



**Department of Justice  
Criminal Investigation**

**Fire Prevention and Investigation  
2006 - 2007 Report**





**Montana Division of Criminal Investigation  
Investigations Bureau  
Fire Prevention and Investigation Section**



**Administrator  
Mike Batista**



**Investigations Bureau Chief  
John Strandell**



**State Fire Marshal  
Allen Lorenz**

## Table of Contents

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page Numbers</b>
A Message from State Fire Marshal Allen Lorenz . . . . .	1
State Fire Marshal Deputies and their regions . . . . .	2
Fires Investigated and Inspections for 2006 and 2007 . . .	3
Fire Deaths and their locations for 2006 and 2007 . . . . .	4
New Fire Safety Standards for Cigarettes in Montana . . . .	5
National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) . . . . .	6
Fire Incidents surrounding July 4th 2006 and 2007 . . .	7 - 11
Hazard Houses for Fire Education . . . . .	8 - 9

## **2006 - 2007 Fire Report**

### **From the office of the State Fire Marshal**

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone for supporting the State Fire Marshal's Office over the last two years. This report contains 2006 and 2007 data. The spring of 2007 was spent preparing and finally moving the fire marshal's office and the other sections within the Division of Criminal Investigations to another location here in Helena. Because of this move we were unable to get a report out for 2006.

Reflecting back over the last two years several memorable events stand out. Fire deaths in our state are not declining. Despite the increase of smoke detectors being placed in residential occupancies, the highest number of deaths still occur in single family dwellings. Smoking materials is at the top of the list for causing these fires.

In a related development this past legislative session, the fire service worked together to get the "safer cigarette" bill passed into law. The new law goes into effect May 1, 2008. As a result, next year I hope to report fewer fire deaths in homes and that smoking materials, as an ignition source, will have dropped down the list of fire causes.

As a reminder the State Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for managing the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the State of Montana. I appreciate those departments that report their calls. I also encourage those that don't report to please start. The information gathered can be useful for fire prevention efforts, grants and to educate the public about fire issues. This is useful statewide as well as within your department's jurisdiction.

It is my hope that we as a fire service in this state will find common goals and work together to attain them. The legislature is already having meetings for the 2009 session. Let's get our concerns lined out and jointly work to better the state fire service for the people we serve.

**Allen Lorenz**  
**State Fire Marshal**



# Montana Deputy State Fire Marshal Regions

Northwest



**Dawn Drollinger**  
Kalispell  
406-257-2584

North Central

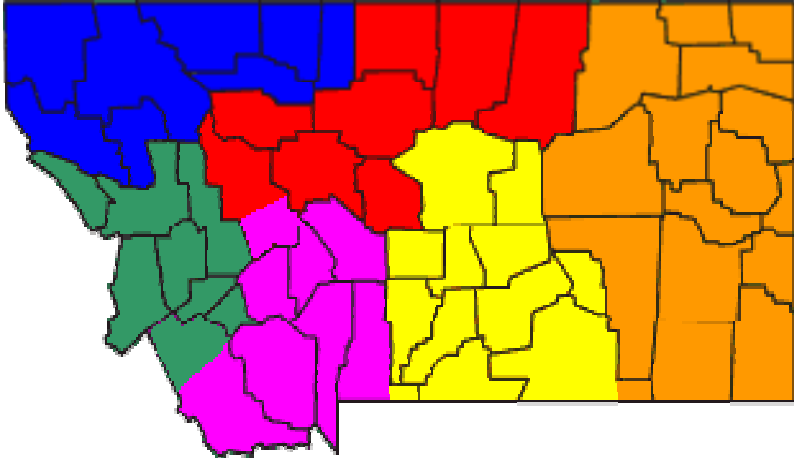


**Dick Swingley**  
Great Falls  
406-791-2710

Eastern



**Jerry Smith**  
Miles City  
406-232-9765



Southwest



**Dick Larson**  
Missoula  
406-329-1452

Southern



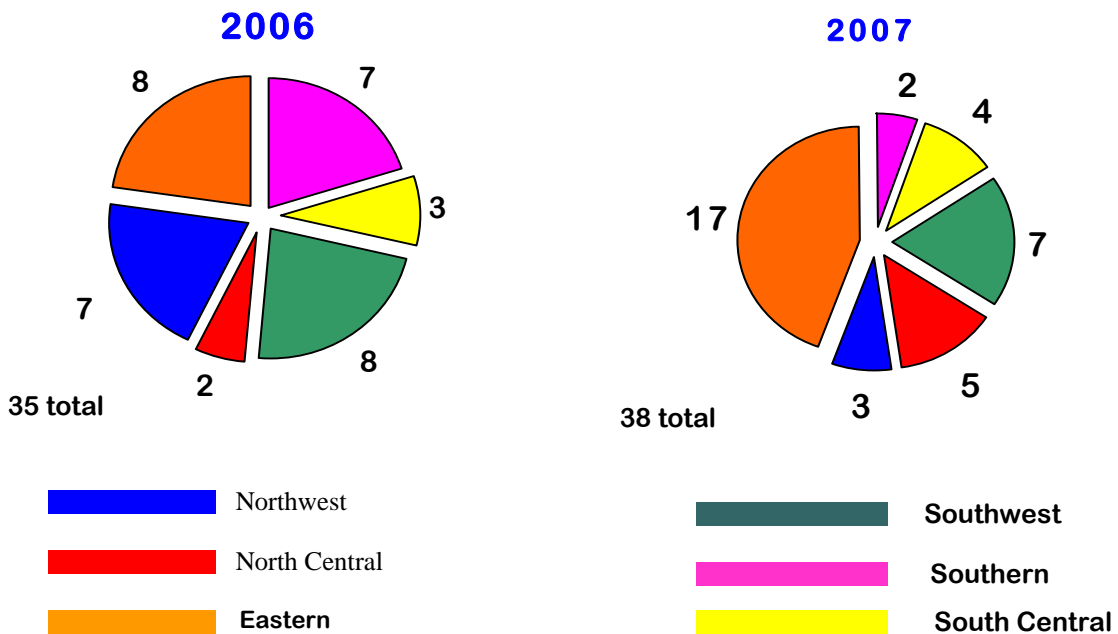
**Pat Clinch**  
Helena  
406-444-1919

South Central

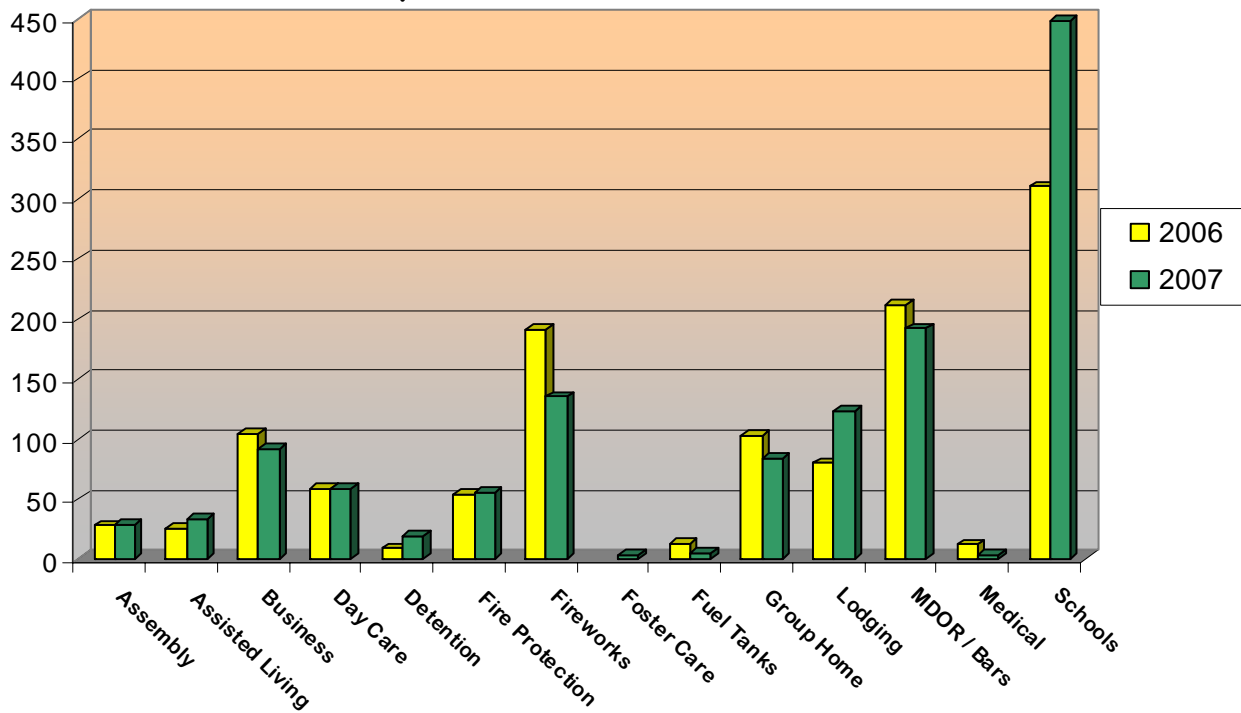


**Sally McKenna**  
Billings  
406-896-4388

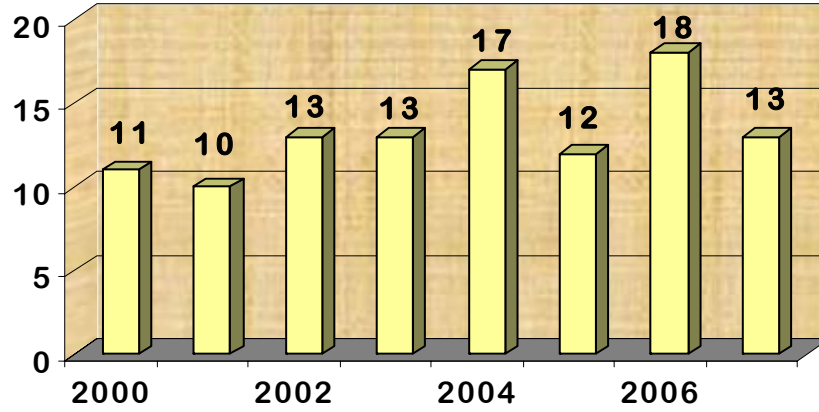
## Fires Investigated by Deputy State Fire Marshals in Regions in 2006 - 2007



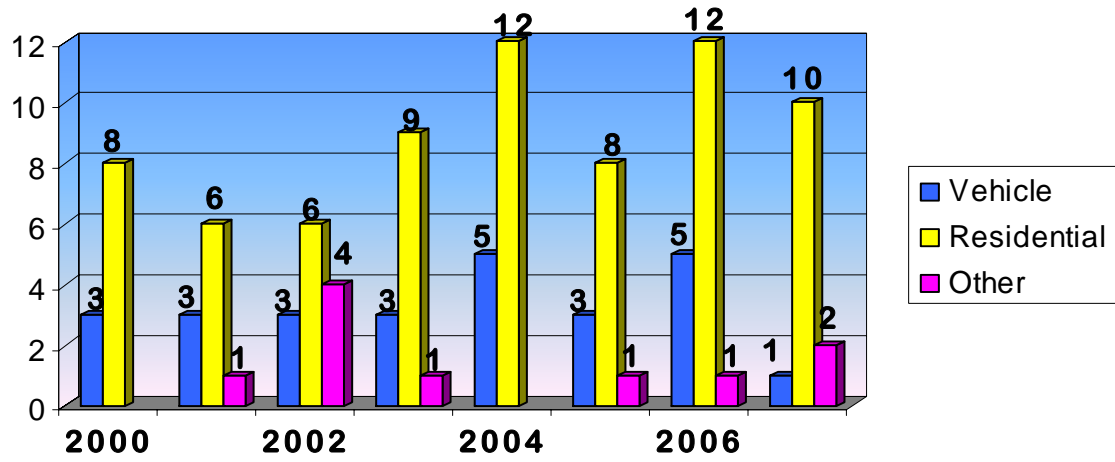
## Inspections for 2006 and 2007



Yearly fire fatalities in Montana



Location of yearly fire fatalities in Montana





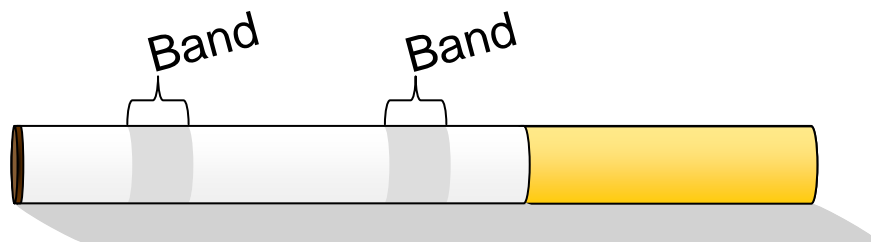
## Safer Cigarettes for Montana

The 2007 Legislature passed a new law for safety standards for cigarettes sold or offered for sale in Montana. Under this law, which goes into effect May 1, 2008, cigarettes sold in Montana must meet the same criteria for safer cigarettes as in New York state.

This law was designed to save lives by reducing the risk that cigarettes will ignite upholstered furniture, mattresses, household furnishings and other soft combustible material. According to nationwide statistics from the National Fire Protection Association, roughly one in four fire-related deaths is caused by smoking materials.

Safer cigarettes cost the same and have the same characteristics as other cigarettes. Each box, carton and package must have the letters FSC (Fire Standard Compliant) near the bar code.

(not to scale)



- The cigarette paper has lowered permeability bands.
- These bands act as “speed bumps” to slow the rate at which the cigarette burns as the lit end passes through them.

*\* Schematic representation of bands, which are not readily visible on the product, are highlighted here for illustrative purposes.*

The early estimates in the reduction of smoking related fires is 25-40%. With an average of 4 deaths each year in our state, it is our hope to have fewer fires from careless smoking.

Currently there are 27 states with this legislation and 13 more are considering it in 2008.

For more information go to our website at:

<http://www.doj.mt.gov/enforcement/fireprevention/firesafetycigarettes.asp>

# NFIRS

## National Fire Incident Reporting System

The State Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for managing the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the State of Montana. At this time we have 252 agencies utilizing the NFIRS system.

The Fire Marshal's Office has set up an e-mail account to process your NFIRS submittals, reset your password and answer your questions. Please use the e-mail [DOJNFIRS@mt.gov](mailto:DOJNFIRS@mt.gov) or call the Deputy Fire Marshal in your area. To find which Deputy Fire Marshal is in your area along with their phone number please refer to **page 2** of this report.

Please also note that it is recommended that departments log into the NFIRS system on a monthly basis even if they do not have an incident to log to avoid having your account defaulting to an INACTIVE status. Once logged in you may check a box marked "no activity" and log out. This will keep your account active for when you need it.

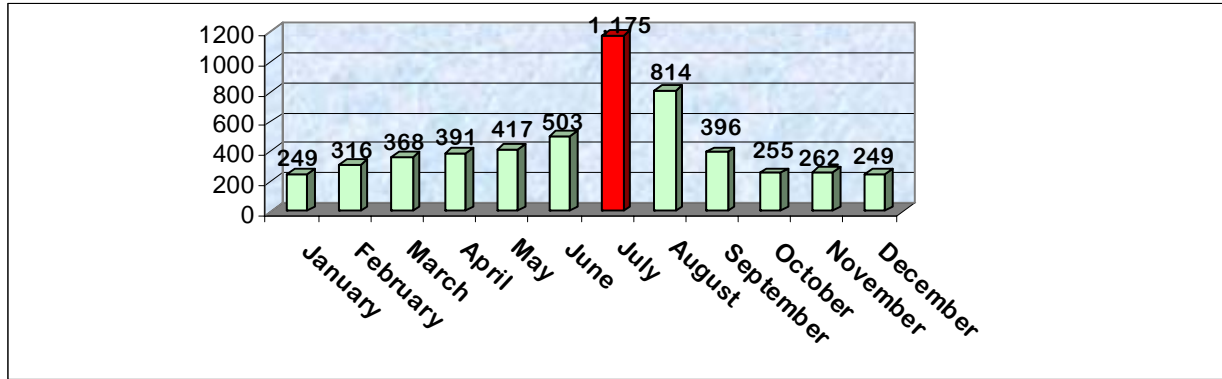
### TOP 11 NFIRS INCIDENT REPORTING DEPARTMENTS FOR: 2006

Department	# of Incidents
Billings Fire Department	8,880
Missoula Fire Department	5,493
Great Falls Fire Rescue	5,140
Helena Fire Department	2,764
Kalispell	3,347
Missoula Rural Fire Department	1,997
Bozeman Fire Department	2,094
Butte Silver Bow Fire Dist.	1,857
Central Valley Rural Fire Dist.	760
Lockwood RFD	568

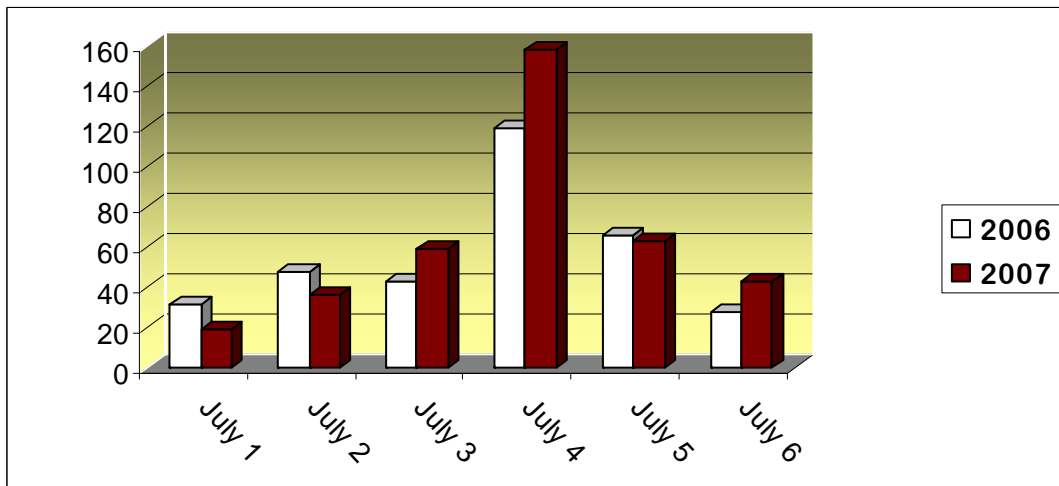
### 2007

Department	# of Incidents
Billings Fire Department	11,179
Great Falls Fire Rescue	5,348
Missoula Fire Department	4,672
Kalispell	3,345
Bozeman Fire	2,403
Helena Fire Department	1,600
Missoula Rural Fire Department	1,455
Miles City Fire Department	1,180
Evergreen Rural Fire Department	790
Anaconda Fire	777
Central Valley Rural Fire	760

## Fire Incidents across the state reported for the year of 2006



## Fire Calls Surrounding July 4th



## **Hazard Houses for Fire Education**

The State Fire Marshal's Office was able to purchase three new Hazard Houses with the assistance of a federal grant. Any fire station in Montana can request use of a Hazard House at no charge. You will need to contact your local Deputy State Fire Marshal to schedule a time to utilize the unit.

Hazard Houses are wonderful educational tools that can be used for all ages. Not only can they be used in schools during Fire Prevention Week, but they can also be used at your station's open house, town fair, or any time you talk to people about fire safety.

Each Hazard House comes as two self-contained units and a suitcase that holds the extra educational material (home fire & burn illustration, senior citizens home risk package, emergency preparedness illustrations, shed & 3-D parts), power cable and remote. All three units are on wheels to make transportation easier.

It is strongly recommended that you request the Hazard House a day earlier than your presentation so you have a chance to familiarize yourself with the unit and how to set it up and operate it. This is a good tool to help teach fire safety in a visual way and have some fun doing it.

Each Hazard House comes with instructions on how to set up the unit and an instructional CD to assist you in setting up your individual program. These units are very user friendly and different programs are easy to set up depending on what age group you are speaking to.

Remember, fire safety education is not just for children. These units make it very easy to educate or remind all ages about fire safety and emergency preparedness in the home.

The Hazard House shows a four-level house including an attic and chimney. Flip boards show the unsafe and safe practices in each room.

The bathroom shows outlet overloading and bathtub safety, including a remote-controlled electric shock sound.

The kitchen shows chemicals under the sink and fire dangers over the stove. A pan on the stove smokes via remote control. The pan has a lid that you can put on it to simulate depriving the fire of oxygen.

The office shows outlet overloading, bars on the window and a child with a gun beside an unlocked cabinet. Via the remote control, you can make the sparking outlet sound from overloading. The stairwell shows the dangers of things on the stairs, a child playing with matches via remote control, produces smoke in the stairwell and the bedroom door into the stairwell lights up to simulate a hot door. The bedroom shows the proper way to exit the bedroom when the door is hot.

The living room shows electrical cords under a rug and a man sleeping in a chair with a lit cigarette which, via remote control, starts smoke simulating a fire in the chair. The furnace room shows gas powered appliances and different colored flames to show the need for cleaning and maintenance. Using the remote control you can also simulate a dryer fire.

The attic area shows a storage area and two bedrooms. The chimney can be removed to show cleaning with a brush and how a clean chimney should look. The 3-D parts include smoke detectors which can Velcro to the ceiling of all appropriate rooms of the house. Using the remote control you can also activate the sound of the smoke detector.

Other 3-D parts are the gas powered lawn mower, the propane grill, gas can, cans of various hazardous chemicals that may be stored improperly in the home and space heaters.

