



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Fire Rescue ▪ Headquarters

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Marion County Fire Rescue

Structure Fire Analysis

Introduction

Marion County Fire Rescue was directed to perform an analysis of structure fire responses. The primary focus of the analysis was to determine the presence of fire sprinkler systems in commercial buildings with fire incidents. Additionally, an analysis was performed with each fire to determine if the sprinkler system activated during the event.

Code Related Information

Fire sprinkler requirements are found in the Florida Fire Prevention Code NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Every three years, the Florida Fire Prevention Code is updated by the State of Florida. Local jurisdictions must adopt and enforce the Florida Fire Prevention Code as the minimum requirements for life safety in the jurisdiction. Jurisdictions can adopt a code which is more stringent if local needs can be documented with data. The local amendments must be submitted and approved by the State Fire Marshal prior to enforcement. Currently, Marion County does have fire related provisions in the Marion County Land Development Code, however Marion County does not have any adopted local requirements for fire sprinkler systems. The amendments to the Marion County Land Development Code for fire have been approved by the State Fire Marshal and are enforceable.

The requirements for fire sprinkler systems will depend on the use of the building, number of occupants, or size of the structure. Unfortunately, the code does not have a single benchmark which requires the installation of a fire sprinkler system. Each occupancy is evaluated and depending on the specific requirements then fire protection is required in the building. A few examples of the thresholds for fire sprinkler requirements are as follows:

- Assembly occupancies with 300 or more persons
- Retail and storage occupancies which are greater than 12,000 square feet
- All new educational occupancies

Data Resource Information

Incident data was collected on a calendar year basis for 2022, 2023, and 2024. The incident data was from the two primary reporting systems Firehouse and ESO Fire. Firehouse was retired in the summer of 2023 and ESO Fire now serves as the primary incident reporting software. The incident information used was the same data which is provided to the State Fire Marshal, USFA, and NFPA. MCFR is required to report to all three of these sources on an annual basis. Many times, the information is used for statistical and grant purposes.

Marion County Fire Rescue Fire Incident Analysis

The chart below provides a summary of fire related incidents in Marion County for the last three calendar years.

Fire Incident Summary Analysis			
Data per Calendar Year (01/01 to 12/31)			
Incident Type	2022	2023	2024
Residential Fires	277	228	287
Non Residential Fires	63	63	62
Vehicle Fires	200	172	228
Grass Fires	609	532	383
Illegal Burns	227	214	295
False Alarms	1832	1767	2001
Hazardous Materials Response	167	136	219
Power/Electrical Emergency	1252	638	1323
Traffic Accidents	4613	5226	5800
Other (Animal Rescue, Lock outs, Smoke scare, Citizen Assists)	6918	3891	5636
Total Incidents	16158	12867	16234

An analysis was conducted of the total number of structure fires compared to the total number of fire related incident responses. The analysis did not include medical incident responses.

Description	2022	2023	2024
Total Structure Fire Incidents	340	291	349
Percentage of Total Incidents	2.10%	2.26%	2.15%

An analysis was conducted of the total dollar loss for residential and nonresidential properties per year. During 2023, MCFR responded to a commercial store which resulted in excess of a million-dollar loss.

Description	2022	2023	2024
Dollar Loss Residential	\$10,173,148	\$13,377,110	\$7,831,238
Dollar Loss Non Residential	\$1,916,636	\$3,625,640	\$1,111,620

The final analysis reviewed the number of commercial buildings which had a fire during the three-year time frame. The analysis reviewed if the fire protection system activated during the event.

Description	2022	2023	2024
Buildings with Fire Sprinkler Present	7	1	2
Buildings with Fire Sprinkler Activated	2	0	1

Respectfully Submitted

Ken McCann, Fire Marshal
Marion County Fire Rescue