



Allegheny County Fire Marshal

# 2022 Annual Report



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## MISSION Statement

The mission of the Fire Marshal’s Office is to protect our community from the perils of fires, explosions and other hazardous conditions. This mission will be accomplished through fire prevention education, fire investigations and compliance inspections following the applicable regulations of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We will actively participate with our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all resources made available, to provide safety and excellent customer service to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Allegheny County.

## OUR Vision

Our vision is to maintain the standard of being the premier fire and explosion investigation unit to provide a community, which is reasonably safe from the ravages of fire through successful elements of risk reduction methods, including enforcement, education, planning and investigation.

# Message *from* the County Executive

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It's my pleasure to present to you the 2022 Annual Report of the Allegheny County Fire Marshal. In the past, we have provided information and detail with annual statistics and data on the county website but had not compiled into an easy-to-read format like this. We hope you find this new report format useful.

The position of Allegheny County Fire Marshal was created in 1864. Yes, you read that correctly. In 1864, Abraham Lincoln was re-elected, the country was in the midst of a Civil War, and Ulysses S. Grant became commander in chief of the Union army. But it's also the year that the position of Allegheny County Fire Marshal was created.

The bonded position was responsible for attending all fires in the county and was expected to protect such property from loss by pillage and theft, and from injury and destruction in any manner. The marshal was also responsible for investigating and, if possible, determining the origin and cause of every fire as well as the natural and value of the property injured or destroyed. If the evidence indicated that a fire was willfully set, the marshal could also issue a warrant for the arrest of such person.

We've come a long way since 1864, but the roles and responsibilities of the fire marshal remain much the same today. Essentially, the fire marshal is responsible for finding out how and why things go wrong when they do. It's an important part of the cycle of fire prevention and safety. Their work further informs builders, regulators, and occupants about how they can stay safer. By focusing on fire investigation, fire prevention, public education and more, our team in the Fire Marshal's office promotes good fire safety practices.

From talking about fireworks safety to providing holiday safety tips, the office's work on public education is particularly important. Today's homes burn faster than ever with residents having as little as two minutes (or less) to safely escape a home fire once the smoke alarm sounds. Residents' ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning, it's important to educate yourself about simple actions you can take to keep yourself and those around you safe. You can learn about fire safety, and other hazards at <https://alleghenycounty.us/emergency-services/fire-marshal/index.aspx>.

Thank you to the men, women and K-9 of the Allegheny County Fire Marshal's Office. Your skilled dedication to fire investigation and prevention, along with public education makes a significant difference in our community.

**Rich Fitzgerald, County Executive**

# Message *from* the Chief

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Keeping with our mission and vision statements, one of the greatest benefits of the data collected annually by the Division of the Fire Marshal's Office is to provide a snapshot of the previous years fire investigations causes to the residents, first responders and visitors of Allegheny County.

It is equally important that those that we serve have an understanding of what the Division of the Fire Marshal's Office does and has access to the data generated from our investigations. Much of this information can be helpful in understanding some of the most common risks and threats from fires and explosions are in order to improve your fire prevention, emergency planning and preparedness capabilities. Hopefully this new formatting of our 2022 data is helpful in your fire prevention and emergency preparedness decisions and actions.

We all have a role in fire prevention and emergency preparedness. Do not assume emergencies and disasters will not happen to you. Do not wait to be educated and prepared to help yourself and others in times of disaster.

**Matthew J. Brown, CEM, CFPS**  
**Chief Fire Marshal**

# About *the* County Fire Marshal's Office

The Fire Marshal's office has been an integral part of government in Allegheny County for over 60 years. Pennsylvania requires Allegheny County (and Philadelphia County) to investigate the origin and cause of fires as requested to do so. Fires in the other 65 counties are investigated by the Pennsylvania State Police.

Our office aims to protect our community from the perils of fire, explosions and other hazardous conditions and strive to make Allegheny County a community which is safe from the ravages of fire. We handle investigations about the origin and cause of all fires in the county.

We manage the permitting of all underground and above-ground storage tanks of flammable liquids. The permitting, inspecting and monitoring of the county's 500+ gas stations is also our responsibility.



**Matthew J. Brown,**  
**CEM, CFPS**  
Chief Fire Marshal



**Steve Imbarlina**  
Assistant Chief  
Fire Marshal



**Donald A. Brucker**  
Chief Deputy  
Fire Marshal

## County Fire Marshal Staff



**Mike Shawley**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



**Tim Smoley**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



**Michele Gregory**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



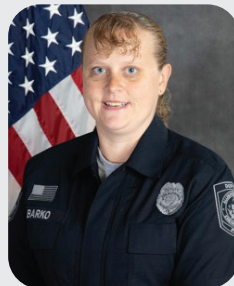
**George Hollenberger**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



**David J. Miller**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



**Barry Karelitz**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



**Megan Barko**  
Deputy Fire Marshal



**Melanie Purcell**  
Administrative Assistant

# Types of Fires Investigated

## 2022 FIRES - UCR CLASSIFICATION

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Total
January	4	5	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	16
February	16	2	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	25
March	20	7	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	32
April	13	6	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	26
May	21	4	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	3	34
June	24	6	1	0	4	0	0	5	0	3	43
July	24	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	31
August	17	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	24
September	19	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	24
October	22	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	29
November	15	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	25
December	22	8	0	1	3	0	0	2	1	0	37
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>346</b>

## UCR CLASSIFICATION DEFINED

**A: Single Occupancy Residential** - Houses, Rowhouses, Duplexes, Townhouses, Condos

**B: Other Residential** - Apartments, Tenements, Hotels, Motels, Inns, Dormitories, etc.

**C: Storage** - Barns, Garages, Warehouses, Sheds, etc.

**D - Industrial/Manufacturing**

**E: Other Commercial** - Stores, Restaurants, Lounges, Offices, Bars, etc.

**F: Community/Public** - Churches, Jails, Schools, Hospitals, Banks, Nursing Homes, etc.

**G: All Other Structure** - Outbuildings, Monuments, Buildings Under Construction

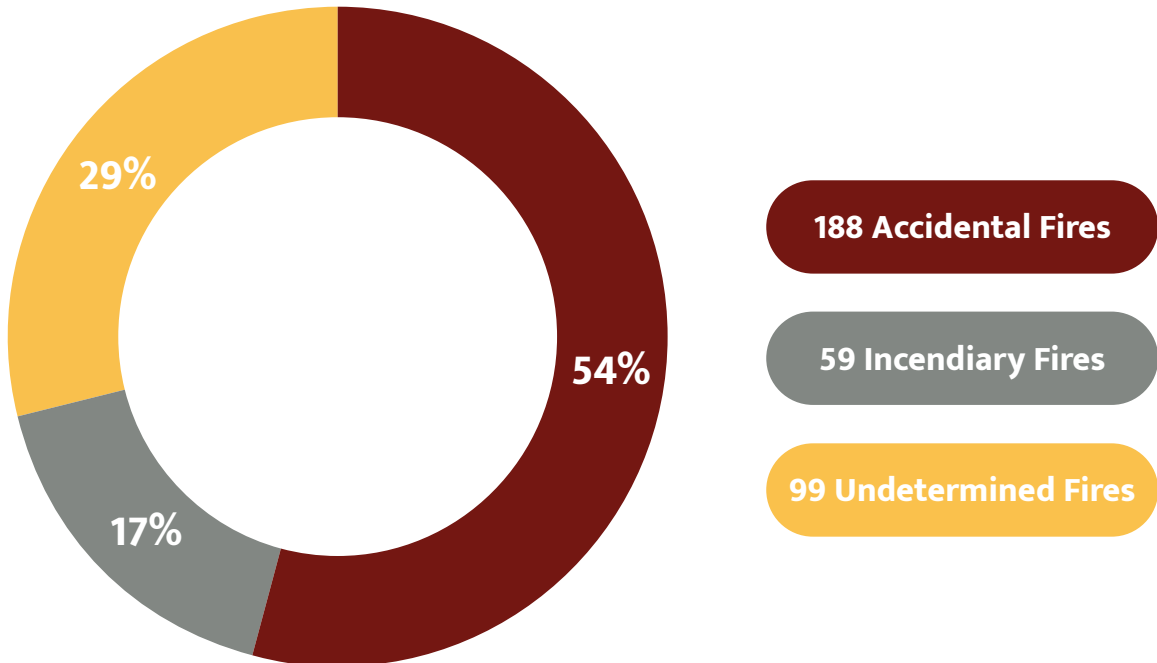
**H: Motor Vehicles** - Passenger Vehicles, Trucks, Buses, Motorcycles, etc.

**I: Other Mobile Property** - Trailers, RVs, Airplanes, Boats, Mobile Homes, etc.

**J: Other** - Crops, Timber, Fences, Signs, Parking Lots, Dumpsters, Trash/Garbage, etc.

# Determination of Fires Investigated

## 2022 FIRES - CAUSE



## Accidental Fires - Causes

### 2022 ACCIDENTAL FIRES - SMOKING FIRES

SMOKING FIRES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Discarded Smoking Material	3	1	6		2	4	3					1	20
Incense Related						1			1				2
Lit Cigarette, Cigar, etc.			2	1	3	1		1	2	1			11
<b>TOTAL SMOKING RELATED FIRES:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>

## 2022 ACCIDENTAL FIRES - ELECTRICAL FIRES

ELECTRICAL FIRES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Attic Ventilation Fan		1	1										2
Electrical Arcing										1			1
Bathroom Exhaust Fan		1	1			1			1			1	5
Battery Failure / Overheating								2			1	1	4
Extension Cord			2			1						1	4
Fixed Wiring - Branch Circuitry	1							1	2	1	1	1	7
Fixed Wiring - Light Fixture										1			1
Fixed Wiring - Wall Receptacle									1				1
Meter Base								2					2
Small Appliance					2						1		3
Large Appliance	1			1		2	1						5
Main Electrical Service Line							2						2
Miscellaneous Electrical		3		2	2							1	8
Motor Vehicle Fire	1	1	1	1								1	5
Power Strip							1	1					2
<b>TOTAL ELECTRICAL RELATED FIRES:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>

## 2022 ACCIDENTAL FIRES - HEATING RELATED FIRES

HEATING RELATED FIRES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Chimney / Fireplace											1		1
Furnace / Boiler				1				1		1	1	3	7
Space Heater Too Close To Combustibles		1										1	2
Space Heater - Improper Fuel											1		1
Woodburner		1											1
<b>TOTAL HEATING RELATED FIRES:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>

## 2022 ACCIDENTAL FIRES - COOKING FIRES

COOKING FIRES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Small Appliance - Unattended			1						1				2
Cooking Accident			1										1
Energized Stovetop Heating Element											1	2	3
Hot Charcoals				1			1						2
Outdoor Cooking Operation	1					2		1					4
Unattended Cooking Operation	1		1		7		1	1	3	6	1	1	22
Unattended Oven									2				2
Unattended Stovetop Burner			1					1	1				3
Unattended Stovetop - Pet Related		2				1	1	1	1				6
<b>TOTAL COOKING RELATED FIRES:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>

## 2022 ACCIDENTAL FIRES - MISCELLANEOUS FIRES

MISCELLANEOUS FIRES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Bare Light Bulb						1			1	1			3
Candle	1	1		2		1				1			6
Fireworks							1						1
Friction							1						1
Gas Dryer										1			1
Grinder Operation						1							1
Heat Gun										1		1	2
Heat Lamp				1									1
Hot Embers From Another Fire		1	1								1		3
Hot Vehicle Component			1							1			2
Hot Metal Operation	1												1
Lightning Strike					1		1						2
Open Flame - Roofing Operation		2											2
Open Flame - Plumbing Operation												1	1
Open Flame - Pipe Thawing Operation	1												1
Rekindle												1	1
Unattended Outdoor Fireplace				1								1	2
Spontaneous Heating		1		2	1	2	3	1	1	1		2	14
Weather Related				1									1
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS FIRES:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>

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2022 TOTAL ACCIDENTAL FIRES

# Fatal Fires - Months, Time of Day, Causes

## 2022 FATAL FIRES - MONTH

MONTH	ACCIDENTAL	INCENDIARY	UNDETERMINED	TOTAL FIRES
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	1	1
April	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0
June	1	0	0	1
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	3	3
November	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	2	2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

## 2022 FATAL FIRES - TIME OF DAY

TIME OF DAY	ACCIDENTAL	INCENDIARY	UNDETERMINED	TOTAL FIRES
0700 - 1500 Hours	1	0	3	4
1500 - 2300 Hours	0	0	0	0
2300 - 0700 Hours	0	0	3	3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

## 2022 FATAL FIRES - CAUSES

MONTH	HEATING	SMOKING	ELECTRIC	COOKING	MISC.
January	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	1	0
July	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

9

**TOTAL 2022 FATALITIES**

# Location of 2022 Fires *by* Municipality

MUNICIPALITY	FIRES	MUNICIPALITY	FIRES	MUNICIPALITY	FIRES
Aleppo	0	Franklin Park	2	Pitcairn	0
Aspinwall	1	Frazer	0	Pittsburgh	0
Avalon	1	Glassport	3	Pleasant Hills	4
Baldwin Borough	7	Glenfield	0	Plum	10
Baldwin Twp	1	Glen Osborne	0	Port Vue	2
Bell Acres	0	Green Tree	1	Rankin	1
Bellevue	3	Hampton	2	Reserve	3
Ben Avon	1	Harmar	2	Richland	3
Ben Avon Heights	0	Harrison	5	Robinson	6
Bethel Park	3	Haysville	0	Ross	7
Blawnox	0	Heidelberg	0	Rosslyn Farms	0
Brackenridge	0	Homestead	8	Scott	4
Braddock	6	Indiana	1	Sewickley	2
Braddock Hills	1	Ingram	1	Sewickley Heights	0
Bradford Woods	0	Jefferson Hills	3	Sewickley Hills	0
Brentwood	6	Kennedy	2	Shaler	6
Bridgeville	2	Kilbuck	1	Sharpsburgh	1
Carnegie	0	Leet	0	South Fayette	4
Castle Shannon	1	Leetsdale	2	South Park	4
Chalfant	0	Liberty	0	South Versailles	0
Cheswick	0	Lincoln	0	Springdale	2
Churchill	1	Marshall	4	Springdale	1
Clairton	10	McCandless	0	Stowe	2
Collier	2	McDonald	0	Swissvale	8
Coraopolis	1	McKees Rocks	6	Tarentum	6
Crafton	2	McKeesport	26	Thornburg	0
Crescent	1	Millvale	0	Trafford	0
Dormont	2	Monroeville	6	Turtle Creek	5
Dravosburg	0	Moon	0	Upper St. Clair	1
Duquesne	8	Mount Lebanon	3	Verona	2
East Deer	1	Mount Oliver	4	Versailles	0
East McKeesport	0	Munhall	19	Wall	1
East Pittsburgh	2	Neville	1	West Deer	2
Edgewood	4	North Braddock	8	West Elizabeth	0
Edgeworth	0	North Fayette	3	West Homestead	1
Elizabeth Borough	2	North Versailles	6	West Mifflin	10
Elizabeth Twp	6	Oakdale	0	West View	6
Emsworth	2	Oakmont	0	Whitaker	0
Etna	0	O'Hara	4	White Oak	0
Fawn	0	Ohio	0	Whitehall	2
Findlay	6	Penn Hills	1	Wilkins	2
Forest Hills	1	Pennsbury Village	0	Wilkinsburg	21
Forward	2	Pine	3	Wilmerding	2
Fox Chapel	2				

346

2022 TOTAL FIRES

# Fuel Storage Tank Permits

For the safety of Allegheny County residents, the Fire Marshal's Office reviews above and underground fuel storage tank installations in Allegheny County. All flammable and combustible liquid storage tanks in Allegheny County must undergo a safety inspection every three years.

48

Applications Approved

1

Applications Rejected

43

Certificates Issued

181

Site / Safe Inspections

31

Install Inspections

0

Abandoned Tank Inspections

0

Fuel Leaks / Spills

0

CNG Installations

