



2007 Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) **Quick Facts**¹

As of 01/09/2008

- **Somewhere in Virginia, every minute, a fire department responded to an incident** – Fire departments responded to an average of 1,238 incidents each day. There were on average 777 EMS responses, 73 fire responses, and 387 other responses each day.
- **The demand for the fire service has expanded; the fire service does more than put out fires** – Sixty-three (63) percent of the incidents were emergency medical or rescue calls; 9% were good intent calls; 8% were non-malicious false calls, 7% were service calls, 6% were fire calls, 5% were hazardous condition calls, and 2% were other calls.
- **Fire injuries and fire deaths happen more than you might expect** – On an average, every 5 hours, 14 minutes someone was hurt or died as a result of fire; 558 fire injuries or deaths were reported in 2007.
- **Fire damage to property can be costly** – Total fire dollar loss was \$434.5 Million; 414 incidents had a total dollar loss of \$50,000 or more.
- **Rescue Calls** - Forty (40) percent of EMS incidents occurred in a 1-or-2 family dwelling home, 17% occurred on highways, streets, road or parking areas, and 6% occurred in nursing homes.
- **Cooking** - For residential structure fires in which the cause was known, 38% of the fires were due to cooking and accounted for 44% of the civilian injuries.
- **Smoking** accounted for 17% of civilian deaths in residential structure fires in which the cause was known.
- **Grass, Brush Fires** – Thirty-three (33) percent or one-third of the total fires reported in 2007 were natural vegetation fires while structure fires accounted for 29%.
- **Even though deliberately set fires or suspicious fires account for a low percentage of residential structure fires, the effects are devastating** – Incendiary or suspicious fires contributed to 61% of total dollar loss in residential structure fires when cause was known – \$87.7 Million in 2007 and 52% of civilian deaths.

¹ Totals for Calendar Year 2007 will not be finalized until April 1, 2008. For questions about VFIRS, call Marion A. Long, VFIRS Program Manager, (804) 371-0220.