



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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MAURA T. HEALEY
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Lieutenant Governor

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
Office of the Clerk of the Senate
24 Beacon Street, Room 335
State House
Boston, MA 02133

August 26th, 2026

Timothy Carroll
House Clerk
Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street, Room 145
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) 2023 Annual Report

Dear Mr. Hurley and Mr. Carroll:

I am pleased to present to you the *Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System – 2023 Annual Report*. The attached analysis examines the Commonwealth's fire experience to identify our fire-related problems, develop strategies to address these issues, and assess their effectiveness. The report is also available for download on our website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/fire-data-and-statistics>.

The Department of Fire Services wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the Commonwealth's local fire departments that provided this office with accurate and timely fire incident reports, which form the backbone of this statistical report.

In 2023, the total number of fires declined by 12% from the previous year. Unfortunately, there were 45 civilian fire deaths, including two children, an increase of 5% over the prior calendar year. Of those civilian deaths, 57% were older adults. Additionally, our analysis reveals that 34% of all residential fire victims were not alerted by working smoke alarms.

The leading cause of fatal residential fires and fire deaths in 2023 was electrical fires. These fires accounted for 19% of the total residential fire deaths and represent a shift from the historical pattern of smoking-related fires, which dates back to 1940. Smoking fires were the second leading cause of fire deaths in 2023, accounting for 13% of the deaths.

We must continue our efforts to protect the Commonwealth's residents from the deadly and life-altering hazard posed by fire, especially at home. We wish to thank you for your continued support of fire prevention, protection, and public education through the Department of Fire Services.

Very truly yours,

Jon M. Davine
State Fire Marshal