

FIRE INCIDENT INFORMATION

During Calendar Year 2004, there were 1977 actual fires reported. Of the 642 structure fires reported, 455 of them occurred in dwellings. There were 366 vehicle fires. The total fire loss reported in Montgomery County for CY 2004 was \$36,145,220. Structure fires accounted for \$32,675,603 of the loss and vehicle fires accounted for \$3,111,501 of the loss.

There were four civilian fatalities during Calendar Year 2004. One of the fatalities occurred outside, the other three occurred in a residential dwelling. There were no fatalities of fire service personnel during Calendar Year 2004.

There were 177 civilians who suffered fire-related injuries during Calendar Year 2004. Civilian casualty reports were only filed for 43 of the civilian casualties. According to the reports that were filed, only 7 of the civilian casualties were asleep at the time of injury. Most of the civilian casualties were awake and unimpaired at the time of injury. Over one-third of the injuries occurred to civilians who were attempting to control the fire. Ninety percent of the injured suffered burns and/or asphyxiation.

According to the records, there were 50 fire personnel who suffered fire-related injuries during Calendar Year 2004. Fire service casualty reports were filed for only 18 of these injuries. Burns accounted for only two of the injuries reported. Of the remainder, most were classified as cuts or sprains. Most of the injuries were classified as 'minor'; none were classified as 'severe' or 'life-threatening'.

The ages of the civilian casualties ranged from 6 to 94 years. Only five of the injured were less than 20 years of age and only 4 of the injured were over 65 years of age. While the number of civilian fire casualties reported during Calendar Year 2004 were much greater than those reported in Calendar Years 2002 and 2003, less than one-fourth of the civilian casualty reports were filed last year.

The following is a list of the most common causes of fires during CY2004, the number of incidents attributed to each cause and the associated fire loss. The total fire loss reported for CY2004 decreased over 10% of that reports for CY2003. The loss from incendiary and suspicious fires increased over 100% of that reported for CY2003, with most of the increase attributed to suspicious fires. Suspicious fires remain one of the top five causes of fires in the county. The number of incendiary fires, however, actually decreased from CY2003, and dropped to ninth place as measured by the number of calls received.

The most common causes of fires in CY2004, by number of calls received, were:

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Calls</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
Other Factor/Undetermined, Not Classified	1167	10,108,935
Abandoned, Discarded Smoking Material	175	3,998,369
Mechanical failure, malfunction, Other	148	2,463,550
Suspicious	140	2,203,893
Equipment Failure, Overloaded	90	5,390,184
Short Circuit	57	1,725,902
Heat source too close to combustibles	56	973,925
Electrical Failure	48	5,073,201
Natural Conditions, Weather	48	3,566,225
Incendiary	48	641,396