



Virginia Department of Fire Programs

2008 Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS)

Quick Facts

- **Somewhere in Virginia, every minute, an incident occurs in which a fire department responds** - Fire departments responded to an average of 1,697 incidents per day in 2008. (1,082 EMS responses, 81 fire responses and 535 other responses each day.)
- **The demand for fire service has expanded; fire service does more than put out fires** - 64% of the incidents were rescue and EMS calls; 10% were good intent calls; 9% were false alarms, 7% were service calls, 5% were fires, 5% were hazardous condition calls, and 1% were other calls.
- **Fire service saved property from being destroyed and reduced the amount of property damage** - 6.4 billion dollars of property and contents were saved with fire incidents in 2008; the total dollar loss associated with fires was \$325 million dollars.
- **Civilian injuries and deaths from fires happen more than you expect** - On average, every 16 hours, a civilian was hurt or died as a result of a fire; there were a total of 554 civilian fire casualties (474 injuries and 80 deaths) that occurred in 2008.
- **Firefighters are exposed to hazardous situations** - Fire service suffered 335 injuries and 1 death while responding to incidents.
- **Fire departments extinguished more than just home fires** - Structure fires accounted for 34% of the fire incidents, while brush or natural vegetation fires made up 29% of the total fires.
- **Fire service personnel committed long hours to control emergency situations** - Fire service accumulated a total of 3,010,356 man hours responding to, controlling and clearing incidents in 2008.
- **Cooking in the home was the leading cause of fires** - 31% of the residential structure fires were due to cooking; the fires accounted for 126 civilian injuries.
- **Emergency situations impact everyone in Virginia** - Incidents occurred at a rate of 92.3 incidents for every 1,000 Virginia residents in 2008.

Note: Data is compiled from information reported to the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) for 2008 as of 04/06/2009. Numbers and percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.