislature passed the Elevator Safety Act. OSFM will be responsible for licensing elevator mechanics, contractors and inspectors that construct, erect, alter, replace, maintain, remove or dismantle any elevator contained within a building or structure. Also, each owner shall be responsible for new or existing elevators to be inspected annually by a licensed elevator inspector and they also will be required to register the elevator.



Emergency Response Division

Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Program

- 9 Haz-Mat Teams
- 11 Participating Agencies
- 200 Personnel

In 2022, our Haz-Mat team:

- Worked in conjunction with Kansas Highway Patrol Academy to provide a three-day training session for hazardous materials technicians.
- Conducted two 80-hour Hazardous Materials Technician training courses for regional response teams that provided certification for 50 new Haz-Mat technicians. Courses were funded in part by the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant from the United States Department of Transportation.
- Hosted a 40-hour Hazardous Materials Tactical Chemistry training class in Salina at the Kansas Adjutant Generals Department Training Center. This course was also funded by a portion of the HMEP grant. Twenty-four Haz-Mat technicians were enrolled.
- Planned and participated in a hazardous materials exercise with partners from both the private and public sectors at the Wolf Creek Generating Station near Burlington, Kansas.
- Hosted the 3-day Kansas Haz-Mat Symposium at the Wichita Fire Department's Regional Training Center. Training sessions included the Command, Specialist, Technician and Industrial tracks. The Symposium was funded in part by the HMEP grant.
- Awarded a total of \$71,000 HMEP grant funds for FY 2023 for specialized and refresher training as well as a hazardous materials conference/symposium.
- Awarded a total of \$122,500 HMEP grant funds for FY2024 for specialized and refresher training, specialist proficiency sustainment and continuing education symposium.

Search and Rescue Program (SAR)



- 7 Task Forces
- 12 K-9 Teams (certified dogs with handlers)
- 42 Participating Agencies
- 6 Doctors
- 2 Engineers
- 440 Personnel

In 2022, our SAR team:

- Sustained all seven task forces at an extremely high level of operational readiness.
- Maintained training and deployment proficiency with all 12 Certified Live Find K-9 teams through continued monthly training weekends at Crisis City in Salina.
- Certified seven K-9 teams for Type 1 and/or Type 2 Live Find during the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) National Certification Evaluation (CE) at Crisis City.
- Supported three SAR Program K-9 task force teams for attendance and tuition to the SUSAR Canine Search Specialist training at Alabama Fire College.
- Response by OSFM's Kansas Task Force 5 (KSTF-5) to the Andover Tornado in spring of 2022 to support local agencies, conducting search and rescue operations of affected and tornado damaged areas.
- Response by KSTF-5 to the Cottonwood Complex Fire, a multi-agency response wildland fire in Reno County, to assist with search and rescue of citizens impacted. The fire burned 1,200 acres, 36 homes, 92 outbuildings and 110 vehicles. KSTF-5 aided in the specific search of an area of 160 acres looking for victims.





Will Hall
NFIRS State Program Manager

National Fire Incident Reporting System

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is an All-Incident system designed to portray an accurate picture of what the Fire Service does for the citizens of Kansas, not just fighting fires. Locally, data can be used to implement public education programs, accurately explain equipment needs for departments, determine standards of cover information and watch/identify trends to include arsonists. After identifying problems, a prevention program can be developed and utilized. Many prevention programs rely on up-to-date reporting to aid public safety. This information is so valuable, that most grants require departments to be compliant with NFIRS before grant money will be awarded.

In 2022, 427 Kansas fire departments were NFIRS compliant out of the 617 departments across the state. That is roughly 70 percent.

Our fire service data is only as accurate as the reporting. Ideally, we would have 100 percent of departments reporting.

In fall 2020, NFIRS transitioned to their new incident reporting system called eNFIRS. With the new system, NFIRS started enforcing 2015 specifications, which required 3rd party vendors to upgrade their software to match the stricter requirements. This created problems for agencies that did not have current vendor contracts or were using outdated software. Currently, a small number of fire departments are still not using updated software to report incidents, and they are not in compliance with NFIRS reporting.

2022 NFIRS Compliance

Kansas Fire Departments

Compliant — 427

Non-Compliant — 190

Whether small or large, departments are encouraged to understand their needs, and then, choose a program that will help them meet these needs. The eNFIRS system is a great option for departments who have fewer incidents to report and have limited resources. It is basic, easy-to-use, has several reports available, users have individual accounts, and it is free. For agencies needing software that contains personnel tracking, reporting of non-NFIRS activities, or advanced analytical features, a third party vendor is a good option. The OSFM is not able to make a recommendation but can inform agencies what vendors are currently being used in the state. A full list of third party vendors is available on the [U.S. Fire Administration website](https://www.usfireadmin.com/). The OSFM will not be able to support agencies with funding but can research and educate departments on possible funding sources.

To confirm your department's compliance, or if you have questions concerning NFIRS, contact Will Hall at (785) 296-4294 or email at william.hall@ks.gov.



Reported Residential Fires in Kansas

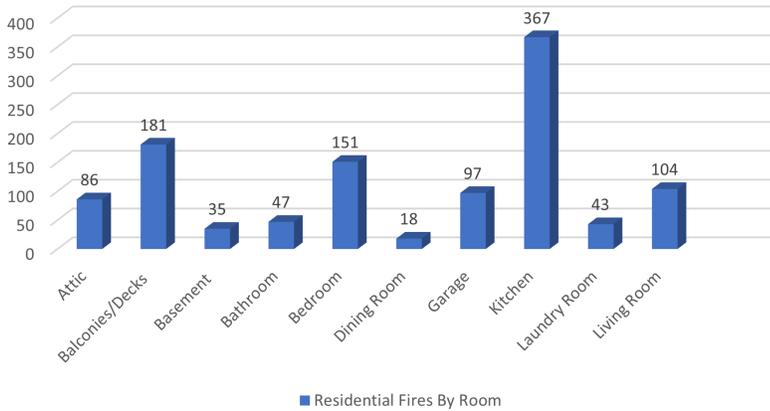
2022

Residential Fires – 3,965 Total
\$56,633,416 of Property Loss
\$18,690,581 of Content Loss

2021

Residential Fires – 3,159 Total
\$34,692,398 of Property Loss
\$11,670,762 of Content Loss

2022 Residential Fires By Room

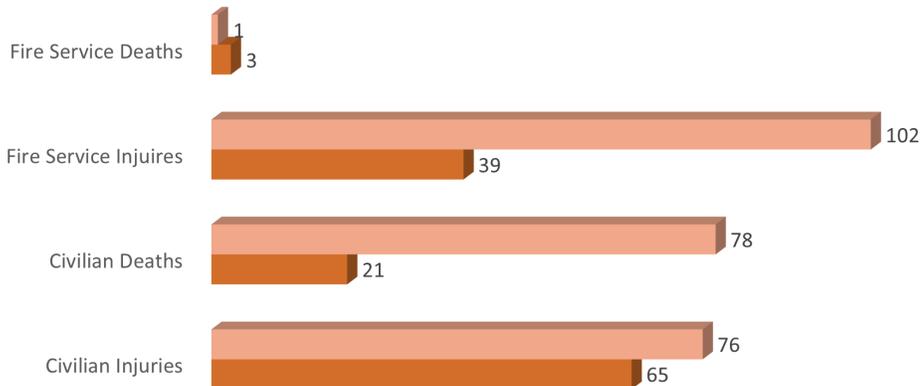


In 2022...

- ~ 126 Residential fires were caused by smoking
- ~ 371 Residential fires were intentional
- ~ 366 Residential fires were caused by cooking
- ~ 223 Residential fires were caused by appliance or electrical malfunctions

Fire Injuries/Deaths

■ 2022 ■ 2021



**All data from 2022 is preliminary as reporting is not yet complete.*



Reported Commercial Fires in Kansas

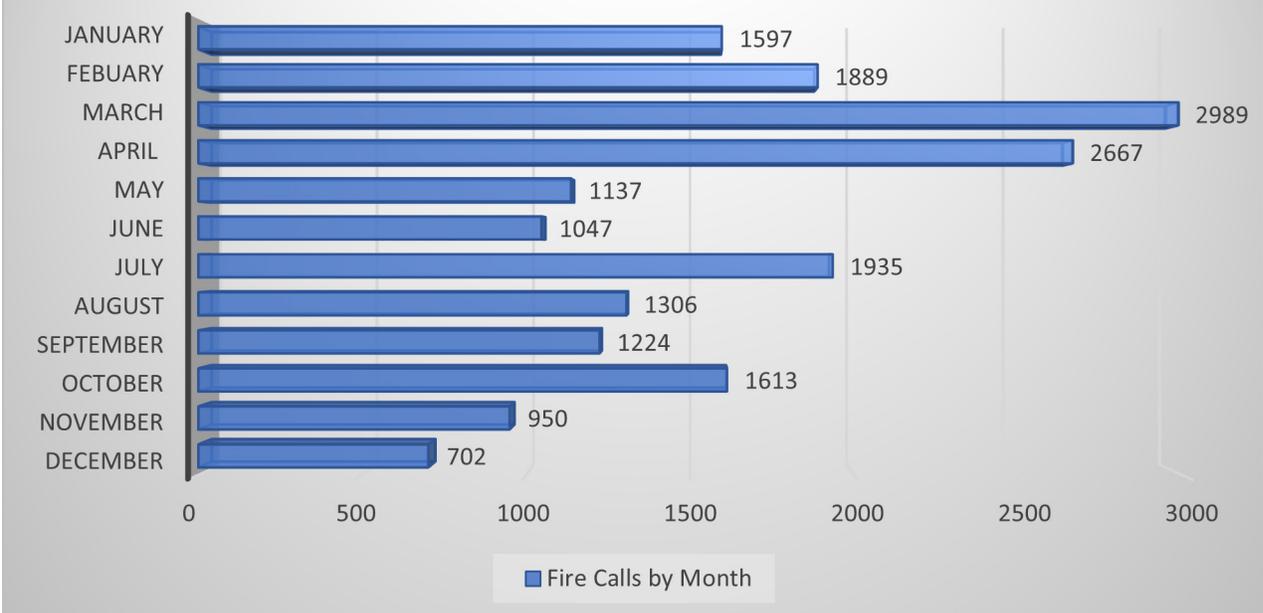
2022

Commercial Fires – 1,841 Total
21 Fire Service Injuries
7 Civilian Injuries
\$225,555,318 of Property Loss
\$25,309,400 of Content Loss
16 Smoking Fires
181 Electrical Malfunction Fires
98 Intentional Fires

2021

Commercial Fires – 1,404 Total
18 Fire Service Injuries
2 Civilian Injuries
\$5,965,883 of Property Loss
\$5,165,359 of Content Loss
8 Smoking Fires
57 Electrical Malfunction Fires
45 Intentional Fires

2022 Total Fire Calls by Month



**All data from 2022 is preliminary as reporting is not yet complete.*



Reported Wildfires in Kansas

2022

Vegetation/Wildfires – 8,802

Wildfires – 1041

Total Acres Burned – 156,415

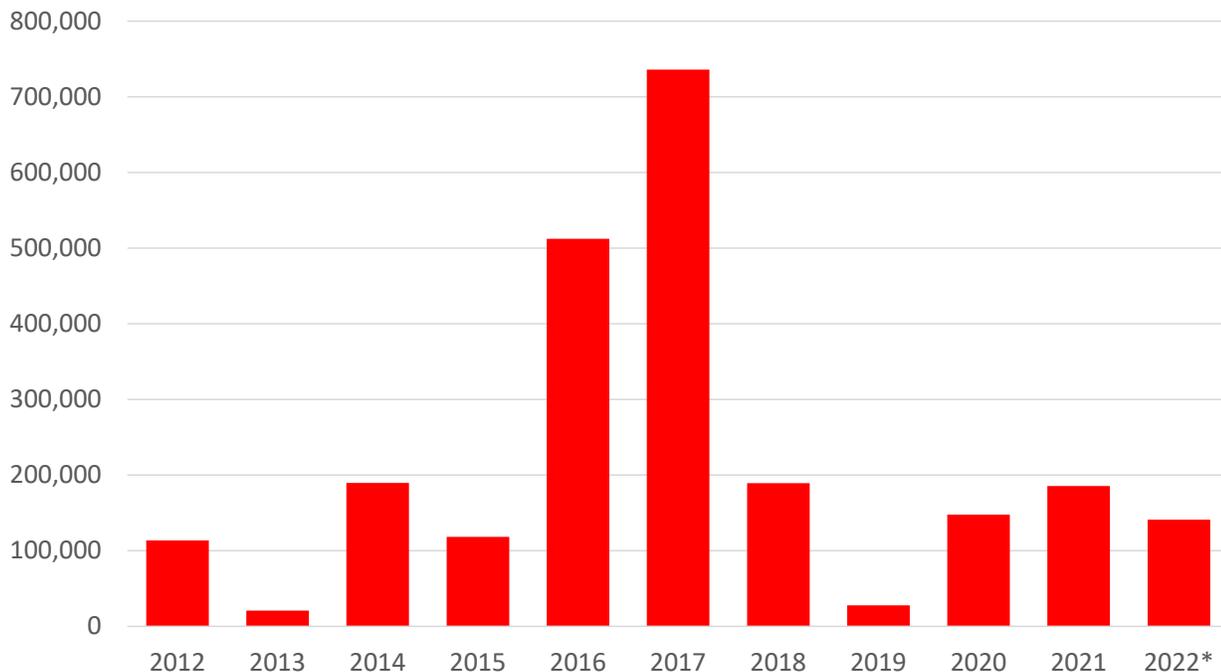
2021

Vegetation/Wildfires – 4,934

Wildfires – 974

Total Acres Burned – 185,467

Total Acres Burned by Wildfire



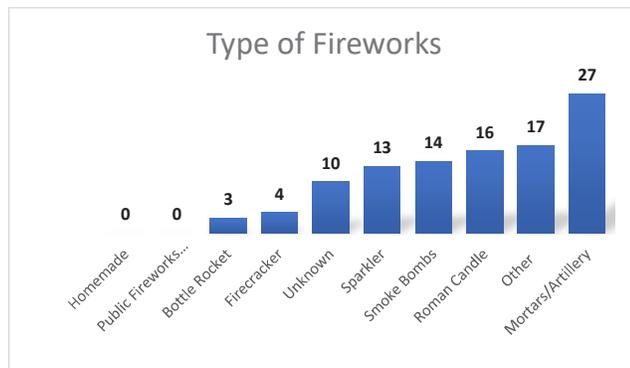
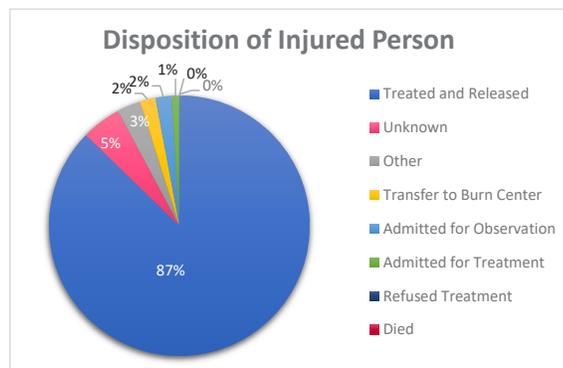
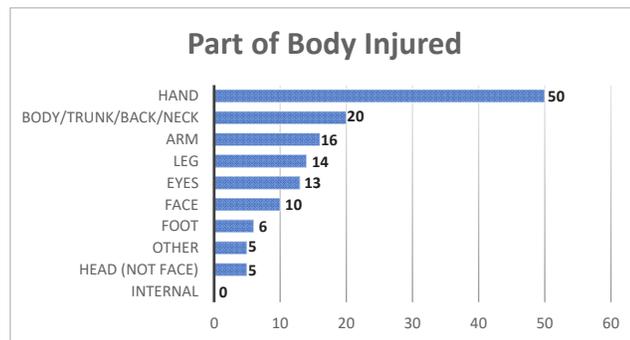
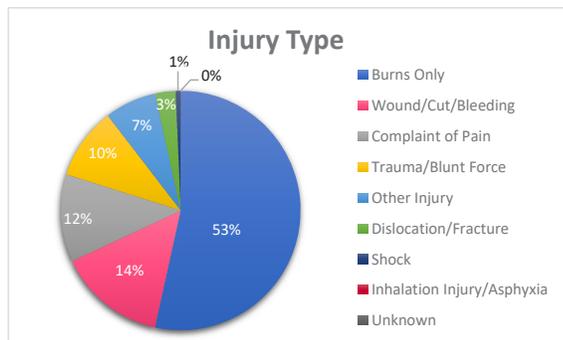
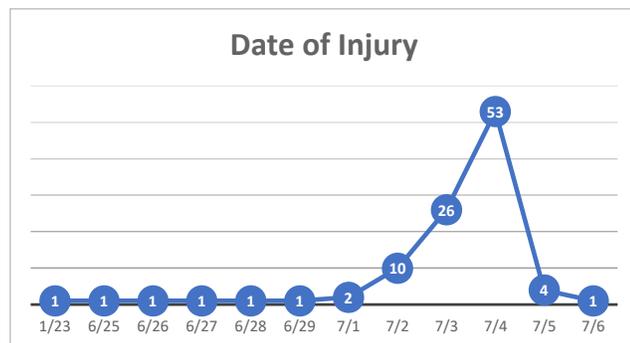
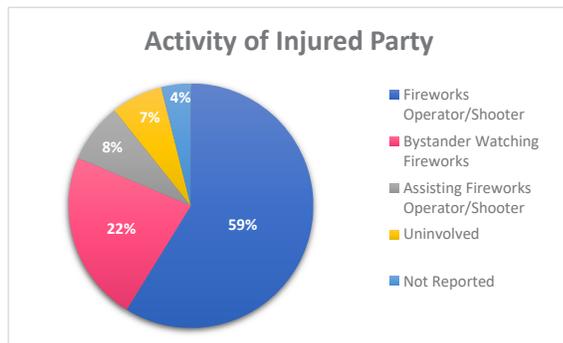
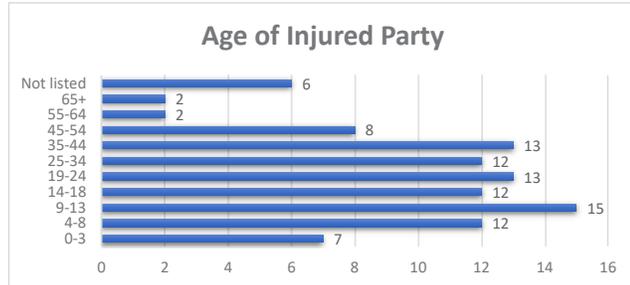
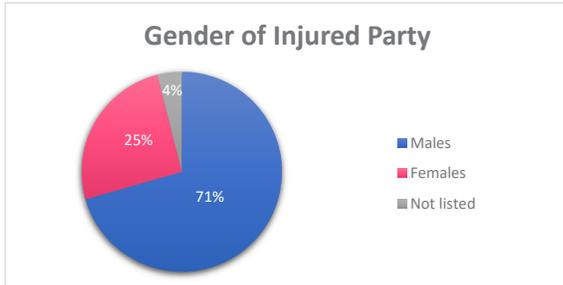
Recognize in calendar years 2019—2021 there was a change in the national reporting system which has created skewed statistics as departments struggled to report or the reporting system was not available to departments due to system requirements with the new software. System upgrades also delayed by local jurisdictions due to pandemic.

**All data from 2022 is preliminary as reporting is not yet complete.*



Fireworks Injury Statistics for 2022*

There were a total of 102 injuries caused by fireworks in 2022. The individual shooting the firework was most likely to be injured, and the hands were the most common body part to be injured. Over half of the injuries occurred on the 4th of July and most persons received burns. There was a 43 percent decrease in reported injuries from 2021. Each age group saw a decrease, except for a slight increase in 0-3 year olds. The highest incidences of injuries were caused by mortars or artillery fireworks and other fireworks like parachutes, fountains and spinning items.



*Statistics are current as of 09/01/2022 and are gathered from a voluntary report submitted by healthcare facilities in Kansas.



Get Alarmed Kansas

OSFM Smoke Alarm Installation Program

- Our statewide smoke alarm installation program, Get Alarmed Kansas, began in 2014.
- OSFM has expanded that program from initially only offering a basic, 10-year, sealed smoke alarm to now offering a combination smoke/ carbon monoxide (CO) alarm, and two different types of smoke alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- We rely on the local fire departments to help us promote the program and install the smoke alarms. We have also begun reaching out to local civic groups that can do the alarm installs as a public service outreach. We do this to make sure the alarms are properly installed.
- Over the last couple of years, we have strongly promoted the program with the State Fire Chiefs Association, the Kansas State Firefighters Association, the American Red Cross, Safe Kids Kansas and the Fire Marshals Association of Kansas.
- Since the implementation of Get Alarmed Kansas, 9,710 alarms have been distributed.



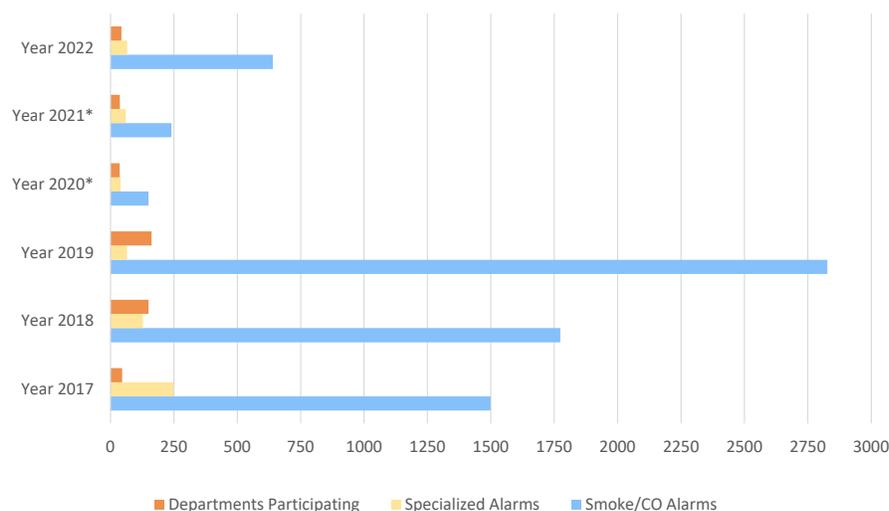
Kelly Ingold
Public Education & Outreach
Consultant

In 2022:

- 640 alarms were distributed
- 66 additional specialized smoke alarms were distributed
- 43 fire departments participated in the program in 2022

If your department is interest in learning more about our Get Alarmed Kansas program, contact Kelly Ingold at (785) 291-3586 or email at kelly.ingold@ks.gov.

Get Alarmed Kansas Free Smoke Alarm Program



*severely impacted by COVID pandemic



Kansas Firefighter Safety & Recruitment Grant

We awarded much needed funds to 90 fire departments in Kansas through the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant Program, totaling \$1.3 million. The OSFM made this grant possible through its budget passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Laura Kelly. This year, an additional \$1.2 million was made available to OSFM for this grant by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Along with \$100,000 provided through our budget, the 2023 KFRSG had a total of \$1.3 million to disburse.

In 2022, over \$2.4 million was requested by 98 volunteer/part-time fire departments in Kansas for safety gear, washer/extractor machines and junior firefighter programs. Departments received close to \$1.2 million to be used for safety gear, \$106,000 for 20 washer/extractor machines, and \$1,200 for the junior firefighter programs. Due to the high number of requests, OSFM will be requesting the 2023 Legislature continue funding this important grant.

Volunteer and part-time fire departments face recruitment and retention challenges because they do not have the funding to provide safety equipment. Without new equipment provided by the recruiting fire department, potential volunteers are faced with not only donating their time but also providing their own safety gear, sharing gear with others, or doing without. There is also a proven increase in cancer diagnoses for firefighters, which can be caused by prolonged exposure to carcinogens, particulates and bio-hazards. The proper gear, regular cleaning of that gear and equipment, along with preventative healthcare is crucial for a firefighter's health and well-being.

2023 Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant Award Recipients

Alta Vista Fire Department	Eureka Volunteer Fire Department	Netawaka Rural Fire District #6
Altamont Fire Department	Fairmount Township Fire Department	Northwest Fire District
Anderson County Fire District #1	Galena Fire Department	Olpe Fire District #1
Andover Fire Rescue	Geary County Rural Fire Department	Osage County Fire District #1
Arma Fire Department	Graham County Rural Fire Department	Osage Township Fire Department
Barnard Rural Fire Department	Grandview Plaza Volunteer Fire Department	Oswego Fire Department
Barton County Fire District #2	Hackberry Township Fire Department	Plains City Fire Department
Baxter Springs Fire Department	Harvey County Fire District #1	Pratt County Township #6 Fire Department
Bonner Springs Fire Department	Herington Fire Department	Pratt Fire Department
Butler County Fire District #3	Hesston Fire & EMS Department	Reno Township Fire Department
Butler County Fire District #10	Holcomb Community Fire Department	Riley County Fire District #1
Cawker City Volunteer Fire Department	Holton Volunteer Fire Department #4	Rush County Fire District #4
Centralia Fire Department	Horton Fire Department	Saint Paul Mission Township Fire Department
Chase County Fire District #1	Jefferson County Fire District #5	Scammon Fire Department
Cherryvale Fire-Rescue	Kinsley Fire Department	Scott County Fire Department
Claffin Fire District #1	Labette County Fire District #9	Sedgwick Fire Department
Colby Fire Department	Lewis Volunteer Fire Department	Shawnee County Fire District #2
Colwich Fire Department	Little River Fire Department	Shawnee County Fire District #4
Consolidated Fire District #1	Lyon County Fire District #5	Sheridan County Rural Fire District #1
Cowley County Fire District #3	Mankato Volunteer Fire Department	Sherman Township Fire Department
Cowley County Fire District #4	Marion County Fire District #2	Smith Center Fire Department
Crawford County Fire District #2	Marion County Fire District #3	Soldier Township Fire Department
Derby Fire & Rescue Department	McPherson County Rural Fire District #2	South Hutchinson Fire Department
Edna Volunteer Fire Department	McPherson Fire Department	Stanton County Fire & Rescue Department
Elk County Rural Fire Department	Mitchell County Rural Fire District #3	Thomas County Rural Fire District #4
Ellinwood Fire Department	Mound Valley Volunteer Fire Department	Tonganoxie Township Rural Fire Department
Ellis County Rural Fire District #1	Mulvane Fire & Rescue Department	Towanda Fire Rescue
Ellsworth Fire Department	Munden-Narka Rural Fire District #3	Wakefield Rural Fire Department
Enterprise Fire Department	Nemaha County Rural Fire District #2	Wallace County Rural Fire District #2
Eudora Fire & EMS Department	Ness County Fire District #3	Wilson Fire Department



Kansas Elevator Safety Act

The 2022 Kansas Legislature enacted House Bill 2005 known as the Elevator Safety Act, creating the Elevator Safety Fee Fund, and identifying the duties of the OSFM.

OSFM is currently working on adopting the new rules and regulations, navigating the State's lengthy code adoption process which requires approval by multiple state agencies. The extensive process slows the ability to get new rules and regulations written, approved and in place as outlined by the Act.



As directed in the bill, OSFM has just recently started accepting applications for the industry. We will implement two-year licenses for the several categories as outlined in the bill: elevator contractor, elevator inspector and elevator mechanic.

OSFM continues to gather information from various resources to identify all the elevators in Kansas that fall under the bill. Any owner/operator of any elevator in operation and as defined in the bill's narrative prior to July 1, 2022, shall register each of their elevators with OSFM and renew each year going forward. OSFM is working with a third-party vendor to track this registration and renewal requirement.

Commercial Industrial Hemp Processing Program

The OSFM took over the registering of commercial hemp processors in Kansas from the Kansas Department of Agriculture in 2021. *K.A.R. 22-26 Commercial Industrial Hemp Processing Regulations* was permanently adopted on Oct. 10, 2021.

In 2022, our Industrial Hemp Processing Program issued eight licenses. Of those eight, two were agricultural in nature and six were chemical extractors.

Chemical Extractors Include:

- One CO2
- Five ethanol

