



Office of the State Fire Marshal



Annual Report *Fiscal Year 2024*



Dedicated in Memory of
Rodney T. Marvel
1968-2024



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

JOHN W. RUDD
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DOVER OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS

September 9, 2024

The Honorable John C. Carney, Governor
State of Delaware
Office of the Governor
Tatnall Building
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Carney,

I am pleased to forward to you the 71st Annual Report from the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The 71st Annual Report reflects the accomplishments of the agency by our dedicated staff in providing a fire safe environment to the residents, visitors, and our business community throughout the State of Delaware during FY 2024.

By conducting thorough and efficient fire investigations, performing occupancy inspections, various code enforcement activities, comprehensive plan reviews, fire protection system reviews and inspections, youth fire-setter intervention, and performing various community outreach programs, our agency was able to provide the citizens of the State of Delaware and all who visit a fire safe environment.

The staff of the Office of the State Fire Marshal worked with other state agencies, our partners in law enforcement, our first responders, the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association, Delaware State Fire School, and Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission to deliver timely and quality service to the residents and visitors of Delaware.

We appreciate the support you and your staff provide to our agency, as well as the support of the General Assembly in providing the funding and the resources needed to accomplish our mission.

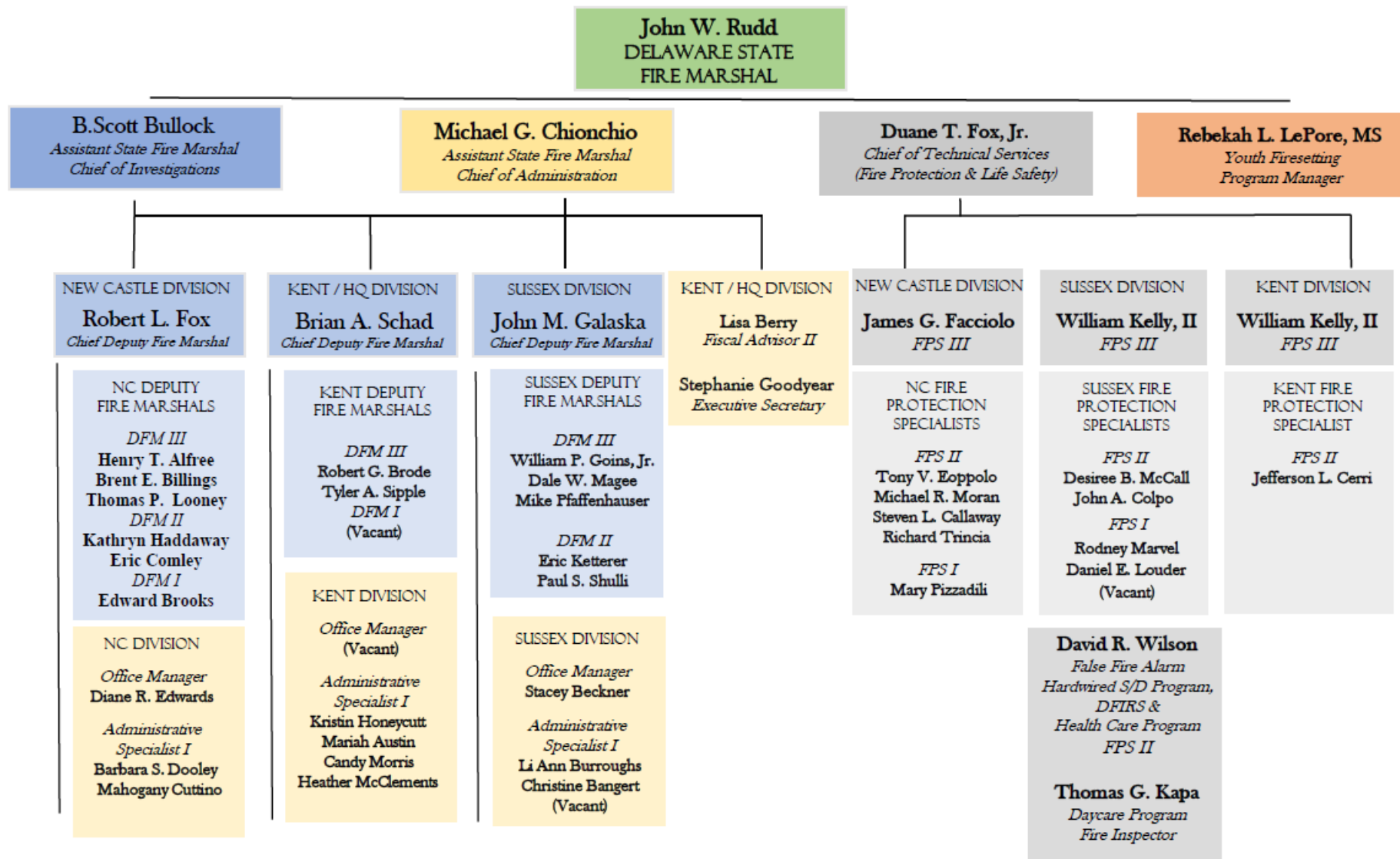
Respectfully submitted,

John W. Rudd, CFPS, CFI-II, CFPE
State Fire Marshal

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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

In 1953, at the urging of the Volunteer Fire Service, the State Legislature created the Office of the State Fire Marshal and directed regulations reflecting nationally recognized standards, be promulgated to enhance life safety and property conservation for the citizens of Delaware.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal functions as an independent state agency under the State Fire Prevention Commission, which promulgates the State Fire Prevention Regulations, as enforced by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. As the law enforcement agency charged by 16 Del. C. §6612 with the suppression and investigation of arson, the Office of the State Fire Marshal provides the lead role in fire and arson investigations, statewide. The agency is charged with assisting the Chief of any fire department on request, inspections and code enforcement in health care facilities, educational occupancies, places of assembly, public accommodations, flammable and combustible liquids, flammable gases, explosives, and fireworks.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is funded by revenues from the General Fund Appropriations of the State and by revenues generated by the agency from plan reviews of new construction and licensing fees associated with fire protection systems.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is responsible for the comprehensive compliance with the State Statute for the installation of smoke detection devices in all residential occupancies, which greatly reduce the likelihood of injuries and deaths from fire.

The State Fire Marshal is appointed by the State Fire Prevention Commission and serves a four-year term. Under the direction of the State Fire Marshal, the daily operations of the agency are carried out by a team of dedicated staff members operating out of the headquarters division in Dover, with regional offices in New Castle and Georgetown.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is to provide a fire safe environment for the citizens of Delaware and all who visit and carries out its mandate for Public Service, through the work of three divisions: Administration, Field Operations & Technical Services.

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration of the Office of the State Fire Marshal is carried out at the headquarters division located in Dover and has the responsibility to ensure the accountability, accuracy, and competency of all facets of the agency through the following:

- Program Planning & Evaluation
- Administrative Policies & Procedures
- Maintain Central Records
- Fiscal Management & Budget Preparation
- Personnel Management
- Physical Plant Requirements
- Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System
- Staff Training & Education
- On-going Review of State Fire Prevention Regulations
- Data Management
- Fire Loss/Fire Death Statistics
- Interaction with a variety of State Agencies, General Assembly, Federal, County & Local Government

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire Investigations by Deputy Fire Marshals:

- Conduct fire investigations to determine the origin and cause of the fire
- Identify incendiary fires & other fires of criminal nature
- Investigate arson & other fires of criminal nature
- Pursue & apprehend those responsible for other fires of criminal nature & arson
- Investigate fatal fire incidents
- Assist the Department of Justice by providing expert testimony on arson fires and other fires of criminal or accidental nature
- Identify accidental fire causes to establish proactive preventative measures

Public Service, Life Safety, and Code Enforcement by Deputy Fire Marshals:

- Ensure compliance with the State Statute mandating the installation of smoke detectors in all residential occupancies
- Investigate complaints relative to violations of the State Fire Prevention Regulations
- Conduct on-site Life Safety, Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement Inspections in the following occupancies:

Educational Occupancies* Places of Assembly* Public Accommodations* Mercantile* Business* Flammable & Combustible Liquids * Flammable Gases * Fireworks * Explosives * Government Buildings

TECHNICAL SERVICES /FIRE PROTECTION

Fire Protection Specialists:

- Review all plans & specifications for construction of new buildings, additions, alterations, or modifications to existing buildings to ensure compliance with the State Fire Prevention Regulations
- Provide consultation to prospective developers & builders regarding their plans for projects in the concept phase
- Ensure required fire alarm and fire suppression systems are installed properly
- Coordinate all requests for alternative code requirements and all appeals to the State Fire Prevention Regulations
- Oversee the Licensing & Certification of Fire Alarm Signaling & Fire Suppression System contractors
- Investigate complaints relative to deficiencies in the installation of fire protection systems
- Provide technical support to other state & local jurisdictions

*Juvenile Intervention * K9 Accelerant Detection * Health Care Facility & Day Care Facility Certification * Major Incident Response Team * Assistance to Fire Chiefs * Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System * Quality Assurance * Hard Wired Smoke Detector * False Fire Alarm *
* Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette **

NEW HIRES

Christine Bangert

Administrative Specialist I

Christine Bangert began her employment with our office on December 4, 2023, as an Administrative Specialist I, assigned to the Sussex County Division.

Li Ann Burroughs

Administrative Specialist I

Li Ann Burroughs began her employment with our office on September 25, 2023, as an Administrative Specialist I, assigned to the Sussex County Division.

Mahogany Cuttino

Administrative Specialist I

Mahogany Cuttino began her employment with our office on January 16, 2024, as an Administrative Specialist I, assigned to the New Castle County Division.

Heather McClements

Administrative Specialist I

Heather McClements began her employment with our office on August 28, 2023, as an Administrative Specialist I, assigned to the Kent County Division.

Daniel Louder

Fire Protection Specialist I

Daniel Louder began his employment with our office on March 25, 2024, as a Fire Protection Specialist I, assigned to the Sussex County Division.

Mary Pizzadili

Fire Protection Specialist I

Mary Pizzadili began her employment with our office on January 16, 2024, as a Fire Protection Specialist I, assigned to the New Castle County Division.

Edward Brooks

Deputy Fire Marshal I

Edward Brooks began his employment with our office on April 8, 2024, as a Deputy Fire Marshal I, assigned to the New Castle County Division.

PROMOTIONS

Stacey Beckner

Office Manager

Stacey Beckner began her employment with our office on August 8, 2005, as an Administrative Specialist I. On August 13, 2023, Stacey was promoted to Office Manager, assigned to the Sussex County Division.

William Kelly

Fire Protection Specialist III

William Kelly began his employment with our office on January 16, 2016, as a Fire Protection Specialist I. On January 16, 2024, William was promoted to Fire Protection Specialist III, assigned to the Kent and Sussex County Divisions.

Duane Fox

Fire Protection Specialist IV

Duane Fox began his employment with our office on January 16, 1996, as a Fire Protection Specialist I. On December 4, 2023, Duane was promoted to Fire Protection Specialist IV, assigned Statewide.

Brian Schad

Deputy Fire Marshal IV

Brian Schad began his employment with our office on July 15, 2002, as a Deputy Fire Marshal I. On February 12, 2024, Brian was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal IV, assigned to the Kent County Division.

B. Scott Bullock

Deputy Fire Marshal V

Scott Bullock began his employment with our office on June 16, 1999, as a Deputy Fire Marshal I. On December 18, 2023, Scott was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal V, assigned Statewide.

John W. Rudd

State Fire Marshal

John Rudd began work at the Office of the State Fire Marshal on October 1, 1996, as a Fire Protection Specialist. In 2006, he was promoted to Assistant Chief of Technical Services, supervising the northern Plan Review and Inspections divisions of the agency. John sits on numerous technical advisory committees as a subject matter expert on issues that deal with life safety, homeland security, and fire protection. In 2021 he was promoted to Chief of Technical Services, where he managed the fire protection and life safety division of the agency, as well as overseeing the fire protection vendor licensing program, quality assurance program (QAP), and code enforcement activities. John holds an A.A.S. in Safety Management from Delaware Technical and Community College and a B.S. in Organizational Management from Wilmington University. He is a life member of the Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder Company of Newark, Delaware, where he held all fire officer ranks, culminating in proudly serving as Chief of the Department from 2012-2013. Mr. Rudd was appointed by the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission to serve as the State of Delaware's seventh State Fire Marshal on November 1, 2023.

RETIREES

J. Robert Wyatt

Fire Protection Specialist II

J. Robert Wyatt began his employment with our office on March 16, 1990, as a Deputy Fire Marshal I assigned to the Kent County Division. Rob later transferred his position to a Fire Protection Specialist II within the agency. He retired on November 30, 2023.

Henry T. Alfree

Deputy Fire Marshal III

Henry Alfree began his employment with our office on January 19, 1999, as a Deputy Fire Marshal I assigned to the New Castle County Division. He retired on June 30, 2024.



STATE FIRE MARSHAL GROVER P. INGLE RETIRES

On October 31, 2023, Grover P. Ingle retired as State Fire Marshal for the State of Delaware.

Mr. Ingle was hired by State Fire Marshal J. Benjamin Roy, Jr. and started his career with the Office of the State Fire Marshal on August 27, 1990, as a Deputy Fire Marshal assigned to the Fire Investigation and Code Enforcement disciplines in the New Castle County Division office.

On August 1, 1996, he was promoted by State Fire Marshal Daniel R. Kiley to Chief Deputy Fire Marshal for the New Castle County Division office and was the supervisor responsible for the daily operations of the division, which included overseeing the construction of a new division office; eventually, this supervision would include the northern half of Kent County as well.

On September 24, 2001, he was promoted by State Fire Marshal Willard F. Preston, III to serve as the Assistant State Fire Marshal with statewide responsibility for strategic planning, budget, human resources, and overseeing the Technical Services Division of the agency.

On June 1, 2007, the State Fire Prevention Commission appointed Mr. Ingle as the State Fire Marshal, where he served for 16 years, managing all aspects of the agency.

During his career, State Fire Marshal Ingle served on the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Water Supply Coordinating Council (WSCC).

State Fire Marshal Ingle worked with the agency's clients, staff, and State Fire Prevention Commission on adopting the most current National Fire Protection Association Codes and Standards, as well as updating the current State Fire Prevention Regulations and removing regulations that were no longer relevant due to them be outdated or addressed in the other National Codes and Standards.

State Fire Marshal Ingle made improvements in fire safety through updated codes and standards, timely and thorough fire investigations, code enforcement, regular inspections of places of assembly, education, health care, and day care occupancies, as well as in the permitting process, plan reviews, progress and final inspections of plan reviews, quality assurance inspections of fire alarm and sprinkler systems, following up on complaints, and permitting of fireworks. He was involved in the updated computer database system (Salesforce) and maintained a 12–15-day turnaround time of plan reviews.

During his career, State Fire Marshal Ingle built relationships with law enforcement partners, the fire service, and other governmental agencies to keep the public safe from fire and other fire related activity, including accidental and criminal fires.

State Fire Marshal Ingle is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, the National State Fire Marshal Association, National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Delaware Association of Police Chiefs.

State Fire Marshal Ingle resides with his wife, Pam, in New Castle, and is a lifetime member of the Good Will Fire Co., where he proudly served as Chief of Department from 1982-1994. In 1994, he was bestowed the honor of Fire Chief Emeritus by the members of the department, and he continues his lifetime of service with them.

We thank State Fire Marshal Ingle for his many years of service with our agency and wish him and Pam all the best in his retirement!

Employee Recognition



Highlights of our Employee Recognition Plan include the following:

- 4 Awards for Employee Recognition
 - ❖ *Administrative Employee of the Year*
 - ❖ *Investigations Employee of the Year*
 - ❖ *Technical Services Employee of the Year*
 - ❖ *Distinguished Service Award*
- An election in each division will be held annually in April. Once candidates are selected by peers, endorsement letters for those employees are submitted to FM Rudd for final selection.
- Final award recipients are notified by May 1st and presented with their award at the May Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Meeting.
- Employee Family Picnic & Alumni Event will be held at Killen's Pond in Kent County annually on the first Saturday of June, for all current employees, former employees, and their families.
- Statewide Christmas Luncheon, for all current employees, to be held the first week of December each year.



2023-2024 Sunshine Committee

Employee Recognition



Investigations Employee of the Year:

Henry Alfree, New Castle Division



Fire Protection Employee of the Year:

Jefferson Cerri, Kent Division



Distinguished Service Award:

Stacey Beckner, Sussex Division



Administrative Employee of the Year:

Mariah Austin, Kent Division

Technical Services History



J. Benjamin Roy, Jr. was Delaware's first Fire Protection Engineer in 1971 and was appointed State Fire Marshal in 1974. Ben was a strong supporter of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), becoming a regional representative after retirement. Ben was instrumental in creating the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations (DSFPR), creating Parts, Chapters, and Sections that categorized property conservation and life safety. These regulations also assisted fire departments statewide by establishing minimum requirements for access to buildings.

The division was created to review plans, specifications, details, and other construction documents to verify that the design met the minimum codes and standards. Initially, reviews were performed on buildings that created a large life safety risk. Over time employees were added as Fire Protection Specialists (FPS) in each County to review all occupancies throughout the State. In the early 1980s, two FPSs were added to the New Castle County Division and two FPSs were added to Sussex County Division, while one FPS remained in the Kent County division. Under State Fire Marshal Daniel R. Kiley, the New Castle and Sussex divisions began adding staff in order to keep up with the commercial and multifamily residential construction throughout the State. Today we have six FPS positions in New Castle, three FPS positions in Kent, and five FPS positions in Sussex Counties. There is one Fire Inspector statewide.

Fire Protection Specialists are responsible to review and inspect all commercial and multi-residential site plans, subdivisions, commercial building plans for all occupancies (including multi-family dwelling), renovations, additions, and tenant fit outs. Per Title 16, Chapter 66, one- and two-family dwellings are exempt from review and inspection by our agency.

Fire protection system reviews and acceptance tests are performed on fire suppression systems, fire alarm signaling systems, hood suppression systems, special hazard fire suppression systems, and hood/duct for commercial kitchens. The State Fire Marshal's Office also has Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with local building code officials to have our staff review and inspect fire suppression systems in one- and two-family dwellings when required by the residential building code.

In the mid-1990s, the Agency began licensing fire protection companies. Per DSFPR Regulation 703, any company wishing to design, install, and maintain fire protections systems must first become licensed by our agency. During this time, a new program for Quality Assurance (QAP) was developed that tracks fire protection system deficiencies and ensures they are reported and repaired in a timely manner.

We have staff assigned to Day Care inspections as well as Health Care inspections, ensuring day care centers, hospitals, and nursing homes are kept fire safe. Special programs handled by the Technical Services staff include the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), Hard-wired Smoke Detector Program, the Fire Alarm Initiation Reporting Program, and providing assistance to local Fire Chiefs with fire protection issues and problems in their respective districts.

These are just a few of the things that keep the Technical Services staff busy. We would also like to salute our Administrative staff. Without their assistance and hard work, nothing would get done!

Technical Services Plan Review



Technical Services Division staff reviews plans for compliance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations for various project types statewide.

Site Plans: Technical Services staff review site plans to ensure access for fire, emergency medical, and law enforcement personnel; they review any required fire lanes, fire hydrant locations, fire department connection locations, and in cases where no water for fire protection is available, building setbacks from property lines. Some of the site plan types reviewed include:

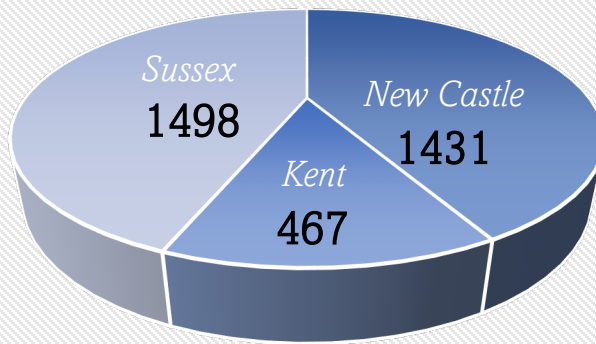
- Residential subdivisions, including one- and two- family dwellings, duplexes, and townhomes.
- Multi-Residential sites, including apartment buildings, hotels, dormitories, lodging and rooming houses, and residential board and care facilities.
- Educational sites, including public and private schools and any athletic facilities.
- Health Care occupancies, including hospitals, nursing homes, and ambulatory health care facilities.
- Detention and Correctional sites.
- Commercial sites for business and retail use.
- Assembly sites, including Places of Worship, restaurants, and banquet facilities.
- Storage and Industrial sites, including mini-storage, warehouse, and distribution facilities, manufacturing facilities, poultry processing plants, and research and development laboratories.
- Bulk storage tank locations for flammable/combustible liquids and other hazardous materials.
- Sites proposing photovoltaic (solar) ground arrays and other “green” energy types of equipment.

Fire Protection Systems: Technical Services staff review plan submissions for fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, hood and hood fire suppression systems, standpipe systems, clean agent systems, fixed fire suppression systems, and fire pump installations.

Construction: Technical Services staff review construction plans for all new buildings, additions, renovations, and tenant fit-outs, including small businesses and “Mom and Pop” type stores to multi-story state of the art research facilities. Also included are unique reviews for infrastructure improvements, including water main renewal and extension projects, cellular towers, and 800Mhz radio towers.

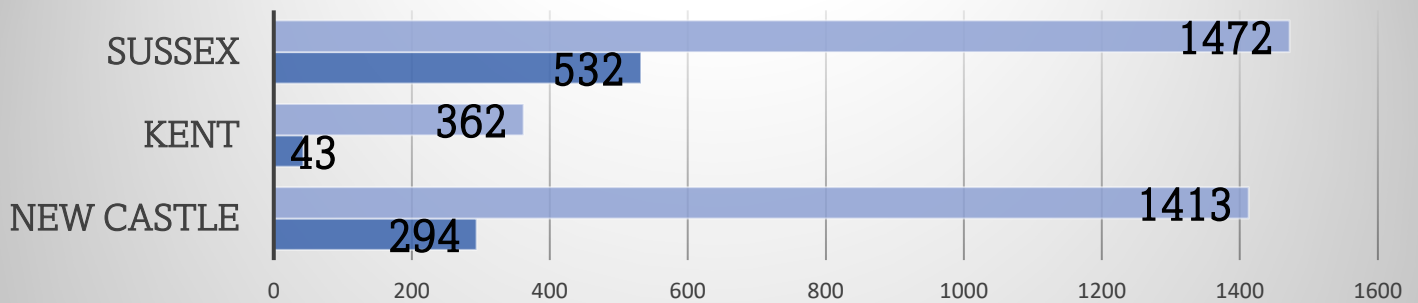
Tank Reviews: Technical Services staff review plans for all above ground, underground, and mounded tanks for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids and any dispensing systems for these tanks. Propane tank installations, including retail propane tank exchange locations, are reviewed. Tanks storing bulk hazardous materials such as hydrogen are also reviewed.

Plan Reviews



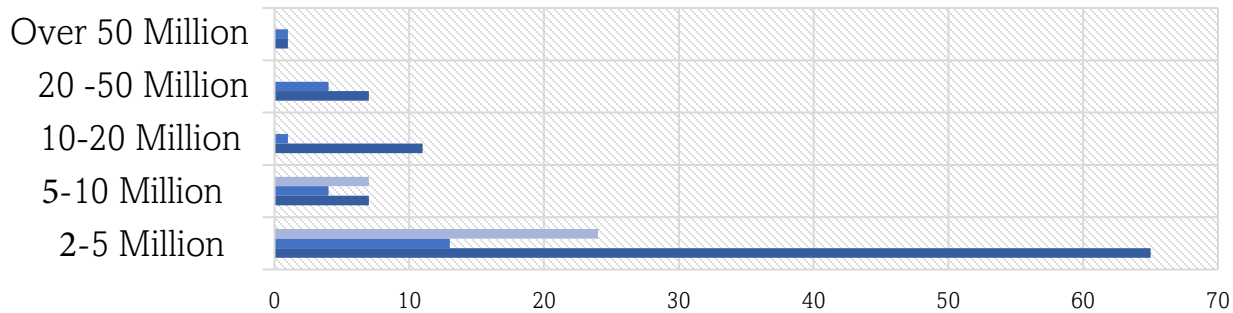
- New Castle
- Kent
- Sussex

Technical Services Inspections



	<i>New Castle</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Sussex</i>
Final	1413	362	1472
Progress	294	43	532

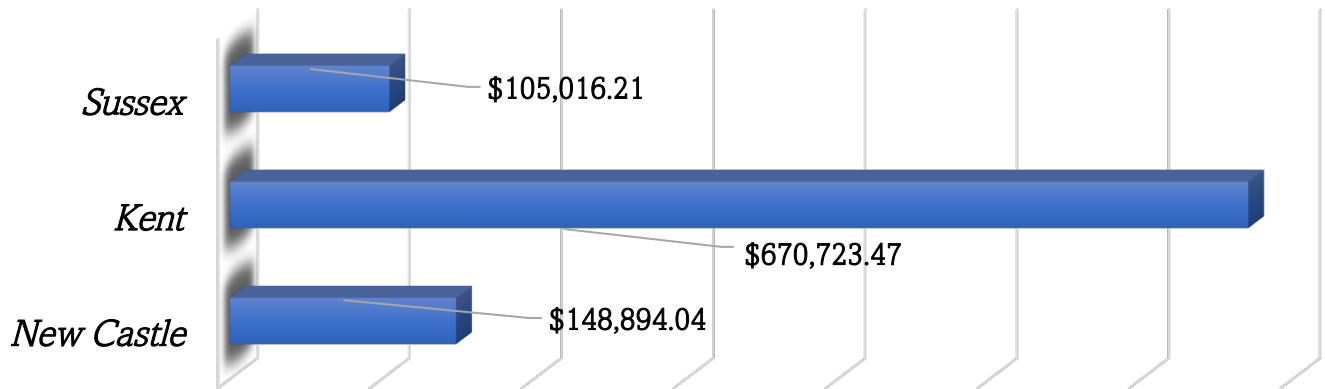
Project Construction Costs



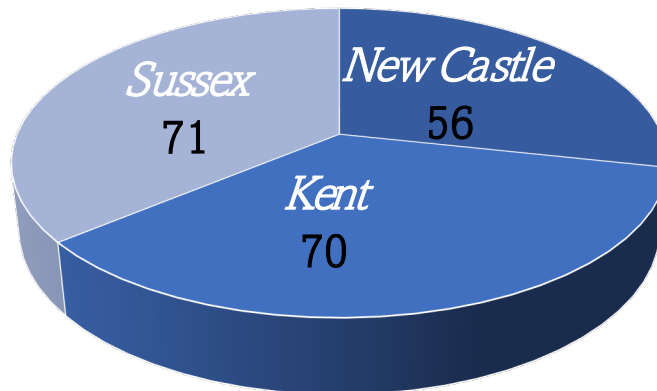
	2-5 Million	5-10 Million	10-20 Million	20 -50 Million	Over 50 Million
<i>Sussex</i>	24	7	0	0	0
<i>Kent</i>	13	4	1	4	1
<i>New Castle</i>	65	7	11	7	1

Exempt Plan Review Revenue

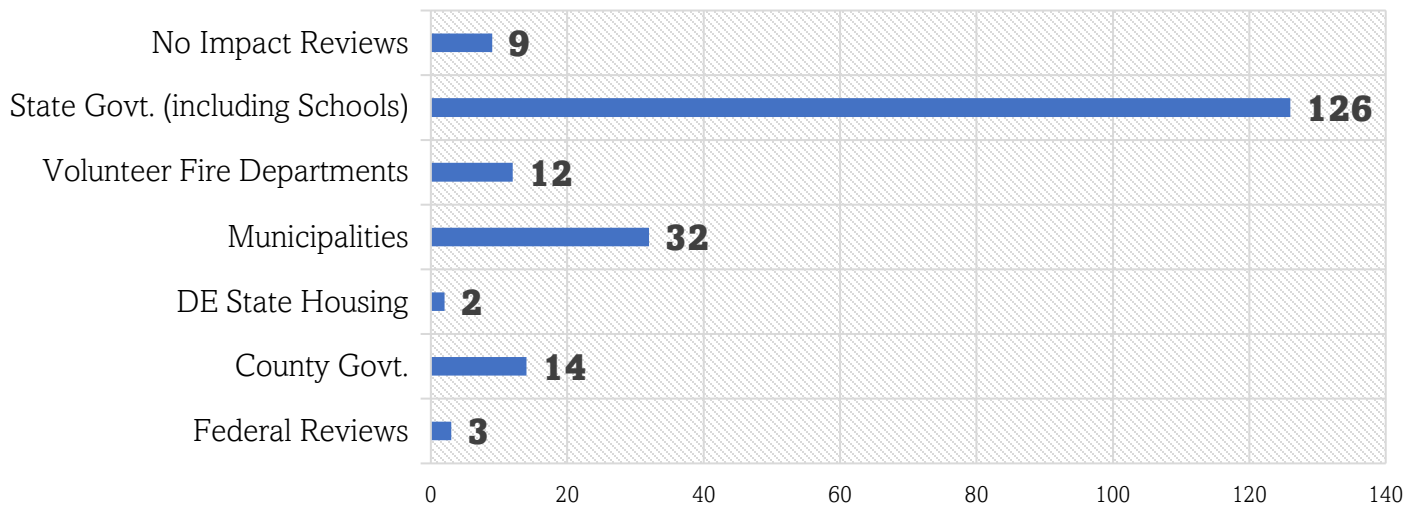
(\$924,633.72 Total Loss)



Exempt Plan Review Projects Statewide



Exempt Plan Reviews By Client





Technical Services Inspections

Technical Services Division staff conduct inspections to verify compliance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations for various project types and occupancies statewide.

Examples of some of these inspections include:

Site Inspections: Technical Services staff inspect sites to ensure that all required access for fire, emergency medical services, and law enforcement personnel complies with the site plan reviewed and approved by staff. All fire lanes, fire department connections, and fire hydrants are inspected to verify that they are installed and properly marked in compliance with the Delaware Fire Prevention Regulations.

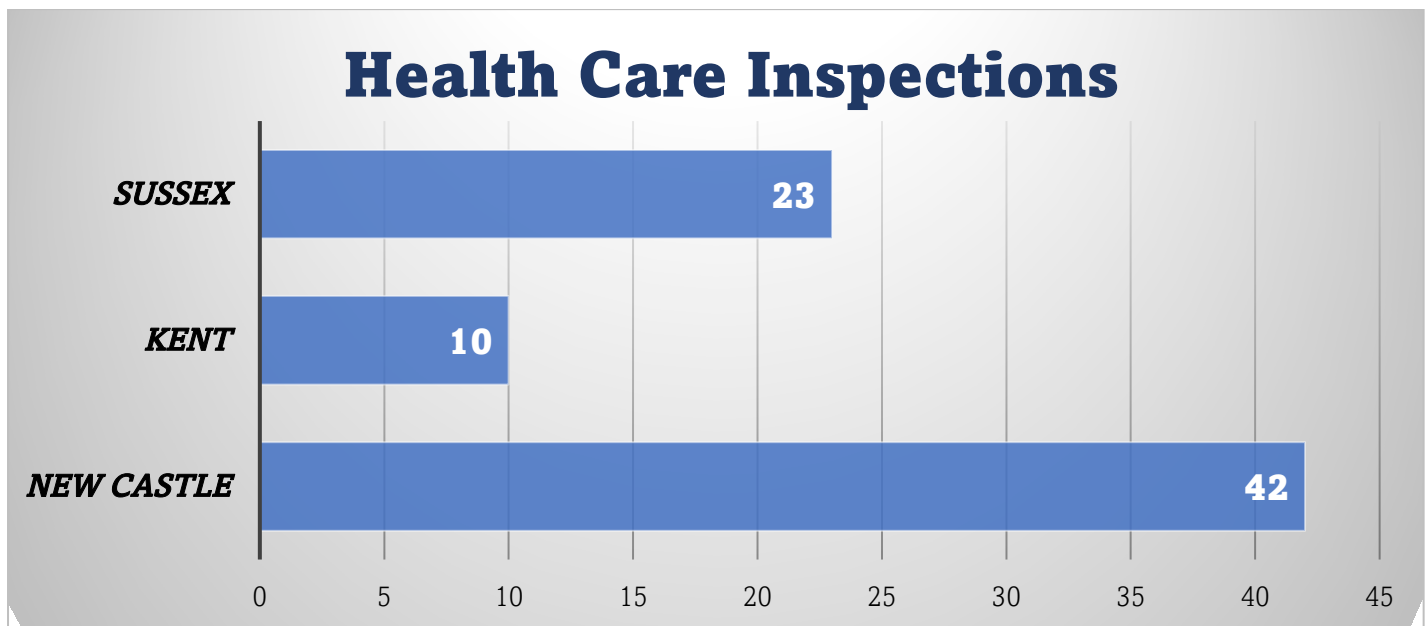
Construction Inspections: Technical Services staff inspect new buildings, additions, renovations, tenant fit-outs, and occupancy changes to ensure that what is approved on the plan submitted is what was constructed. Depending on the size of the project, several inspections may be performed, including rough-in or close-in inspections, which are done while the building's "skeleton" is still exposed, and final inspections, which verify that the project complies with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations and permits the owner to pursue a Certificate of Occupancy from the local building code official once Technical Services staff leave their approval sticker on-site.

Fire Protection System Inspections: Technical Services staff conduct final acceptance testing in accordance with nationally recognized codes and standards that are adopted by the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations for all fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, hood and hood fire suppression systems, standpipe systems, clean agent systems, fixed fire suppression systems, and fire pump installations that have been submitted and approved for installation. Depending on the size and complexity of the system, several of these tests may be required. Construction projects will not receive a final inspection approval sticker unless all fire protection systems pass their acceptance testing.

Tank Reviews Inspections: Technical Services staff inspect above ground, underground, and mounded tanks installed for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids and any dispensing devices for these tanks. Tanks storing bulk hazardous materials such as propane and hydrogen are also inspected. Tanks are not permitted to be placed in service until they pass their inspection.

Health Care Inspections

Our Health Care Inspector performs annual inspections and surveys for health care occupancies (including hospitals, nursing homes, and limited care facilities) to verify compliance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations. The Health Care Inspector coordinates with the Department of Health and Social Services in support of their mission to improve the quality of life for Delaware's citizens by protecting vulnerable populations from fire and life safety hazards. These inspections are also a requirement for any health care facility to receive funds from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Additionally, ambulatory surgery centers are inspected for compliance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations in order for the facility to receive an annual license from the Department of Health and Social Services' Office of Health Care Facilities Licensing and Certifications.



Day Care Inspections

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) conducts fire safety inspections of day care occupancies at the request of the Office of Child Care Licensing. The State Fire Prevention Commission has adopted the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101 Life Safety Code for all occupancies. This document details the specific requirements of the Life Safety Code regarding day care center occupancies.

It is important to know that a day care occupancy is subject to compliance with the "NEW DAY CARE OCCUPANCIES" chapter of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Although some code sections may be similar, the enforced edition of the Life Safety Code is based on the DELAWARE STATE FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS that were in effect at the time the day care occupancy plan was submitted and approved.

THE OSFM INSPECTION PROCESS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) conducts day care occupancy inspections at the request of the Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL). OCCL requires day care occupancies that were subject to a plan review receive an OSFM inspection before being permitted to open. Once inspected by the OSFM, day care occupancies are reinspected by the OSFM at the request of OCCL for licensing renewal purposes. The OSFM also responds to fire code complaints received involving day care occupancies.

FIRE INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Responsible to conduct inspections in day care occupancies as assigned by the Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) and responsible to prepare and deliver all associated paperwork as required in a timely fashion, and to perform follow-up inspection of all day care occupancies where deficiencies have been discovered during an inspection.
2. Responsible to provide the following:
 - A) Collaborate with Fire Protection Specialists as they conduct plan review of Day Care Occupancies.
 - B) Respond to all telephone calls within 48 hours of receipt of the call.
 - C) Responsible for investigating life safety inquiries and complaints in licensed day care facilities within prescribed agency parameters of time, quantity, and quality.
 - D) Provide pertinent information to the Chief of Technical Services for monthly and annual reports for the Day Care Program.
 - E) Investigate reports of deficiencies with fire protection systems located in day cares.
3. Responsible to distribute monthly list of day care occupancies and other residential treatment facilities to the jurisdictional fire marshals and to the Chief Deputy Fire Marshals in the Divisional offices.
4. Comply with all agency standards with respect to the submission of all reports and data entry, meeting agency standards of time, quality, and quantity.
5. Responsible for keeping abreast of changes in regulations, codes, and standards, especially those that affect day care occupancies.
6. Responsible for the completion of special projects and assignments which meet agency time, quality, and quantity requirements.

The OSFM inspection process is divided into 4 stages:

Stage 1 – Plan and Prepare

Stage 2 – Select Assignment (Inspection)

Stage 3 - Conduct Inspection

Stage 4 - Inspection Reporting

In fiscal year 2024, our Fire Inspector created *314 incidents*, conducted *300 inspections*, *70 follow-up inspections*, and issued *144 violations*.



Additional Tasks

Because of their special technical knowledge and expertise, supervisory staff in the Technical Services Division provided advisory assistance to several organizations.

<i>DNREC's Tank Management Section</i>	Represent the Agency on their Advisory Committee.
<i>Office of Child Care Licensing (DSCYF)</i>	Provides technical consultation and advice as needed.
<i>City of Wilmington Fire Marshal's Office</i>	Assist with plan reviews; continued availability in an advisory role as requested.
<i>City of Newark Fire Marshal's Office</i>	Continued availability in an advisory role as requested.
<i>Office of Healthcare Licensing and Certification</i>	Provides technical consultation and advice as needed.
<i>National Fire Protection Association</i>	Agency provides two Alternate Members to various NFPA Technical Committees. Attended Fire Marshal Forum in Quincy, Massachusetts
<i>County & Municipal Technical Advisory Committees</i>	Participates in the advisory process in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties, and several Cities and Towns as requested.
<i>Lower Delaware & Maryland Building Code Officials Association</i>	Represents the Agency; attends regularly scheduled meetings to discuss code enforcement issues in Kent County and Sussex County.
<i>Delaware Building Officials Association</i>	Represents the Agency; attends regularly scheduled meetings to discuss local code enforcement issues in New Castle County.
<i>Delaware Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition</i>	Staff members attend and participate in scheduled meetings. Participate in "live-burn" demonstrations as needed.
<i>University of Delaware Department of Environmental Health and Safety</i>	Assist in the fire safety training of the University's Resident Assistants.
<i>Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) Office of State Planning Coordination</i>	The Office of the State Fire Marshal continues its support of the PLUS program administered through the Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC). In FY-23, a representative of the State Fire Marshal has attended and participated in the monthly meetings remotely along with developers of proposed projects and representative of other State agencies.
<i>National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)</i>	Attended spring meeting with the United States Fire Administration at the National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, Maryland.
<i>American Fire Alarm Association (AFAA)</i>	Attend regional meetings and provide input as an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)
<i>American Society of Certified Engineering Technicians (ASCET)</i>	Attend regional meetings and provide input as an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

Fire Protection Company Licensing & Quality Assurance

The Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations require that all companies that design, install, and maintain fire protection systems be licensed annually by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

In Fiscal Year 2024, there were **519** Licenses issued to companies providing services to owners of Fire Alarm Signaling systems and/or Fire Suppression Systems. Employed by those companies are Certificate Holders, which the Office of the State Fire Marshal recognizes as the licensed company's party of responsible charge. Additionally, there are **758** persons employed by the licensed Fire Suppression companies that possess the Certificate necessary to conduct the inspection and testing of water-based fire protection systems.

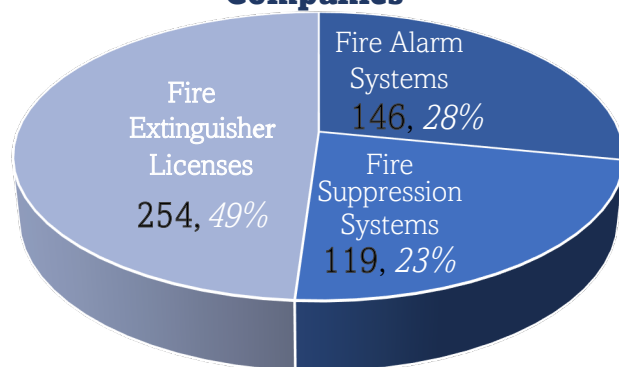
The Office of the State Fire Marshal's dedicated Administrative Staff handles the processing of all licensing paperwork, fees, Certificates of Inspection, and Major Deficiency Reports, in addition to fielding inquiries from licensed contractors and those wishing to obtain a license to design, install, and maintain fire protection systems.

Major Deficiency Reports are sent to the Divisional Office in the County in which the deficiency originated for investigation by Technical Services Division Staff or Deputy Fire Marshals to verify a fire protection system does indeed have a deficiency and corrective action is explained to the owner or the owner's representative.

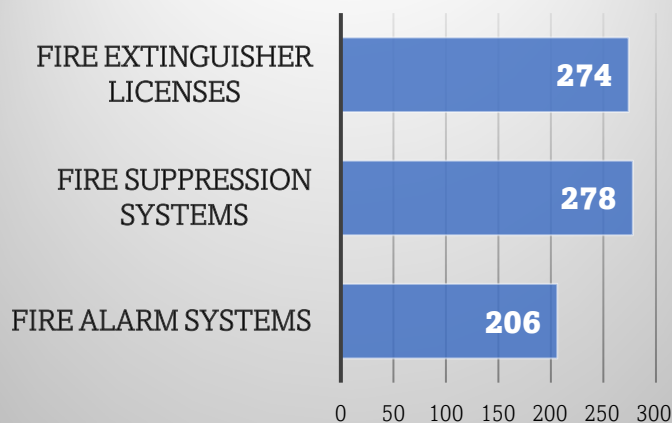
If the corrective action can be performed while staff is on site, this will be noted in the file and the deficiency will be cleared. If corrective action cannot be performed while staff is on site, then a Notice of Violation (NOV) is written with the deficiency noted and what corrective action must be taken to address the deficiency. If the deficiency is to such a degree that it will take time and funding to address, then a Plan of Corrective Action is provided to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for review and approval.

There are currently over **22,238** fire protection systems in service across the State of Delaware, including fire alarm signaling systems, fire suppression systems, standpipe systems, fire pumps, special hazard systems, and commercial cooking hood suppression systems.

Licensed Fire Protection Companies



Certificate Holders





Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems

- According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2020 home fires caused 2,230 civilian fire deaths, 8,600 injuries, and \$6.8 billion dollars in direct property damage.
- Today's home fires burn faster due to the prevalence of plastics and synthetics in modern furnishings, open floor plans, and homes on fire experience structural failure and even collapse in a matter of minutes due to the use of lightweight pre-engineered wood construction.
- The NFPA reports in 2021 that the civilian fire death rate was 89% lower in structures with fire sprinkler systems, and the rate of firefighter injuries was 60% lower in fires with fire sprinkler systems installed than in fires without fire sprinkler systems.
- The Office of the State Fire Marshal encourages all developers and builders to install residential fire sprinkler systems (NFPA 13D systems) in all one- and two-family dwellings and townhomes, and our agency will continue to work with local planning and building code officials to assist them with the implementation of these effective life safety systems.

For the timeline of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, the following NFPA 13D-compliant residential fire sprinkler systems were reviewed and inspected by Technical Services Division Staff:

49 Residential Sprinkler Systems Placed in Service

For NFPA 13D-compliant fire sprinkler systems, each system is designed for activation of two sprinkler heads, with each head flowing 13 gallons a minute for 10 minutes, for a total flow of 26 gallons per minute.

Typical fire hose handlines used by the fire department each will flow between 150-325 gallons a minute, usually with two handlines in service at the same time for an extended period of time.

If the fire forces the fire department to withdraw and switch to exterior master streams, each of those typically flows between 500-1,250 gallons per minute for an extended period of time.

Accelerant Detection Canine Unit



The Office of the State Fire Marshal Accelerant Detection K9 Team has served the state since 1990. The K9 Unit examines fire scenes throughout the state for the presence of accelerants or ignitable liquids, such as gasoline or lighter fluid, that may be used to start or spread a fire. In 1997, the agency received a grant from State Farm Insurance Company for an Accelerant Detection K9. This same grant was received and utilized for the current K9. The grant provides the K9 and initial training, lodging, and expenses for certification.

The Accelerant Detection K9 Unit has been staffed since May 2022 by K9 PJ, a Yellow Labrador Retriever, and handler Deputy Fire Marshal III Michael Pfaffenhauser. The Team of K9 PJ and handler Deputy Pfaffenhauser are required to recertify each year. The team successfully completed their most recent recertification in July 2024 at Freeport, Maine.

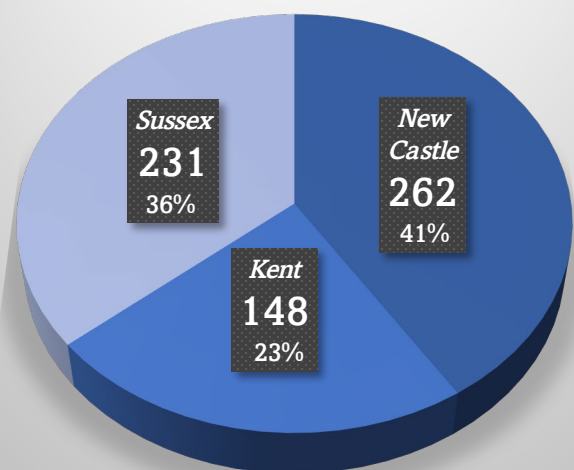
The K9 Team is a food reward team K9, which refers to how the K9 is trained. The K9 is required to make a positive alert coming to a final response on an accelerant to be rewarded with a handful of food. To keep up with food intake, the K9 and trainer follow intensive daily training processes delivered at different times and for random durations involving actual fire scenes, training scenarios, and training aids. This process is repeated until the K9 receives its daily allotment of food, which varies from day to day, and is regulated by the handler. The K9 is a “companion dog” who lives and travels with its Deputy Fire Marshal handler. A strong team bond is formed between handler and K9 through the intensive training regimen; however, PJ is a faithful friend and companion to all at the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

This past year K9 PJ and Deputy Pfaffenhauser trained over 1000 separate times. This training represents thousands of trips for K9 PJ to Pfaffenhauser’s hand for food after a positive final response alert. K9 PJ responded to 68 fire scenes this fiscal year and was utilized in his operational capacity 19 times. These operational K9 examinations included major loss fire scenes, personal injury fire scenes, as well as fatal fire scenes. The K9 Team can provide regional assistance to other agencies when needed and this fiscal year assistance was given to the Wilmington Fire Department as well as the City of Dover Fire Marshal’s Office.

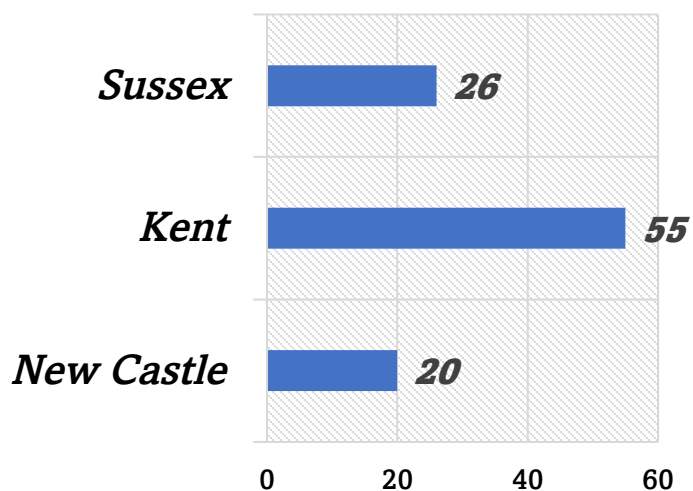


Investigations

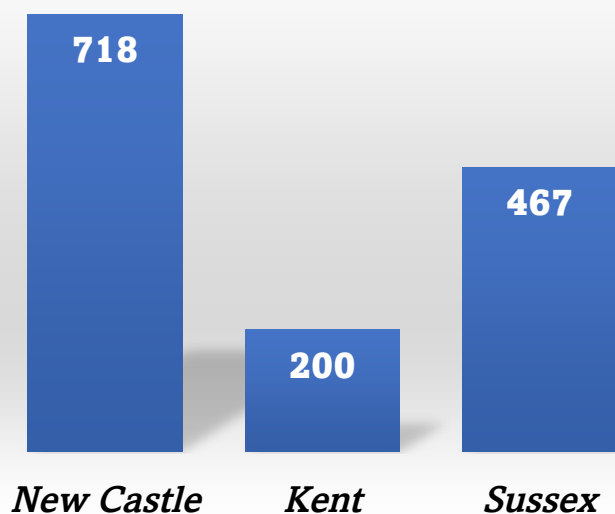
Fire & Explosion Investigations



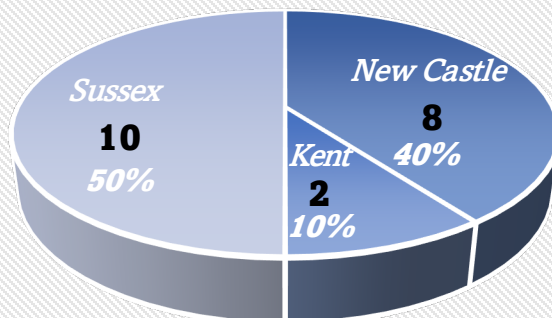
Fire Code & Related Safety Complaints



Inspections



Fire Deaths





Office of the State Fire Marshal

Code Enforcement Statewide Activity Report

From Date: 07/01/2023 To Date: 08/31/2024



	New Castle County	Kent County	Sussex County	Wilmington City	New Castle City	Newark City	Dover City	Out of State	Total
Inspections									
Amusement Rides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business/Office	20	12	21	0	0	0	3	0	56
Day Care	147	41	63	0	0	1	0	0	252
Educational	106	35	60	0	1	0	0	0	202
Explosives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Alarm Systems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Suppression Systems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Lanes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fireworks	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Health Care	28	5	18	6	0	1	3	0	61
Hotels/Motels	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Institutional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercantile	26	10	39	0	0	0	0	0	75
Misc. Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi Family Dwellings	29	8	34	0	0	0	0	0	71
Place of Assembly	709	144	487	0	0	0	0	0	1340
Totals	1065	255	742	6	1	2	6	0	2077
Complaints									
Complaints	33	75	58	0	0	0	0	0	166
Violations from Inspections									
Violations Issued	90	23	10	0	0	0	0	0	123
Violations Cleared	303	39	54	0	0	1	1	0	398
Violations from Complaints									
Violations Issued	4	7	24	0	0	0	0	0	35
Violations Cleared	12	8	15	0	0	0	0	0	35
Contract Inspections									
Thomas Kapa/David Wilson	177	58	87	0	0	1	0	0	323
David Wilson	22	5	16	6	0	1	3	0	53

New & Updated Operational Initiatives

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated and driven to provide the citizens and visitors of Delaware the safest environment from the dangers of fires and explosions. FY2024 also brought a new initiative to provide our sworn law enforcement officers with new and updated personal protective equipment to keep them safe while performing their duties and responsibilities, along with new equipment to aid in conducting complex fire investigations.

In February of 2024, the Office of the State Fire Marshal approached Axon Corporation, the nation's leader in "Less Than Lethal Energy Weapons", to provide our Deputy Fire Marshals with an additional tool to keep them safe and stop any immediate threats to human life while performing their duties and responsibilities. After the proper training is received by each Deputy Fire Marshal, the Axon T10 Taser will be issued to each Deputy. The Office of the State Fire Marshal expects the deployment to occur in December of 2024.

In March of 2024, the Office of the State Fire Marshal updated and outfitted our entire law enforcement personnel with new exterior body armor from Safariland Co. This initiative now allows the Deputy Fire Marshals to properly wash and care for their body armor while having a second set to continue their duties without any separation or downtime.

In March of 2024, the Office of the State Fire Marshal developed a new operational unit. This new unit will utilize Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, also referred to as "drones". This new unit consist of 5 personnel from the Office of the State Fire Marshal that received the necessary training and licensing in order to operate the vehicles. These Unmanned Aerial Vehicles will be utilized during large incidents where aerial coverage and documentation will assist in our investigative processes. The deployment of this new "Drone Unit" is expected in January of 2025.

In May of 2024, the Office of the State Fire Marshal updated the mobile data capability in each vehicle operated by a Deputy State Fire Marshal. This new mobile update, also known as a "cradlepoint," ensures connectivity of the user while out in the field and provides uninterrupted service from their mobile data terminal while conducting inspections and investigations.

FY 2024 Delaware

Fire Death Report

Date of Fire: Thursday, July 20, 2023
Time of Alarm: 0309 hours
Victim: Male, 43 y/o, Male, 21 y/o
Location: ***20 Eaton Place – Bear, DE***
Fire Department: Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder
Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
Origin: Living Room
Cause: Pending Determination
Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Friday, September 1, 2023
Time of Alarm: 1233 hours
Victim: Male, 13 y/o
Location: ***454 Robinson Dr, Wilmington, DE***
Fire Department: Minquadale Fire Company
Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
Origin: Bedroom
Cause: Pending Determination
Cause of Death: Thermal Burns
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Time of Alarm: 1520 Hours
Victim: Female, 76 y/o
Location: ***105 2nd Street Laurel, DE***
Fire Department: Laurel Fire Department
Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
Origin: Kitchen
Cause: Cooking
Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation
Smoke Detectors: Yes
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Thursday, September 14, 2023
Time of Alarm: 0822 Hours
Victim: Female, 87 y/o, Female, 18 mos.
Location: ***211 E. Market St. Georgetown, DE***
Fire Department: Georgetown Fire Company
Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
Origin: Pending Determination
Cause: Pending Determination
Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Time of Alarm: 0231 hours
Victim: Male, 56 y/o
Location: ***33841 McNicol Rd. Lewes, DE***
Fire Department: Lewes Fire Department
Type of Incident: Manufactured Home Fire
Origin: Pending Determination
Cause: Pending Determination
Cause of Death: Pending Determination
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Sunday, November 12, 2023
Time of Alarm: 0932 Hours
Victim: Female, 57 years old
Location: ***8547 Hearns Pond Rd., Seaford, DE***
Fire Department: Seaford Fire Department
Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
Origin: Family Room/ Den
Cause: Pending Determination
Cause of Death: Thermal BurZns
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Time of Alarm: 1756 Hours
Victim: Male, 66 y/o
Location: ***33822 Lawton Lane Millsboro, DE***
Fire Department: Indian River Vol Fire Company
Type of Incident: Outside Fire
Origin: Bonfire Enclosure
Cause: Pending Determination
Cause of Death: Pending Determination
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Thursday, January 18, 2024
Time of Alarm: 1423 Hours
Victim: Male, 42 y/o, Female 45 y/o
Location: ***11 W. Clearview Ave Wilmington***
Fire Department: Brandywine Hundred Fire Co.
Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
Origin: Living Room
Cause: Failure in electric space heater
Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation
Smoke Detectors: No
Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Sunday, January 21, 2024
Time of Alarm: 0513 Hours
Victim: Female 80 y/o
Location: ***2723 Shipley Rd. Wilmington, DE***
Fire Department: Talleyville Fire Company
Type of Incident: Independent Living Facility Fire
Origin: Kitchen
Cause: Clothing ignited by operating stove top
Cause of Death: Thermal Burns
Smoke Detectors: Yes
Fire Suppression: Yes

Date of Fire: Wednesday, January 24, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 1409 Hours
 Victim: Male, 65 y/o
 Location: *1708 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE*
 Fire Department: Wilmington Fire Department
 Type of Incident: Building Fire
 Origin: Living Room
 Cause: Improperly Discarded Smoking Materials
 Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: Yes
 Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Thursday, March 14, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 1318 Hours
 Victim: Male, 71 y/o
 Location: *811 Sunset Terrace, Dover, DE*
 Fire Department: Dover Fire Department
 Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
 Origin: Living Room
 Cause: Pending Determination
 Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: Yes
 Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Saturday, March 16, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 1549 hours
 Victim: Male, 45 y/o
 Location: *27835 Paradise St. Georgetown, DE*
 Fire Department: Georgetown Fire Company
 Type of Incident: Manufactured Home Fire
 Origin: Pending Determination
 Cause: Pending Determination
 Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: No
 Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Friday, March 29, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 0654 hours
 Victim: Female, 59 y/o
 Location: *3 Barberry Pl., Wilmington, DE*
 Fire Department: Claymont Fire Company
 Type of Incident: Residential Townhouse Fire
 Origin: 2nd Floor Bathroom
 Cause: Improperly Discarded Smoking Material
 Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: Yes
 Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Tuesday, April 23, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 1615 hours
 Victim: Male, 86 y/o
 Location: *146 Putter Way, Camden, DE*
 Fire Department: Camden-Wyoming Fire Company
 Type of Incident: Outside Fire
 Origin: Driveway
 Cause: Clothing ignited by operating weed torch
 Cause of Death: Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: N/A
 Fire Suppression: N/A

Date of Fire: Saturday, June 1, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 0136 hours
 Victim: Male, 75 y/o, Female, 67 y/o
 Location: *6890 Atlanta Rd., Bridgeville*
 Fire Department: Bridgeville Vol. Fire Company
 Type of Incident: Residential House Fire
 Origin: Front Porch
 Cause: Pending Determination
 Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: Undetermined
 Fire Suppression: No

Date of Fire: Saturday, June 8, 2024
 Time of Alarm: 1242 hours
 Victim: Male, 66 y/o
 Location: *35750 Bethany Crest, Ocean View*
 Fire Department: Millville Fire Company
 Type of Incident: Manufactured Home Fire
 Origin: Living Room
 Cause: Pending Determination
 Cause of Death: Smoke Inhalation/Thermal Burns
 Smoke Detectors: Yes
 Fire Suppression: No

Total FY 2024 Fire Deaths

20

Smoke Detectors	
With Smoke Detectors:	4
Without Smoke Detectors:	13
Undetermined:	3
Fire Suppression Systems	
With Fire Suppression:	1
Without Fire Suppression:	19



Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

Rebekah L. LePore, MS

Senior Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Coordinator



The Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program (JFIP) was initiated in 1981. In those **42 years, 6,161** juveniles have been interviewed and a **3% recidivism rate** has been consistently maintained. Juveniles are referred to the program through a variety of agencies including, Child Mental Health, Division of Family Services, Youth Rehabilitative Services, Schools, and Fire Departments. A majority of those referrals originated from either parents/guardians or through State or local Fire Marshal's Offices.

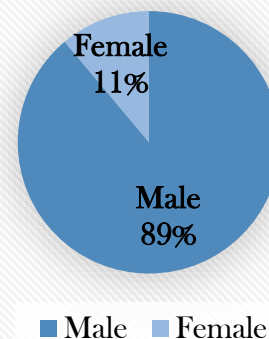
The JFIP represents the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) with public relations at community events. This year, the program participated in **17** events throughout the State of Delaware. If you would like for us to attend or your event, please complete the [Display Presentation Request Form](#) available on our website at least two weeks prior to the event. <https://statefiremarshal.delaware.gov/special-programs/public-relations/>

Juveniles between the ages of 3-18, may be referred to the JFIP by calling our toll free number at **1-800-432-8500** or by utilizing the [Referral Form](#) which can be accessed on our website <https://statefiremarshal.delaware.gov/special-programs/juvenile-firesetter-intervention-program/00>

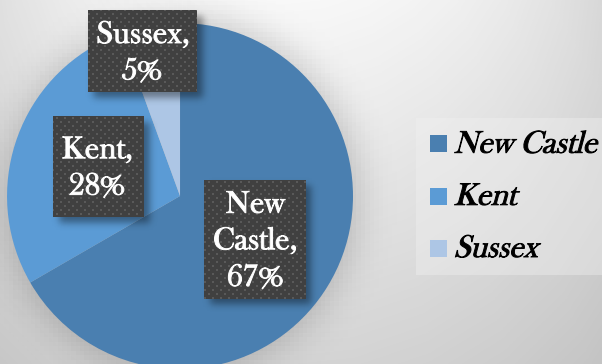
EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION

- ❖ *Consequences of Misusing Fire*
- ❖ *Hurting Themselves & Others*
- ❖ *A High Price to Pay*
(Legal/Financial/Careers)
- ❖ *Media Influence*
- ❖ *Media Portrayal of Fire vs. Reality*
- ❖ *Good/Poor Choices*
- ❖ *Peer Pressure*
- ❖ *Burns & Burn Treatment*

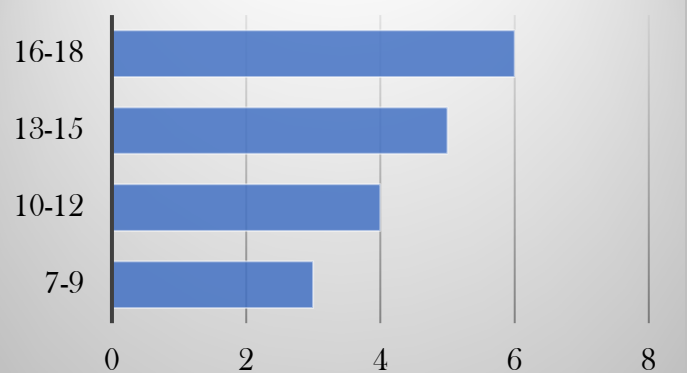
Clients By Gender



Clients By County



Clients By Age Group



False Fire Alarms

Effective January 1, 2004, an amendment to the Delaware Code (Title 16 §6637) introduced an initiative intended to reduce the frequency of false fire alarms in the State of Delaware. It is intended to deter excessive number of fire alarms that have been determined to be a result of poor detector maintenance or lack of required fire alarm servicing.

	<i>New Castle</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Sussex</i>	<i>Statewide</i>
Total Alarm Activations (# of Warnings Issued)	47	77	127	251

In FY24 there were over **251 False Fire Alarms** reported.

DELAWARE FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

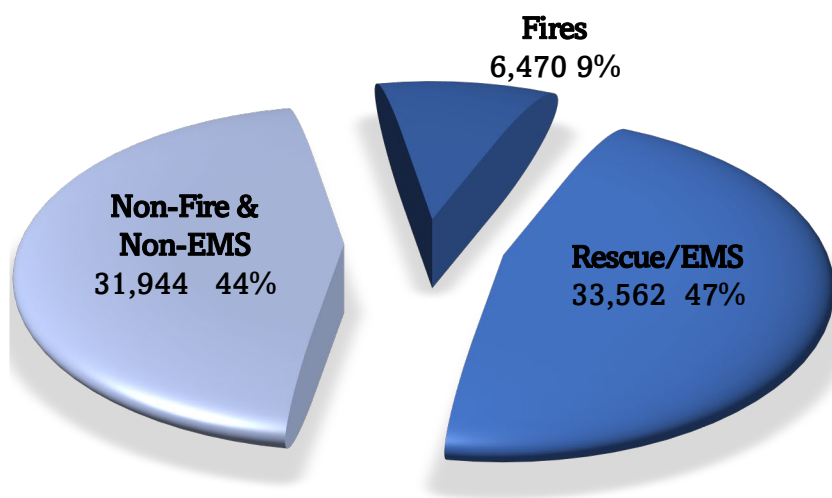
Keeping Delaware Safe – Fighting Fire with Facts - DFIRS

DFIRS is Delaware's segment of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a reporting system that captures the full range of incident activity. It constitutes the world's largest national collection of fire incident information. The Office of the State Fire Marshal oversees the consolidation and technical review of the collected data from all 61 Delaware fire departments.

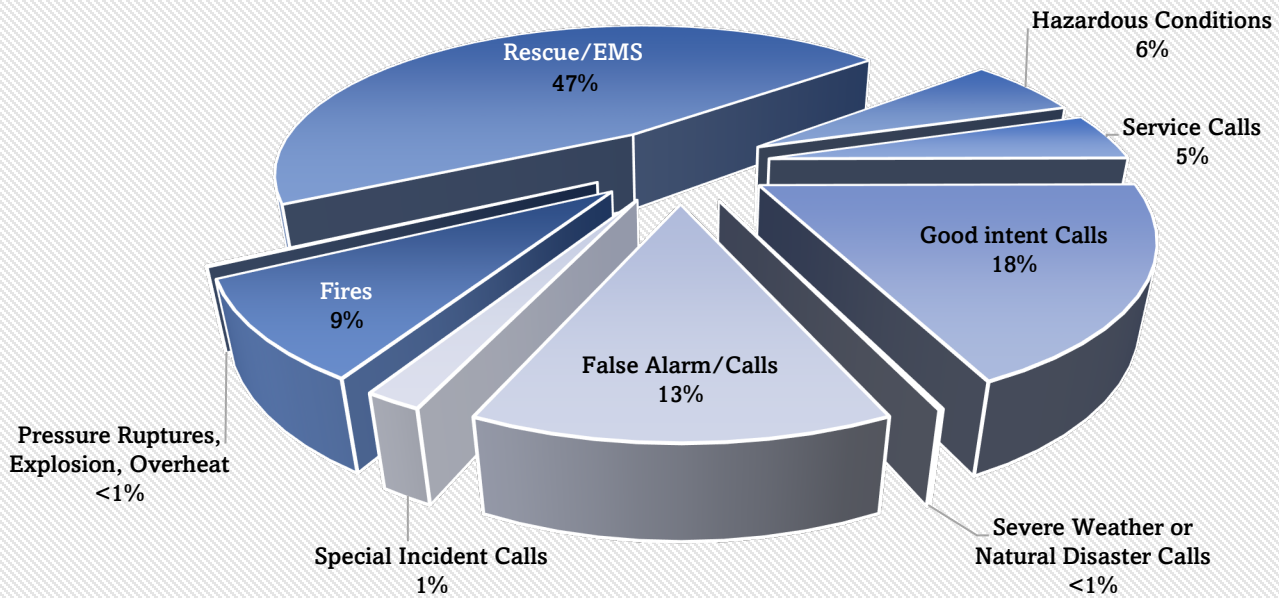
In 2023, **71,976 incidents** were reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. There were **12,183 incidents** in which a fire department provided assistance (mutual or automatic aid given) to another jurisdiction.

The makeup of the types of incidents that fire departments reported in 2023 showed an **increase of 3 percent** from the previous year. The following charts provide an overview of the current characteristics in Delaware:

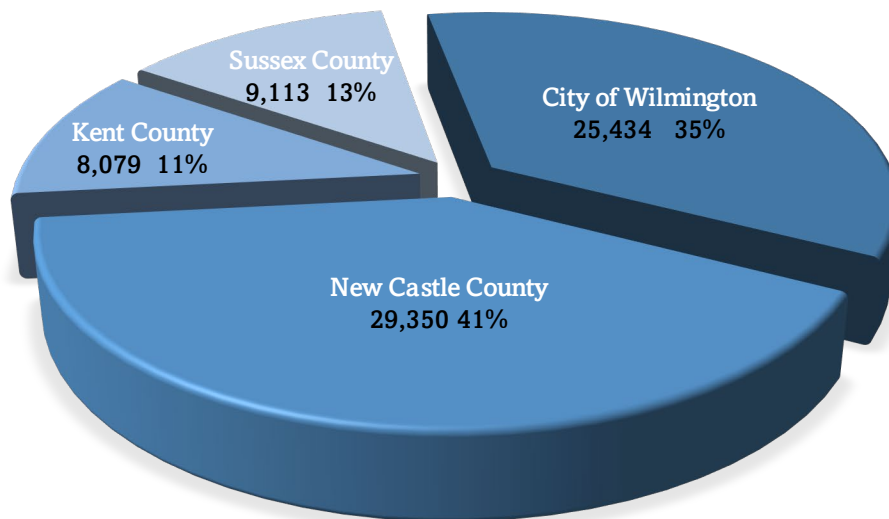
Total Incidents 2023



Incident Type Summary 2023

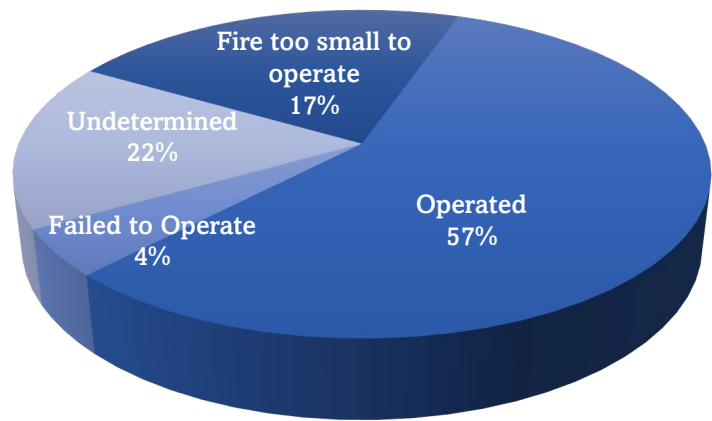


INCIDENTS BY COUNTY AND CITY OF WILMINGTON 2023

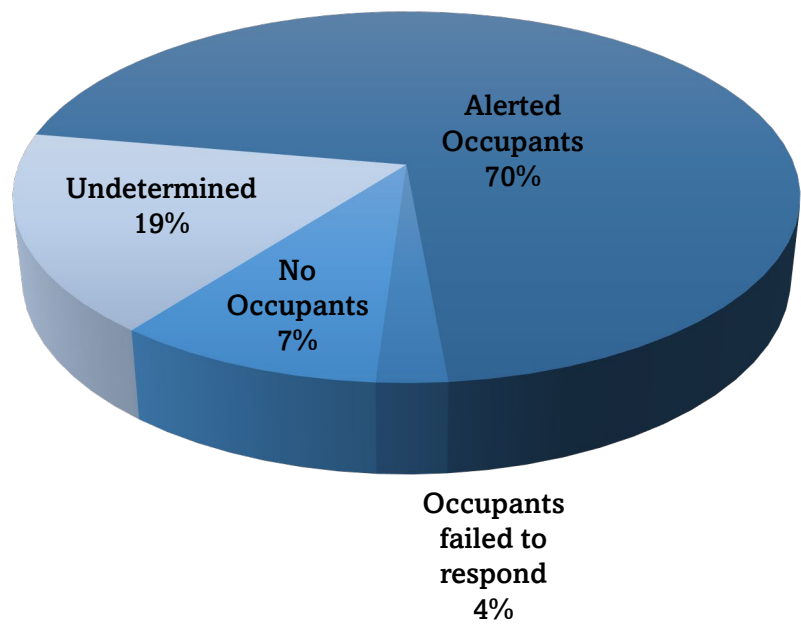


The data in these tables identify the operating principle of detectors present in the area of origin or in near proximity to the area of origin.

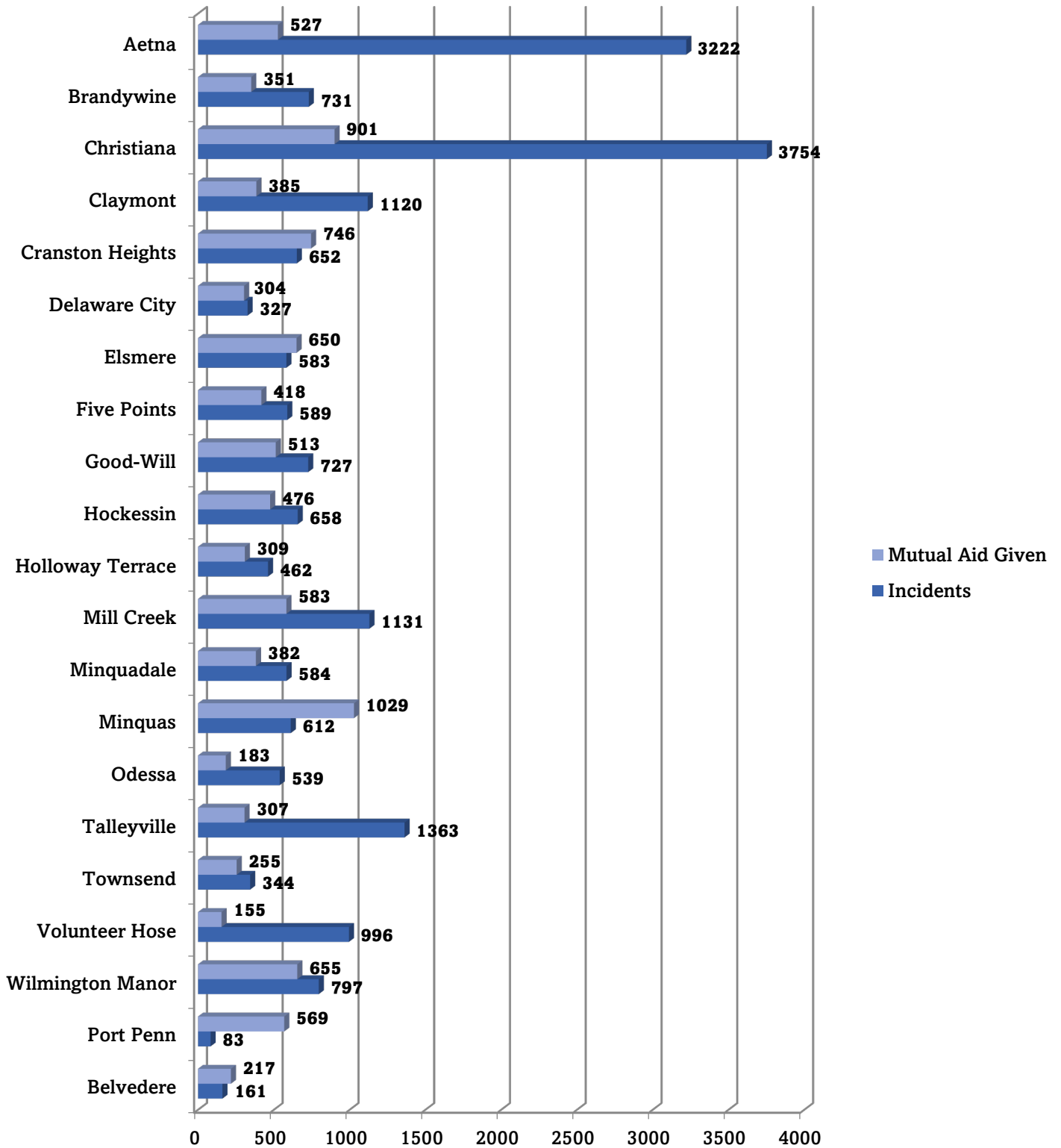
Detector Operation 2023



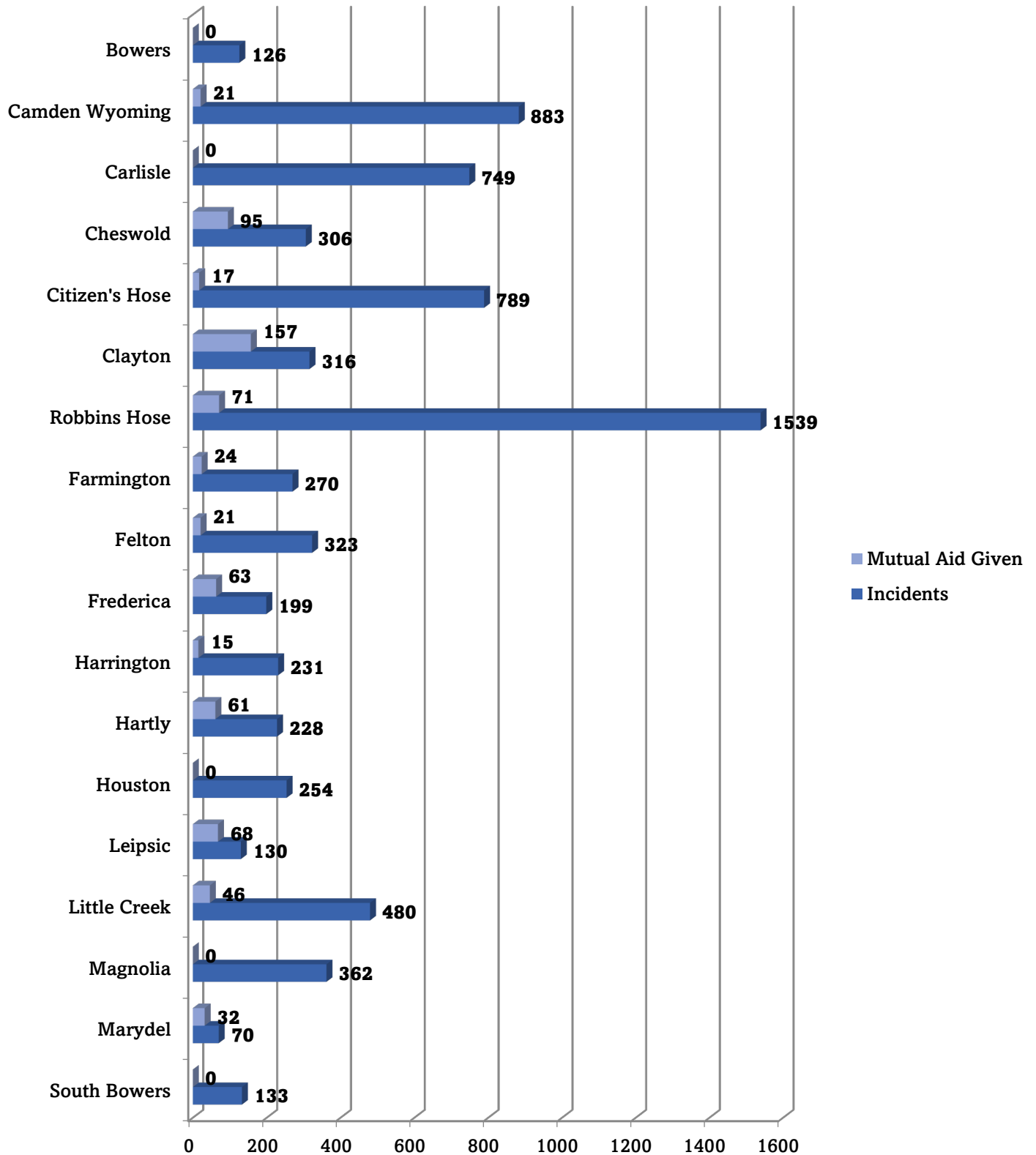
Detector Effectiveness 2023



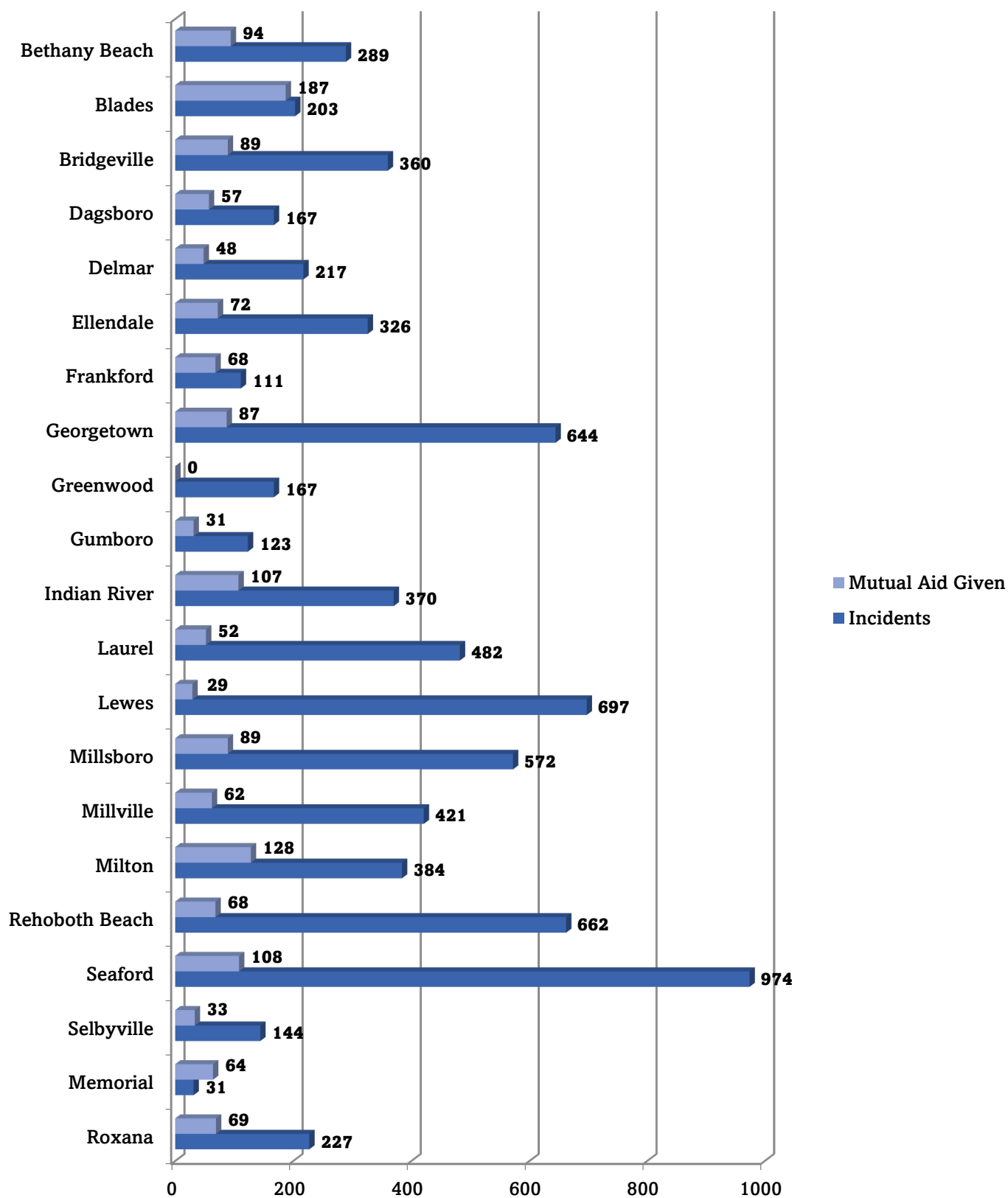
New Castle County Incidents (excluding City of Wilmington) 2023

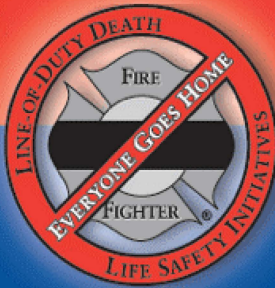


Kent County Incidents 2023



Sussex County Incidents 2023





NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION'S EVERYONE GOES HOME® PROGRAM

16 FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.



The Everyone Goes Home® program is made possible through the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation with funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the generosity of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.



LEARN MORE: www.everyonegoeshome.com

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



Headquarters Division

1537 Chestnut Grove Rd
Dover, DE 19904

New Castle Division

2307 MacArthur Rd
New Castle, DE 19720



Sussex Division

22705 Park Avenue
Georgetown, DE 19947



Proudly Serving Delaware Since 1953