

# Hot Topics in Fire Prevention

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## ImageTrend Software Being Used Statewide

ImageTrend software became available for all fire departments within Wisconsin to use at no charge on July 1.

**ImageTrend** software was purchased with 2% Fire Dues as a non-mandatory alternative for all Wisconsin fire departments that choose to utilize the features of the program. The fire department management software is available at no additional charge for the reporting of NFIRS incidents; tracking of personnel, equipment, activities, training, and inspections; the creation of professional looking reports, graphs, documents, and charts; while allowing a fire department to go paperless and store reports and

records off-site on a secure server.

The [software program](#) was introduced during training sessions held throughout the state in June, July, and August.

409 attendees represented 178 fire departments at the 20 training sessions. Following training, 26% of those departments attending training accessed and used the software.

Additional information regarding the use of the ImageTrend software and transitioning from another software provider can be found on our NFIRS – ImageTrend [web page](#).

All fire chiefs were sent their initial administrative

account information for [ImageTrend](#) on June 30. Each administrative account can be used to create additional accounts for the department.

Local departments have begun to create their own user accounts within the ImageTrend Software, [Wisconsin Fire Bridge](#). Having started with an initial 836 accounts, the system has grown to 1, 559 individual user accounts representing 61 fire departments.



## NFIRS Monthly Updates

In an effort to improve Wisconsin’s NFIRS incident submissions, the DSPS Fire Prevention program began sending a monthly update e-mail in July to all Wisconsin fire departments listing those incidents that have an invalid status within the national database.

Prior to looking at the validity of the incidents, an account must be made of who is and isn’t reporting. Therefore, Monthly Incident Counts reports for 2013, 2014, and 2015 are also provided each month. These documents will show the number of reports each department has

in the database per month.

NFIRS data is used on a state and national level to show trends, evaluate problem areas, enhance public education efforts, and support code revisions. The data cannot be used unless it is valid data.

## \$17,136,066.39 Distributed From 2% Fire Dues Fund

This past spring's 2% Fire Dues Self-Certification Process ran from January 15 – March 31.

A 98% participation equaled our highest participation rate to date with 835 fire department chiefs and 1,853 municipal clerks completing the self-certification forms on-line through use of the [Wisconsin's Fire Program On-line System](#).

\$17,136,066.39 was distributed in early July to all eligible municipalities for distribution to the fire departments serving the municipality. A complete listing of the [2015 Fire Dues Distribution Roll](#) can be found on our [website](#).

*Since June 29, Consistent NFIRS contact results in ten non-reporting departments submitting reports for 2014.*

## 2014 Fire Department Activity According to NFIRS

Fires	16,235	Total Incidents with Exposures	112
Explosions	674	Total Exposure Fires	169
Rescue Calls	152,352		
Hazardous Conditions	13,745		
Service	17,231	Total Fire Dollar Loss	\$268,407,828.00
Good Intent	17,231	Total Dollar Loss	\$277,789,106.00
Severe Weather	514		
Special Incident	1,000		
Unknown	7		
False Calls	27,465		
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>242,958</b>		

## NFIRS Top 10 Reporting Myths

10. We don't have/can't afford a software program
9. Only required fields have to be completed
8. We can't get the information
7. Nobody cares if we don't submit; we're too small to matter
6. Once we complete a report, there's no changing it later
5. Reporting doesn't help my department
4. We only need to submit fire calls
3. We don't have to worry about old reports
2. NFIRS reports are hard to complete

and the number One Myth: A few invalid reports is no big deal

*Spoiler Alert: Top NFIRS Reporting Myth = A few invalid incident reports is no big deal.*

## 2013 – 2014 NFIRS Comparisons

Incident Type	2013	2014	Change Percentage
Fires	15,341	16,235	5.51%
Explosions	610	674	9.50%
Rescue Calls	128,508	152,352	15.65%
Hazardous Conditions	12,717	13,745	7.48%
Service	12,000	13,735	12.63%
Good Intent	13,959	17,231	18.99%
Severe Weather	585	514	-13.81%
Special Incident	942	1,000	5.80%
Unknown	17	7	-142.86%
False Calls	23,668	27,465	13.82%
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>208,347</b>	<b>242,958</b>	<b>14.25%</b>

## NFIRS Top 10 Causes of Invalid Incidents

10. Using the Civilian Casualties Module on non-fire incidents
9. Blank reports not being deleted
8. Not completing all required modules
7. Not completing all required fields
6. Unmanned Apparatus arriving on scene
5. Apparatus and Personnel arriving prior to the alarm
4. Actions Taken not matching with the Incident Type
3. Inconsistent answers from field to field, module to module
2. Plus-one codes

And the Number One Invalid Incident Cause: Reporting the Incident Type as what the page was for rather than what was found when you arrived on scene

## Smoke Alarms Present in Fewer than 50% of all Residential Fires in Wisconsin

From 2009 – 2014, 46% of all one- and two-family home fires in Wisconsin had detectors present.

Of those detectors, 42% either did not operate or could not be determined if they operated.

*\*To ensure accurate statistics, we must remember to complete all questions on the Structure Fire Module with an answer other than "Unknown".*



**WI Fire Prevention Program**

1400 E Washington Ave  
 PO Box 2658  
 Madison WI 53701-2658

**Phone** 608-266-9375

**Fax** 608-283-7412

**E-mail**

[audrey.fries@wisconsin.gov](mailto:audrey.fries@wisconsin.gov)

*Fighting Fires with Facts*



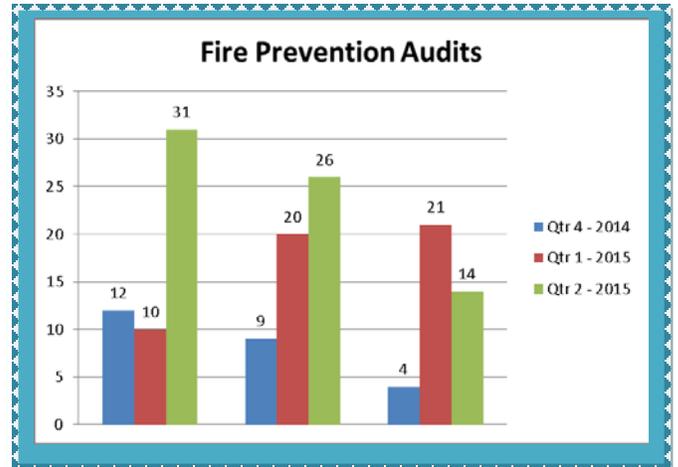
**We're on the Web!**

<http://dsps.wi.gov/Programs/Industry-Services/Industry-Services-Programs/Fire-Prevention/>

## Fire Prevention Program Activity by the Numbers

The Fire Prevention Program staff have been hard at work over the past nine months (October – June) conducting:

- **69** County Code Seminars (December 2014 – March 2015),
- **147** Fire Department Audits,
- **232** Fire Department Visits,
- and attending **165** night meetings.



## Fire Prevention Program Contacts

		Phone
1 - Rick Sommerfeld	<a href="mailto:Richard.Sommerfeld@Wisconsin.gov">Richard.Sommerfeld@Wisconsin.gov</a>	715-944-4114
2 - Mike Fehrenbach	<a href="mailto:Mike.Fehrenbach@Wisconsin.gov">Mike.Fehrenbach@Wisconsin.gov</a>	608-575-0179
3 - Carl Frisque – Lead Worker	<a href="mailto:Carl.Frisque@Wisconsin.gov">Carl.Frisque@Wisconsin.gov</a>	920-366-2469
4 - Sue Birren	<a href="mailto:Susan.Birren@Wisconsin.gov">Susan.Birren@Wisconsin.gov</a>	414-416-3339
Fire Prevention - Madison Office		
Fire Dues – Audrey Fries	<a href="mailto:DspsSbFireDues@wisconsin.gov">DspsSbFireDues@wisconsin.gov</a>	608-266-9375
NFIRS - Audrey Fries	<a href="mailto:Audrey.Fries@Wisconsin.gov">Audrey.Fries@Wisconsin.gov</a>	608-266-9375
Supervisor – Greg DiMiceli	<a href="mailto:Gregory.DiMiceli@Wisconsin.gov">Gregory.DiMiceli@Wisconsin.gov</a>	608-267-9378

The Industry Services Division Fire Prevention Program provides services related to fire prevention, protection, fire department safety & health, NFIRS, and the administration of the two percent fire dues. Staff also provide assistance to fire chiefs and inspectors in Wisconsin in support of fire prevention inspections.