



2012 ANNUAL REPORT



ALABAMA STATE FIRE MARSHAL



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Introduction

The 2012 Annual Report of the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office is submitted by State Fire Marshal Edward Paulk in compliance with Section 36-19-26, Code of Alabama, 1975.

The State Fire Marshal's Office ended 2012 with a staff of 21 Deputy State Fire Marshals, and two Assistant State Fire Marshals. The State Fire Marshal's Office conducts investigations to determine the origin and cause of fires and explosions, criminal investigations of those cases determined to be arson, inspections of structures for compliance with the building and fire codes adopted by the state and regulatory functions in the licensure of the fire sprinkler industry, the fireworks industry, the blasting industry, and the cigarette industry.

In 2012, we experienced a 10 percent decrease in the number of fire investigations, ending the year with 698 investigations. These investigations resulted in 160 arrests for crimes which include the crimes of arson, murder, theft, burglary, drug related offenses, and possession of destructive devices .

Fire fatalities in 2012 decreased 30 percent from 86 to 78. A 30 percent reduction is notable; however, 78 fire fatalities in our state is unacceptable by our standards. We are continuing to find ways to bring fire safety to the attention of the public and make them aware that they are responsible for their immediate safety; while continuing our efforts to improve and expand our inspection program.

Inspections conducted during 2012 totaled one thousand nine hundred thirty-four inspections (1,934), an increase of 12 percent over those conducted in 2011. Our inspection efforts have focused on education and assembly occupancies in an effort to impact facilities where numbers of people gather.

We are continuing to strengthen and increase the partnerships we began to form in 2006. These partnerships began with other state departments and agencies and now include federal and local agencies and associations. We are attempting to maximize our efforts through these partnerships and thereby increase our presence without the cost of adding many additional employees to our staff.

We look to 2013 as we continue to improve our response to the needs of our State.



Who We Are . . .

The Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is a division of the Alabama Department of Insurance. The department is under the leadership of Insurance Commissioner Jim Ridling. Commissioner Ridling provides the resources for the SFMO to accomplish the goals and perform the duties and responsibilities of the office. A portion of the funding for the SFMO is provided through monies generated by permits issued by the office.

The Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office was established in 1917. In 1919, the first legislative act regarding the authority, duties, and responsibilities of the office was adopted and signed into law. In 1953, the State Fire Marshal's Office became a division of the Alabama Department of Insurance. Title 36 Chapter 19 of the Code of Alabama, 1975 provides the authority and prescribes the duties of the office of the State Fire Marshal and his deputies. The Fire Marshal, Assistant, and Deputies are state police officers and carry general police powers statewide.

The Alabama State Fire Marshal's office consists of State Fire Edward Paulk, Assistant State Fire Scott Pilgreen, Assistant State Fire Marshal Jeffrey Thompson, and 21 deputies with a combined total of 167 years of experience. The deputies are located in field offices throughout the state and are responsible for investigations and inspections in their respective districts. The headquarters in Montgomery is staffed by the State Fire Marshal, two Assistant State Fire Marshals and four administrative support personnel.

The SFMO conducts inspections of buildings and properties to ensure the buildings are safe for occupancy for their intended use, and provides for adequate exits in the event of fire, disaster or other emergencies. The SFMO adopts and enforces various Building, Life Safety and Fire Prevention Codes. The State Fire Marshal is charged with the promulgation and enforcement of regulations pertaining to building construction and fire safety for the citizens of Alabama.

The State Fire Marshal's Office regulates and permits the fireworks industry, fire sprinkler industry, fire alarm industry, and blasting industry.

The SFMO investigates fires, explosions and any related crimes. Assistance is provided to fire departments and other law enforcement agencies in the prevention of arson and explosions, and provides support to the courts for prosecution of cases made by its personnel. The office provides training for the public, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies in fire prevention, fire investigation, detection of arson, and education for the interpretation of fire and building codes and life safety regulations.

Our Mission . . .

The mission of the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office is to provide inspection services, to conduct investigations of fires and explosions, to prevent the commission of arson and related crimes, to protect lives and property from fires and explosions and to provide visitors and citizens of the state a safe environment in which to live, work and play.





State Fire Marshal Edward Paul



Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen



Assistant State Fire Marshal Jeff Thompson



Left to Right: Vicki Parker, Angela Slade
Cheryl White, Alesha Womble



Steve Holmes, Public Information Officer

Alabama Fire Incident Reporting System (AFIRS)

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 authorizes the National Fire Data Center in the United States Fire Administration (USFA), an entity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the Nation's fire problem, as well as its detailed characteristics and trends. The Act further authorizes the USFA to develop uniform data reporting methods, and to encourage and assist state agencies in developing and reporting data. In order to carry out the intention of this Act, the National Fire Data Center has established the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

The State of Alabama, recognizing the importance and benefits of reliable statistical data, is encouraging fire departments to submit data to AFIRS. AFIRS is Alabama's segment of the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Currently, four hundred fifty-five (455) fire departments out of the 1,041 departments have activated the electronic reporting account to the system. Three hundred eighty two (382) departments have actually submitted data to the system in 2012. Alabama is one-third of the way towards having timely, factual data on which many decisions can be made. In support of AFIRS, the State Fire Marshal's Office administers the creation of the reporting accounts for departments, provides software for the electronic reporting and provides support services. Thirty two (32) training sessions with fire departments or county fire associations have been conducted around the state, which provided information and assistance to all interested departments in the area. Assistance is provided to any department who asks for help. Assistance is first attempted over the telephone; however, for more difficult problems, site visits are not uncommon. The software necessary for reporting is supplied to fire departments in the following ways; by CD which is computer generated in the Fire Marshal's Office, also FEMA now provides a web link for the Data Entry Tool. Many departments now have high-speed internet connections and can download the software and updates to the software; in addition, these resources and capabilities help to reduce the number of CD's provided by this office.

K-9 Accelerant Detection Handlers

During the late 1980s and early 1990s the State Fire Marshal's Office began training Deputy State Fire Marshals to be K-9 accelerant detection handlers. Presently, there is two (2) K-9 team located throughout the state. These teams respond as needed to assist our division and other police departments and fire departments in locating trace amounts of hydrocarbon residue at fire scenes. The teams also provide another service to the citizens of the State of Alabama by conducting demonstrations of controlled searches at schools and civic groups. This is done throughout the year to assist with Fire Prevention Awareness. These teams are a very valuable asset to this division and to the Department of Insurance.



Deputy Jebb Harrison and K-9 Bako



Deputy Ray Cumby and K-9 Andy

Home Fire Prevention Tips



Fires can be prevented from starting if you take some simple precautions. Here are some important safety measures to remember . . .

To Prevent Chimney Fires:

- ✦ Have your chimney cleaned annually, preferably prior to its use in the fall and winter months.
- ✦ Sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into room.
- ✦ Have a three foot “Kid Free Zone” around open flames and space heaters

To Prevent Kitchen Fires:

- ✦ Stay in the room when cooking on the stove. If you need to leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off all stove burners before leaving the room.
- ✦ When cooking in a microwave, use only those utensils and items approved for use in a microwave.
- ✦ Do not use the oven to provide heat for your home.

To Prevent Laundry Room Fires:

- ✦ If you have a dryer or washing machine that trips an electrical breaker frequently, an underlying wiring problem could be the cause. Have the wiring checked by a properly licensed electrician.
- ✦ Clean all dryer/lint filters as needed; vacuum around dryers to eliminate accumulation of lint.

To Prevent Living Room Fires:

- ✦ Beware of plugging multiple electrical appliances into one surge protector and **NEVER** overload electrical outlets.
- ✦ Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammable and combustible materials.
- ✦ Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- ✦ Remember that extension cords are for temporary use only and are not meant to replace permanent wiring, **NEVER** cover an extension cord with carpet, rugs or other material.

To Prevent Bedroom Fires:

- ✦ **DO NOT** smoke in bed.
- ✦ Keep all matches and lighters out of the hands of children.
- ✦ Keep combustible material away from space heaters.

Remember, fire safety begins at home and fire prevention begins with a plan. Practice fire escape drills at home and have a meeting place outside away from the home in the event of an evacuation.

Remember to have properly functioning smoke alarms throughout your home. Check your smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least twice annually.

IMPORTANT FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS



Watch and enjoy fireworks from a safe distance.

Never attempt to alter or combine fireworks.

Never use fireworks indoors.

Never shoot fireworks towards people or buildings.

Never shoot fireworks from your hands or body parts.

Never shoot fireworks from or toward a motor vehicle.

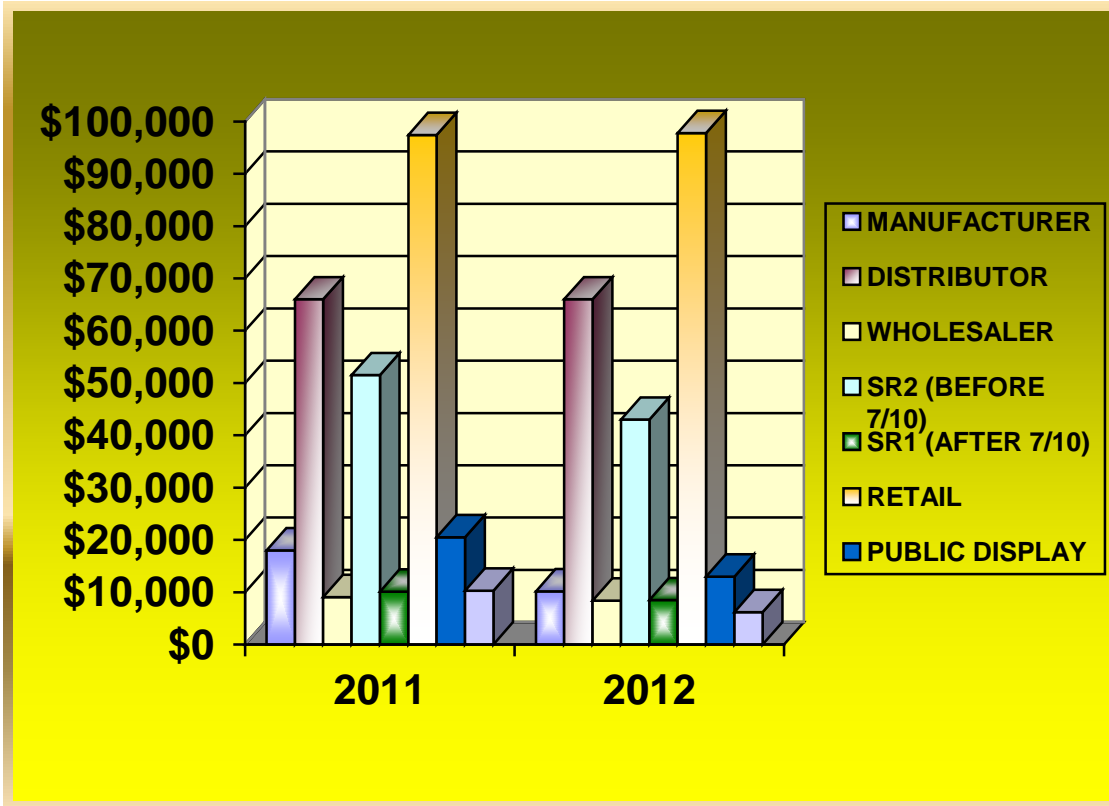
Never let children play with fireworks.

Always have a responsible adult present when shooting fireworks.

Always keep water and first aid nearby.

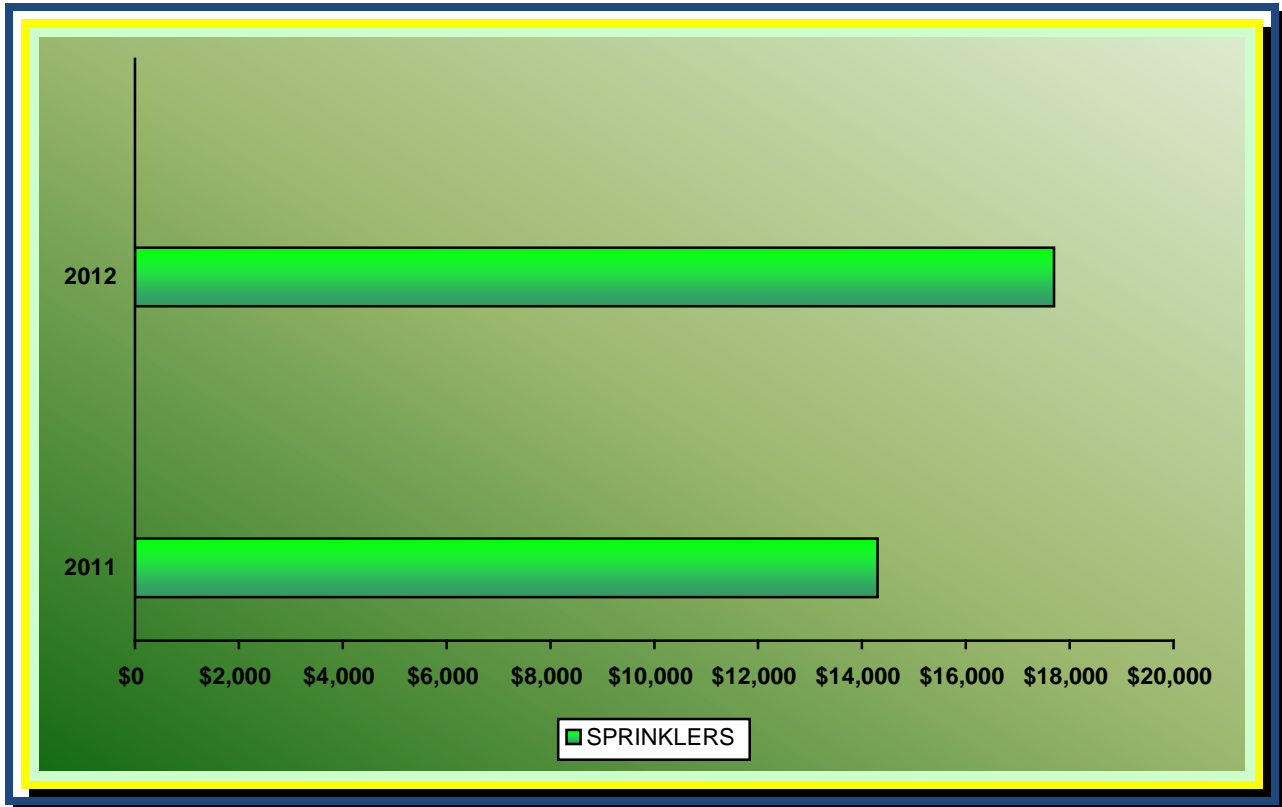
Always have at least 600 feet from any enclosed building.

FIREWORKS STATISTICS



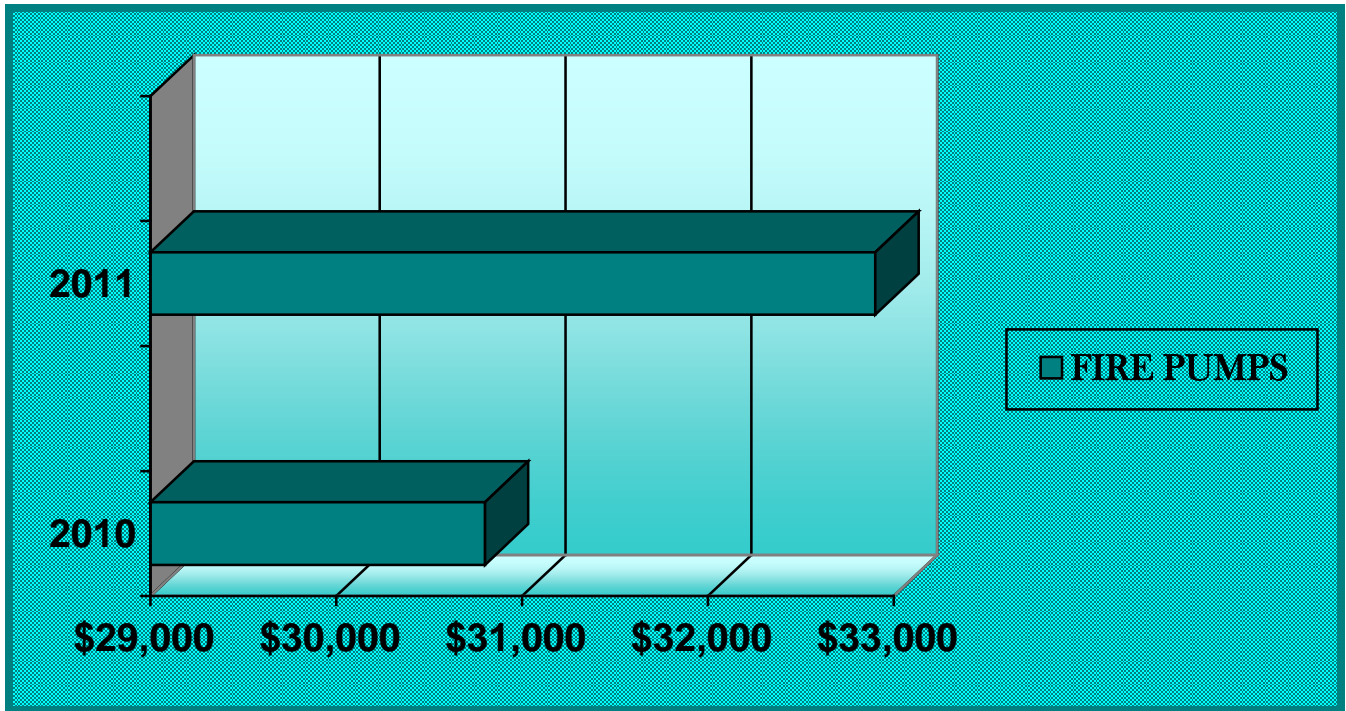
<u>MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2011</u>		<u>MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2012</u>	
DISTRIBUTOR	\$66,000.	DISTRIBUTOR	\$66,000.
MANUFACTURER	\$18,000.	MANUFACTURER	\$10,200.
WHOLESALER	\$ 9,100.	WHOLESALER	\$ 8,400.
SEASONAL RETAILER - SR2 BEFORE 7/10	\$51,500.	SEASONAL RETAILER - SR2 BEFORE 7/10	\$43,000.
SEASONAL RETAILER - SR1 AFTER 7/10	\$10,100.	SEASONAL RETAILER - SR1 AFTER 7/10	\$ 8,500.
RETAIL	\$97,400.	RETAIL	\$97,800.
PUBLIC DISPLAY	\$20,500.	PUBLIC DISPLAY	\$13,000.
CLOSE PROXIMITY	\$10,300.	CLOSE PROXIMITY	\$ 6,200.
TOTALS	\$282,900.	TOTALS	\$253,100
PERMITS ISSUED	1,323	PERMITS ISSUED	1,249
INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED	983	INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED	932

SPRINKLER STATISTICS



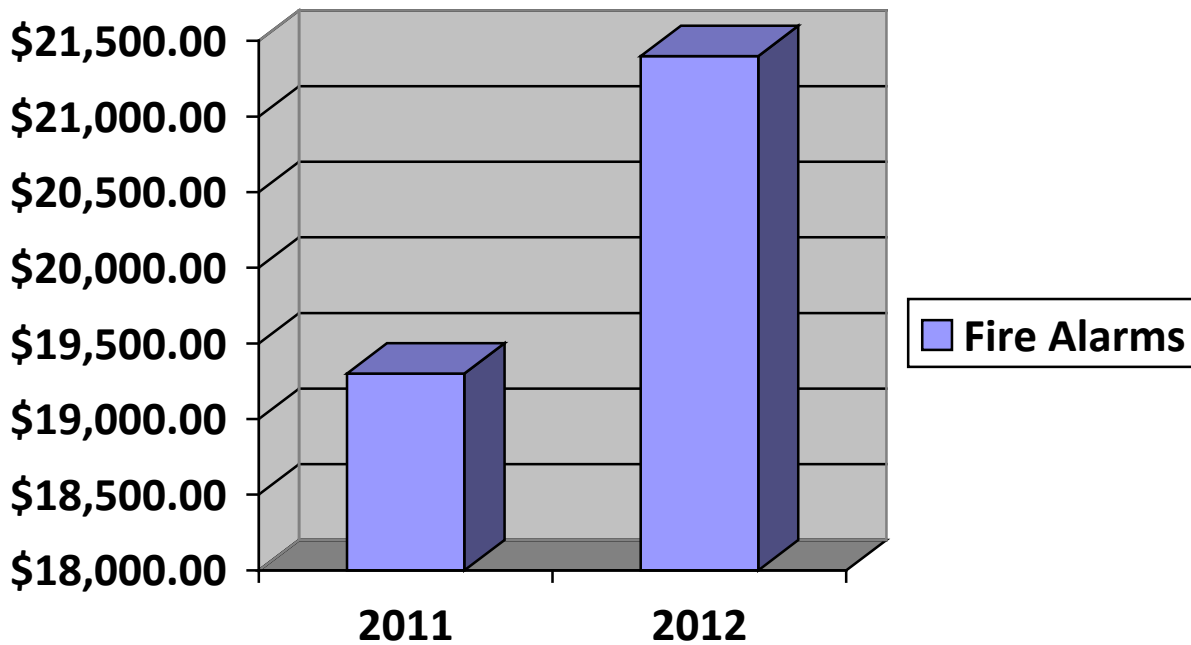
MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2011		MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2012	
SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS	\$14,300.	SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS	\$17,700.
PERMITS ISSUED	143	PERMITS ISSUED	177

FIRE PUMP STATISTICS



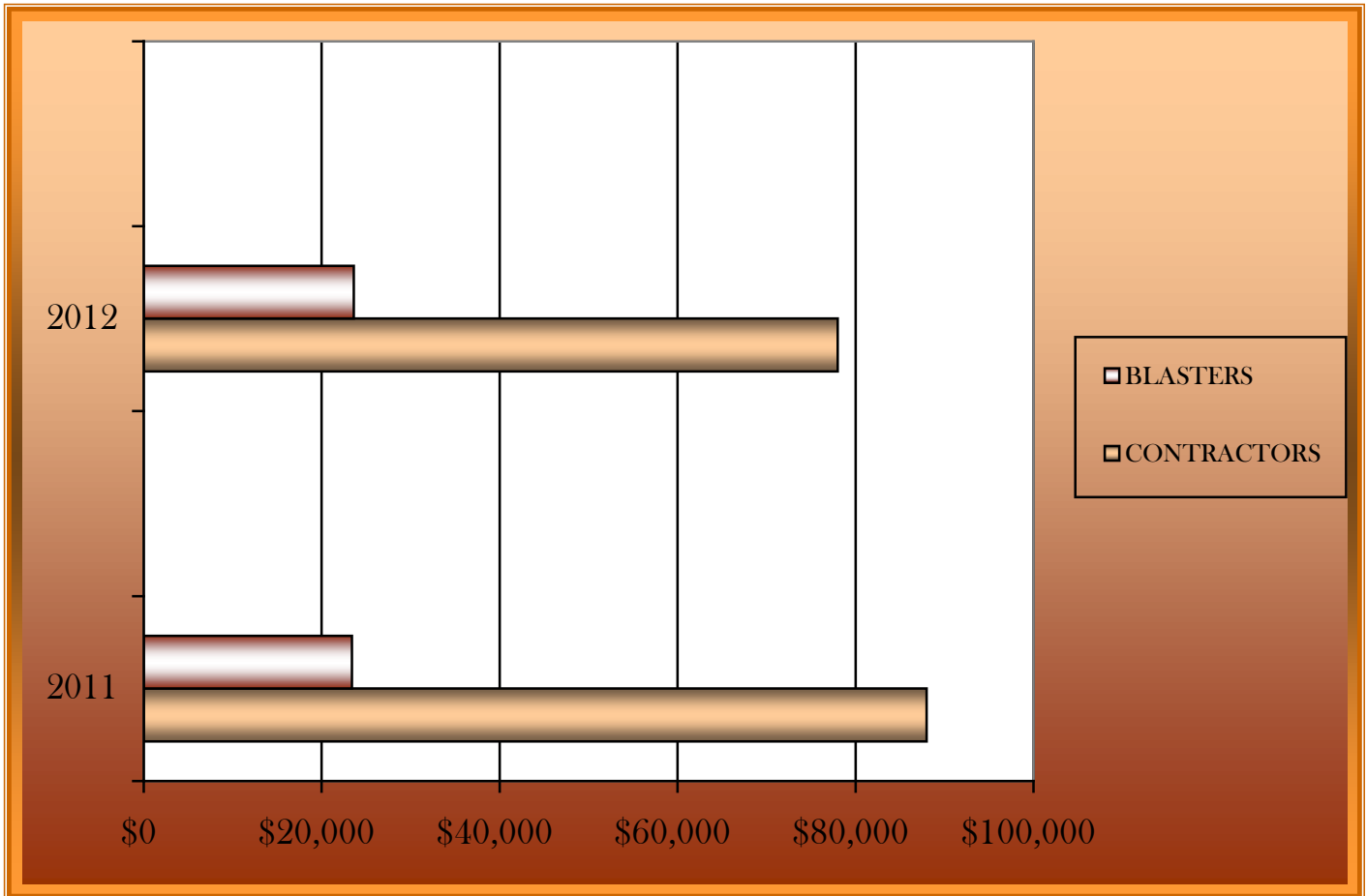
MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2010		MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2011	
FIRE PUMPS	\$30,800.	FIRE PUMPS	\$32,900.
PERMITS ISSUED	308	PERMITS ISSUED	329

FIRE ALARM CONTRACTORS



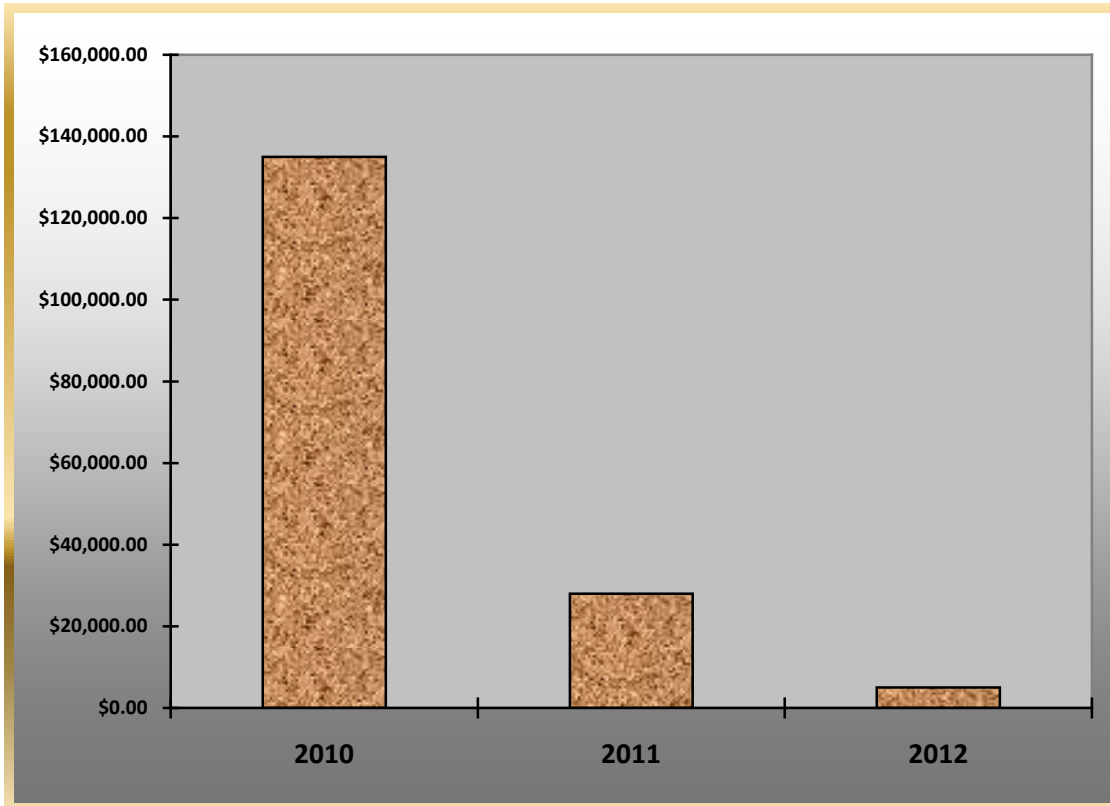
MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2011		MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2012	
FIRE ALARMS	\$19,300	FIRE ALARMS	\$21,400.
PERMITS ISSUED	193	PERMITS ISSUED	214

CONTRACTORS & BLASTERS STATISTICS



<u>MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2011</u>		<u>MONIES COLLECTED FOR 2012</u>	
CONTRACTORS	\$ 88,000	CONTRACTORS	\$78,000
BLASTERS	\$23,400	BLASTERS	\$23,600
TOTALS	\$111,400	TOTALS	\$101,600
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	278	TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	275

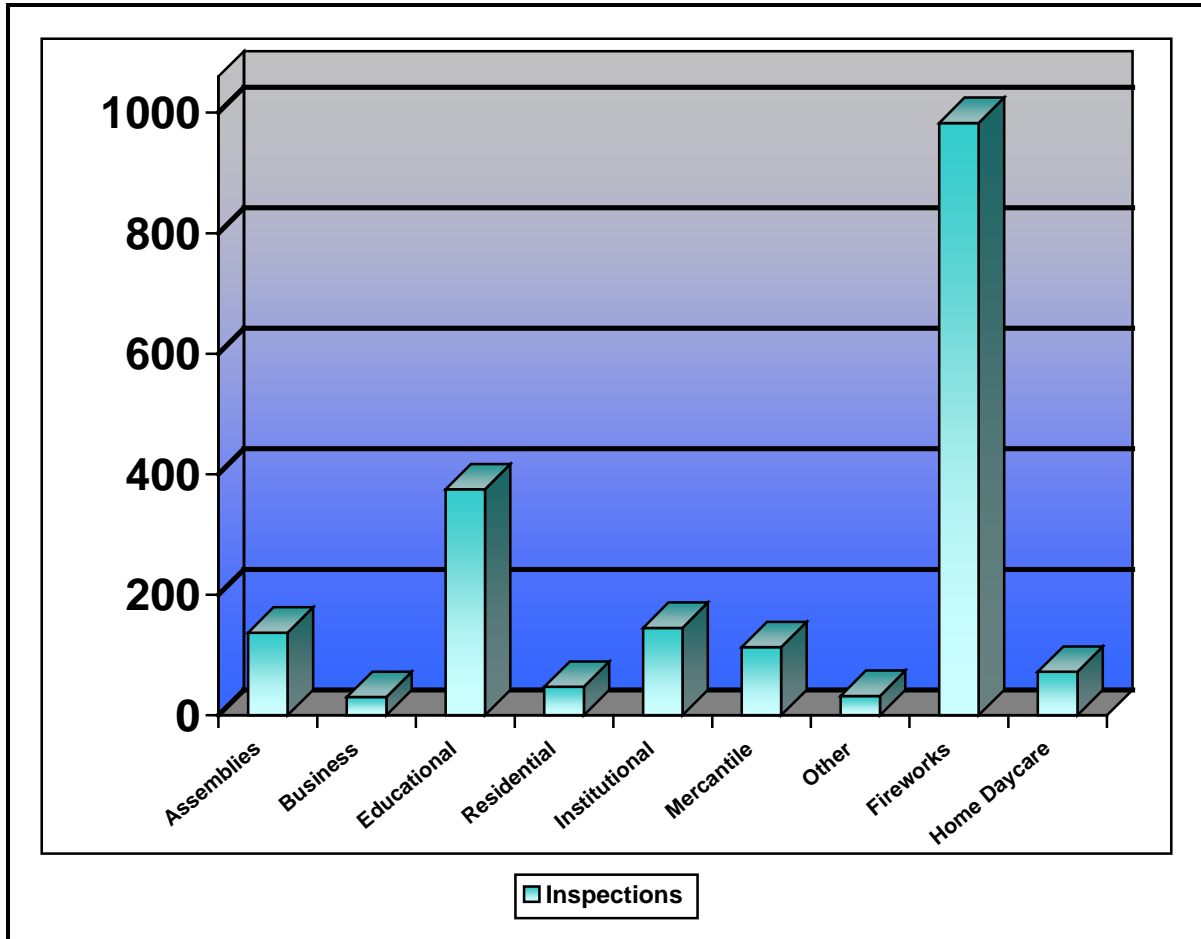
CIGARETTE IGNITION PROPENSITY STATISTICS



<u>2010</u>		<u>2011</u>		<u>2012</u>	
FEES COLLECTED	\$135,000.	FEES COLLECTED	\$28,000.	FEES COLLECTED	5,000.
PERMITS ISSUED	135	PERMITS ISSUED	28	PERMITS ISSUED	5

- **This is a three (3) year license.**

Inspections



CLASSIFICATION	INSPECTIONS
Assembly	137
Business	30
Educational	375
Residential	47
Institutional	145
Mercantile	113
Other	32
Fireworks	983
Home Daycare	72
TOTAL	1,934

Inspections by County

AUTAUGA	7	JACKSON	13
BALDWIN	50	JEFFERSON	38
BARBOUR	13	LAMAR	6
BIBB	7	LAUDERDALE	39
BLOUNT	8	LAWRENCE	3
BULLOCK	7	LEE	18
BUTLER	16	LIMESTONE	36
CALHOUN	33	LOWNDES	5
CHAMBERS	19	MACON	17
CHEROKEE	2	MADISON	15
CHILTON	10	MARENGO	8
CHOCTAW	10	MARION	13
CLARKE	14	MARSHALL	9
CLAY	3	MOBILE	43
CLEBURNE	3	MONROE	20
COFFEE	10	MONTGOMERY	6
COLBERT	67	MORGAN	14
CONECUH	11	PERRY	10
COOSA	3	PICKENS	4
COVINGTON	16	PIKE	9
CRENSHAW	10	RANDOLPH	20
CULLMAN	16	RUSSELL	17
DALE	26	SHELBY	17
DALLAS	8	ST. CLAIR	18
DEKALB	2	SUMTER	2
ELMORE	9	TALLADEGA	62
ESCAMBIA	20	TALLAPOOSA	11
ETOWAH	5	TUSCALOOSA	6
FAYETTE	10	WALKER	7
FRANKLIN	5	WASHINGTON	15
GENEVA	21	WILCOX	2
GREENE	7	WINSTON	1
HALE	5		
HENRY	20		
HOUSTON	25	TOTAL	1,002

Fireworks Inspections by County

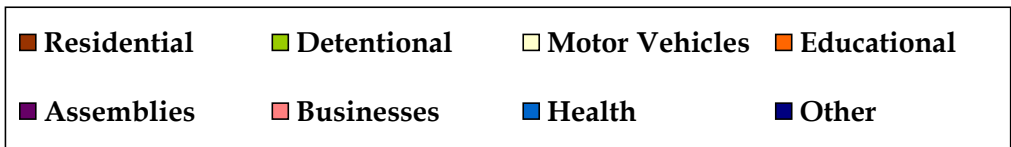
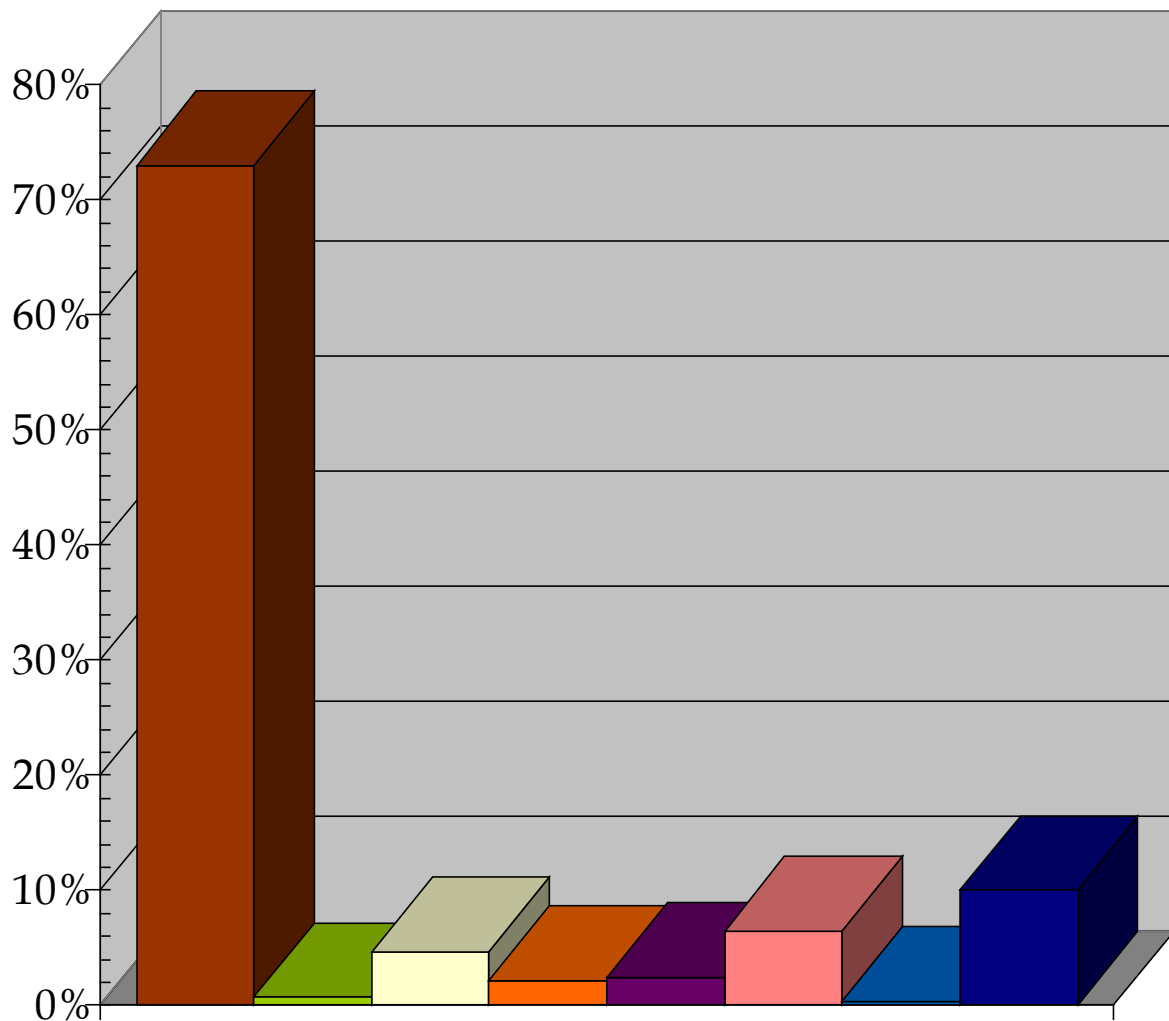
AUTAUGA	6	JACKSON	9
BALDWIN	25	JEFFERSON	88
BARBOUR	3	LAMAR	1
BIBB	4	LAUDERDALE	21
BLOUNT	18	LAWRENCE	9
BULLOCK	-	LEE	20
BUTLER	4	LIMESTONE	13
CALHOUN	17	LOWNDES	-
CHAMBERS	10	MACON	-
CHEROKEE	16	MADISON	73
CHILTON	18	MARENGO	8
CHOCTAW	5	MARION	8
CLARKE	4	MARSHALL	15
CLAY	3	MOBILE	64
CLEBURNE	7	MONROE	4
COFFEE	3	MONTGOMERY	9
COLBERT	16	MORGAN	16
CONECUH	1	PERRY	1
COOSA	-	PICKENS	2
COVINGTON	17	PIKE	6
CRENSHAW	1	RANDOLPH	14
CULLMAN	27	RUSSELL	6
DALE	9	SHELBY	26
DALLAS	5	ST. CLAIR	15
DEKALB	20	SUMTER	1
ELMORE	20	TALLADEGA	20
ESCAMBIA	7	TALLAPOOSA	13
ETOWAH	23	TUSCALOOSA	54
FAYETTE	3	WALKER	26
FRANKLIN	8	WASHINGTON	6
GENEVA	7	WILCOX	1
GREENE	1	WINSTON	9
HALE	3		
HENRY	2		
HOUSTON	27	TOTAL	932

Classifications of Property Involved A Closer Look . .

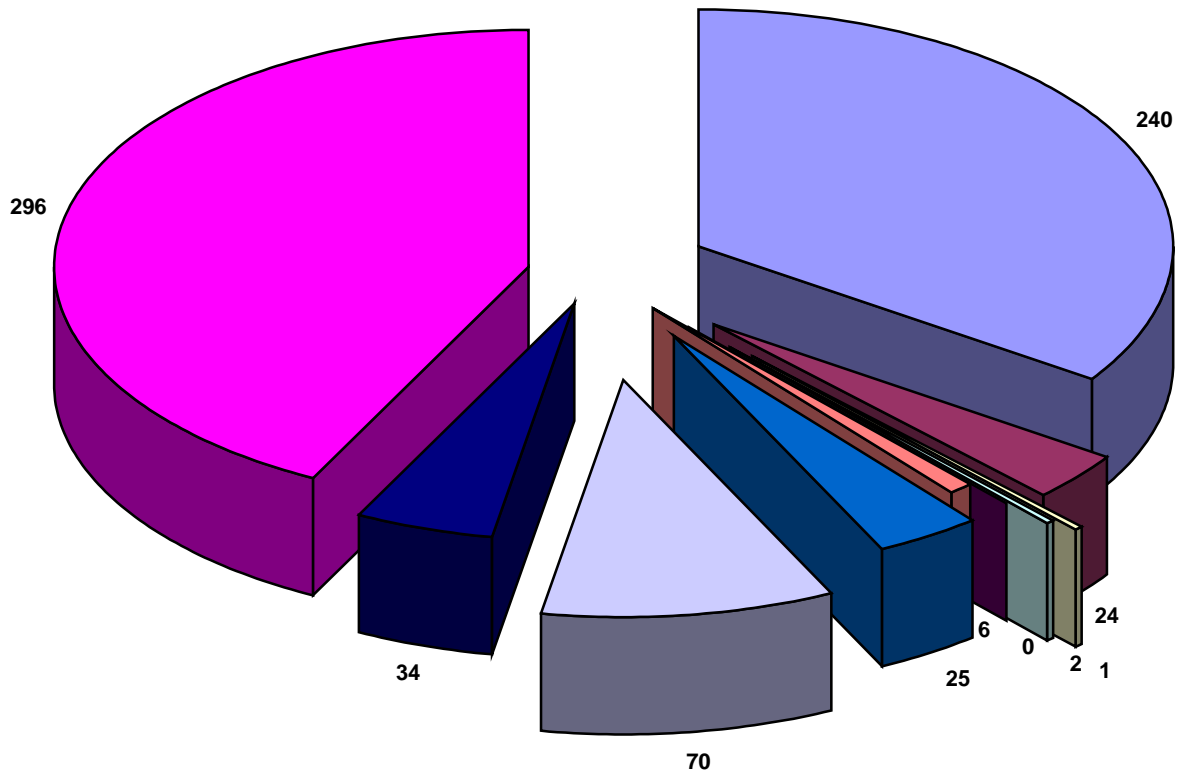
RESIDENTIAL:	73%
DWELLINGS	360
MOBILE HOMES	127
APARTMENTS, DORMITORIES	21
HUNTING CLUBS/LODGES	0
HOTELS/MOTELS	2
DETENTIONAL:	.7%
JAILS, etc.	5
MOTOR VEHICLES:	4.7%
AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS, etc.	31
MOTOR HOMES/CAMPER TRAILERS	0
WATERCRAFT	0
FARM EQUIPMENT/ TRACTORS, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, etc.	2
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES:	2.2%
SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES	15
ASSEMBLIES:	2.4%
ASSEMBLIES/CHURCHES	10
RESTAURANTS	7
BUSINESSES:	6.5%
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, MERCANTILE	45
HEALTHCARE:	.4%
DOCTOR OFFICES, HOSPITALS	3
OTHER:	10%
	70
TOTAL	698

Investigations

Classifications of Property Involved



Classifications of Investigations

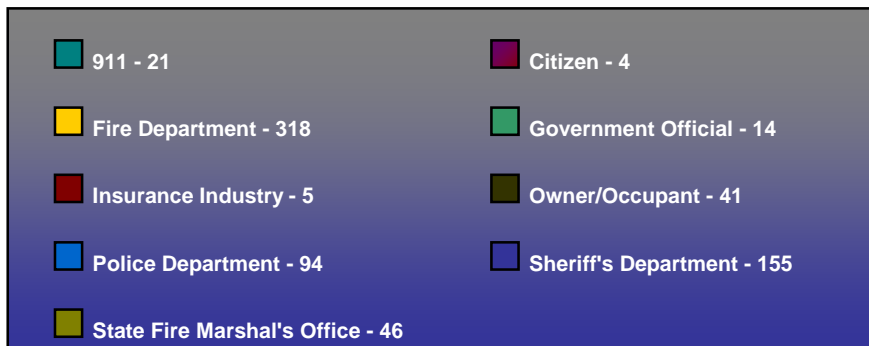
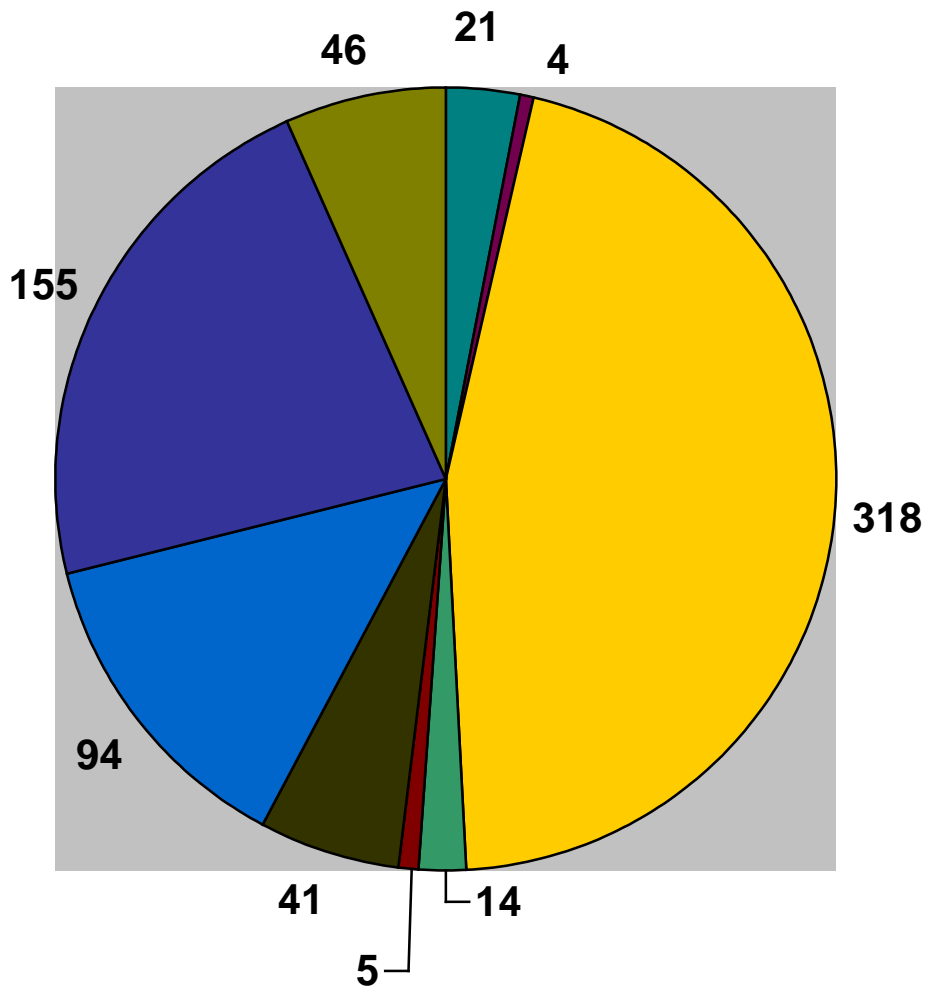


■ Arson - 240	■ Electrical System - 24
□ Adverse Weather - 1	□ Natural Gas System - 2
■ Liquified Petroleum Gas System - 0	■ Heating Equipment - 6
■ Cooking Equipment - 25	□ Not Otherwise Classified - 70
■ Other-Criminal/Non Criminal - 34	■ Unknown/Undetermined - 296

Investigations by County

AUTAUGA	9	JACKSON	19
BALDWIN	30	JEFFERSON	40
BARBOUR	10	LAMAR	12
BIBB	1	LAUDERDALE	30
BLOUNT	12	LAWRENCE	8
BULLOCK	7	LEE	16
BUTLER	8	LIMESTONE	10
CALHOUN	7	LOWNDES	4
CHAMBERS	10	MACON	8
CHEROKEE	2	MADISON	4
CHILTON	8	MARENGO	3
CHOCTAW	0	MARION	12
CLARKE	10	MARSHALL	8
CLAY	2	MOBILE	46
CLEBURNE	0	MONROE	7
COFFEE	8	MONTGOMERY	4
COLBERT	27	MORGAN	10
CONECUH	4	PERRY	4
COOSA	4	PICKENS	3
COVINGTON	7	PIKE	2
CRENSHAW	7	RANDOLPH	4
CULLMAN	14	RUSSELL	7
DALE	7	SHELBY	9
DALLAS	6	ST. CLAIR	8
DEKALB	7	SUMTER	0
ELMORE	16	TALLADEGA	18
ESCAMBIA	16	TALLAPOOSA	4
ETOWAH	6	TUSCALOOSA	13
FAYETTE	7	WALKER	69
FRANKLIN	16	WASHINGTON	2
GENEVA	7	WILCOX	4
GREENE	1	WINSTON	15
HALE	4		
HENRY	6		
HOUSTON	9	TOTAL	698

Investigation Requestors





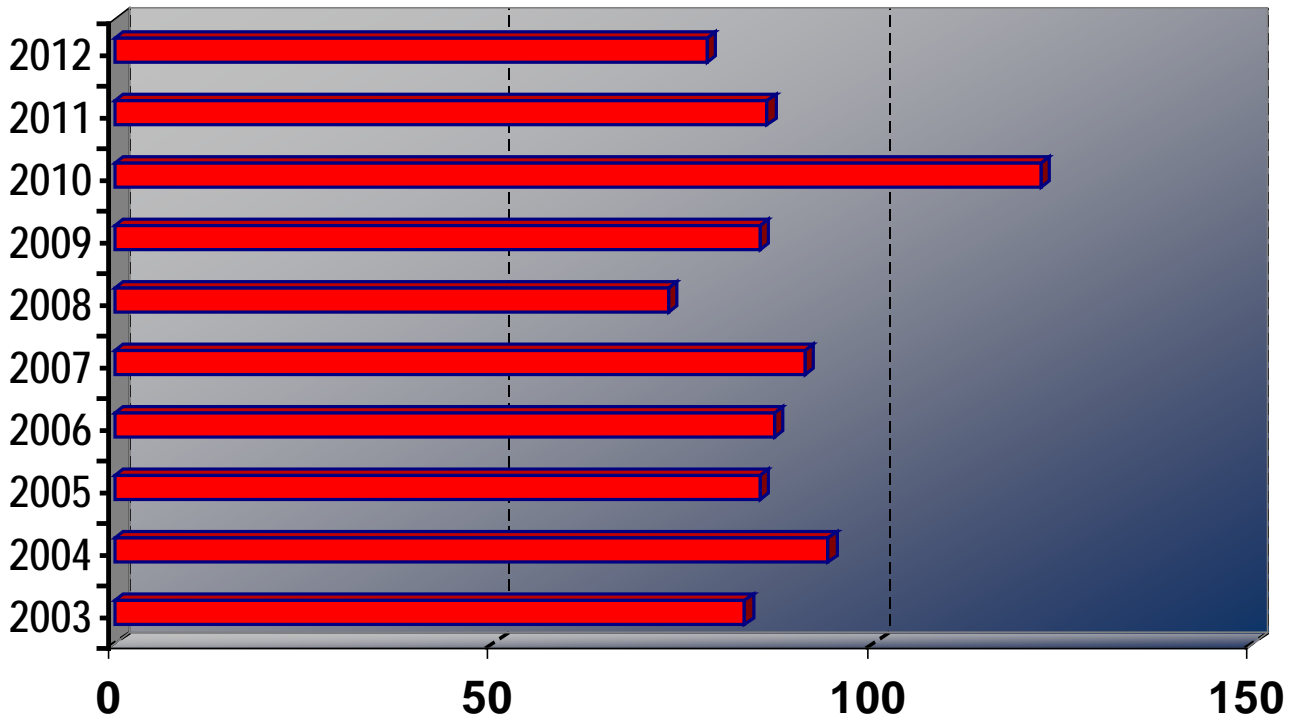
2012 Arrests / Charges



Arson 1 st	15
Arson 2 nd	52
Arson 3 rd	1
Assault 2 nd	1
Attempted Arson 1 st	1
Attempted Arson 2 nd	1
Attempted Murder	2
Burglary 3 rd	12
Capital Murder	1
Carrying Concealed Weapon	4
Conservation-Land-Intent to Set Fire	1
Conspiracy to Commit Arson	2
Criminal Mischief 1 st	8
Criminal Mischief 3 rd	1
Criminal Possession of Explosive Device	1
Criminal Solicitation to Commit Arson	1
Criminal Solicitation to Commit Murder	1
Cruelty to Animals	2
Cruelty to Dog or Cat 1 st	5
Destructive Device	16
Discharge Firearm into an Occupied Dwelling	1
Disorderly Conduct	2
Manufacturing Methamphetamine	5
Murder	2
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	3

Possession of Explosive Device	1
Possession of Marijuana	3
Possession or Receipt of a Controlled Substance	3
Public Intoxication	2
Receiving Stolen Property 2 nd	1
Receiving Stolen Property 3 rd	2
Terrorist Threat	2
Theft by Deception 2 nd	1
Theft of Property 2 nd	2
Theft of Property 3 rd	3
Woodlands Arson	1
TOTAL	160

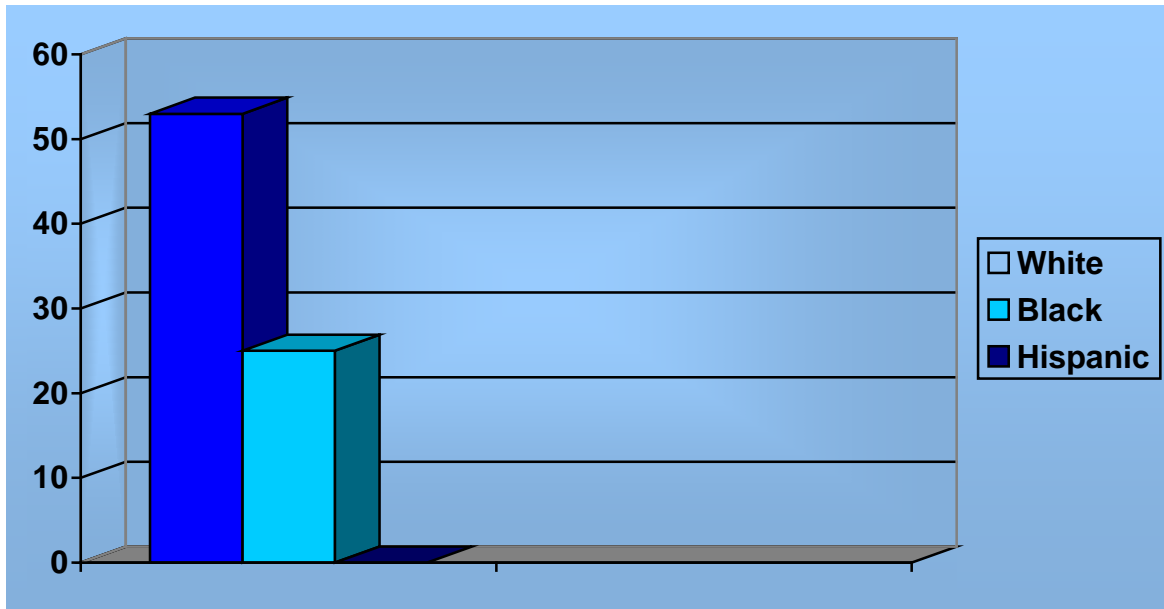
Alabama Fire Fatality Record



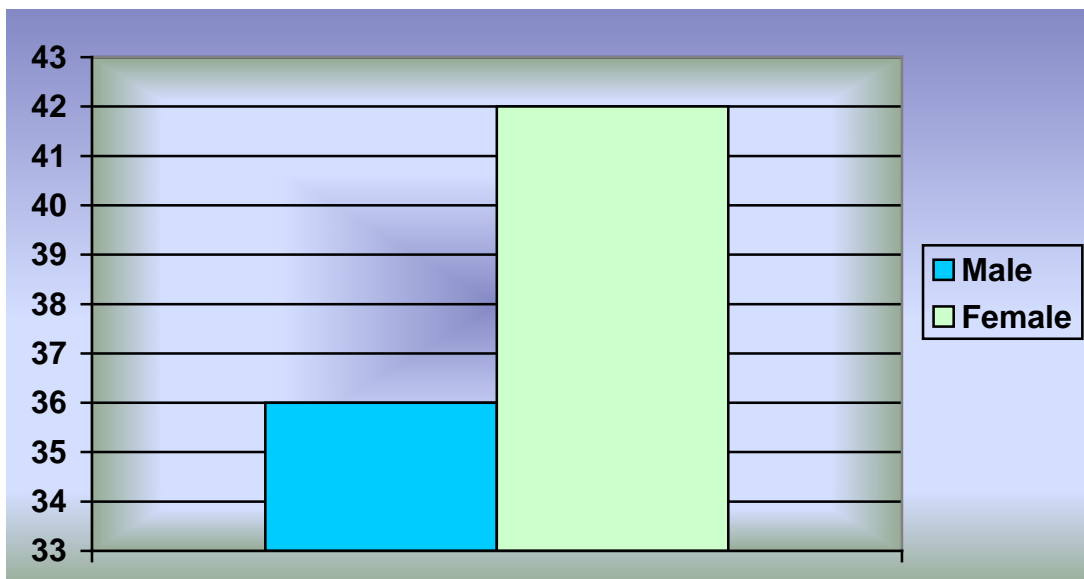
Alabama's fire death record for the past ten years is statistically graphed above. The exact numbers of annual fire-related fatalities are as follows:

2003 - 83
2004 - 94
2005 - 85
2006 - 87
2007 - 91
2008 - 73
2009 - 85
2010 - 122
2011 - 86
2012 - 78

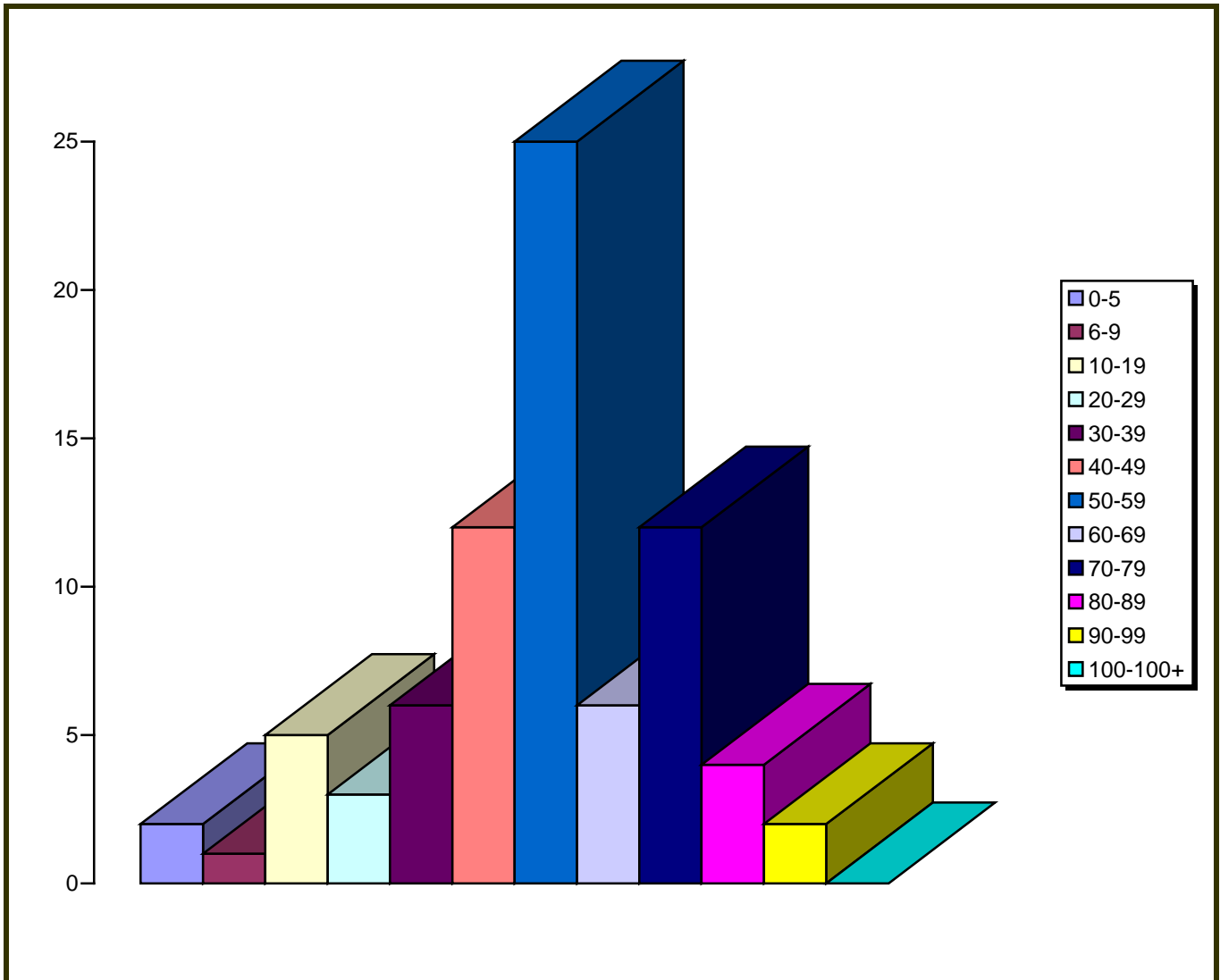
Fatalities by Race



Fatalities by Gender



Fatalities by Age



The fire-related fatalities are broken down into age groups in the graph above. The exact fatalities per age group are as follows:

Age	Number	Age	Number
0 – 5	2	60 – 69	6
6 – 9	1	70 – 79	12
10 – 19	5	80 – 89	4
20 – 29	3	90 – 99	2
30 – 39	6	100+	0
40 – 49	12		
50 – 59	25	Total	78

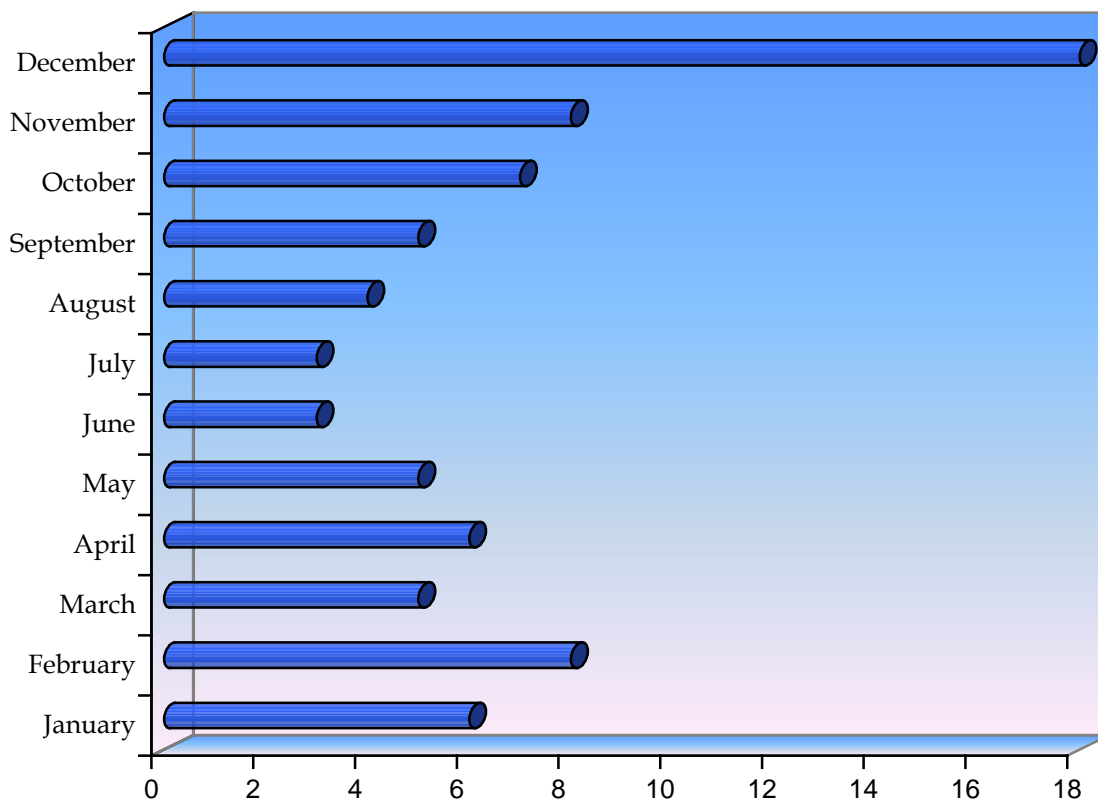
FIRE FATALITY CAUSES

ARSON BY FIRE	3
SUICIDE BY FIRE (inside building or vehicle)	2
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM-WIRING- PERMANENT-EXTERIOR	1
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM-WIRING- PERMANENT-INTERIOR	5
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM-WIRING- TEMPORARY-INTERIOR	1
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM - CLOTHES DRYER	1
ELECTRIC-PORTABLE HEATERS	3
NATURAL GAS SYSTEM-PIPING/TUBING- PERMANENT-INTERIOR	1
WOOD HEATER	2
ELECTRIC-STOVE/OVEN- LEFT UNATTENDED	13
EXPOSURE FIRE	2
AUTOMOBILE-COLLISION	1
UNATTENDED CANDLE/OTHER AUXILIARY LIGHTING	3
FIRE/ARSON PREVENTION	1
MISUSE OF SMOKING MATERIALS (including improperly discarded)	4
UNCONTROLLED OPEN BURNING	1
UNDETERMINED	28
UNDETERMINED-NOT SUSPICIOUS	1
UNDETERMINED-SUSPICIOUS	4
OTHER - NON CRIMINAL	1
TOTAL	78

Fatalities by County

AUTAUGA	2	JACKSON	1
BALDWIN	1	JEFFERSON	8
BARBOUR	3	LAMAR	-
BIBB	-	LAUDERDALE	3
BLOUNT	-	LAWRENCE	2
BULLOCK	1	LEE	2
BUTLER	1	LIMESTONE	1
CALHOUN	2	LOWNDES	1
CHAMBERS	-	MACON	1
CHEROKEE	-	MADISON	5
CHILTON	1	MARENGO	-
CHOCTAW	-	MARION	1
CLARKE	1	MARSHALL	1
CLAY	1	MOBILE	7
CLEBURNE	-	MONROE	1
COFFEE	1	MONTGOMERY	2
COLBERT	3	MORGAN	1
CONECUH	-	PERRY	-
COOSA	-	PICKENS	1
COVINGTON	1	PIKE	-
CRENSHAW	-	RANDOLPH	1
CULLMAN	-	RUSSELL	1
DALE	-	SHELBY	-
DALLAS	-	ST. CLAIR	-
DEKALB	1	SUMTER	-
ELMORE	1	TALLADEGA	2
ESCAMBIA	3	TALLAPOOSA	1
ETOWAH	-	TUSCALOOSA	1
FAYETTE	-	WALKER	3
FRANKLIN	-	WASHINGTON	-
GENEVA	-	WILCOX	-
GREENE	1	WINSTON	2
HALE	-		
HENRY	3		
HOUSTON	2	TOTAL	78

Fatalities by Month



The fire-related fatalities are broken down by months in the graph above.
The exact fatalities per month are as follows:

January	6	July	3
February	8	August	4
March	5	September	5
April	6	October	7
May	5	November	8
June	3	December	18

Total Fatalities – 78