

2015 Structure Fire Fatalities Executive Summary



Contents & Overview

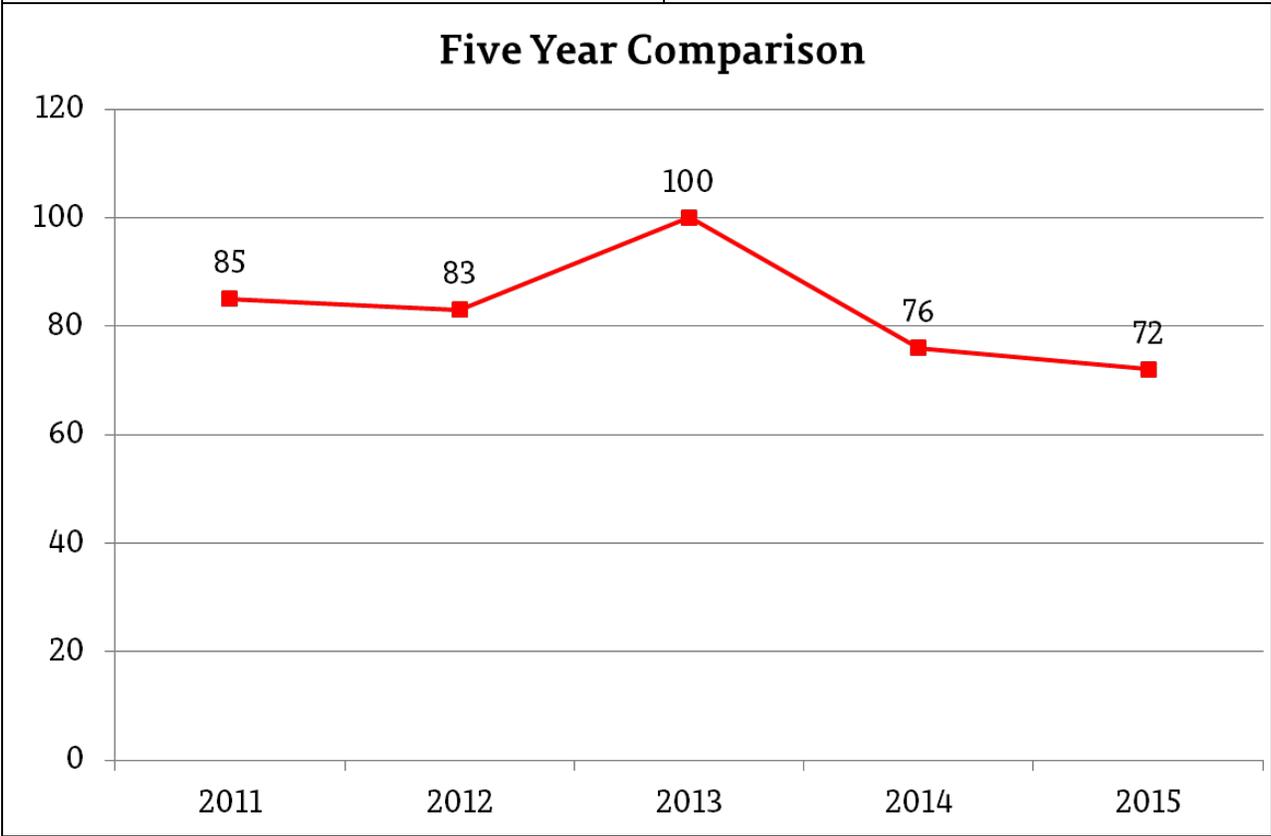
The following report was compiled by members of the Education and Outreach Team of the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office. Since its founding in 1915, the TNSFMO has been dedicated to reducing life and property loss by fire throughout the state. The TNSFMO works closely with state and local partners, including the state's many fire departments, to educate the public about fire safety and publicize noticeable risk trends with regards to fire.

The goal of this Executive Summary is to examine the causes and trends of **unintentional structure fire deaths**. All data and information is compiled using the TNSFMO's central Fire Fatality Database and the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

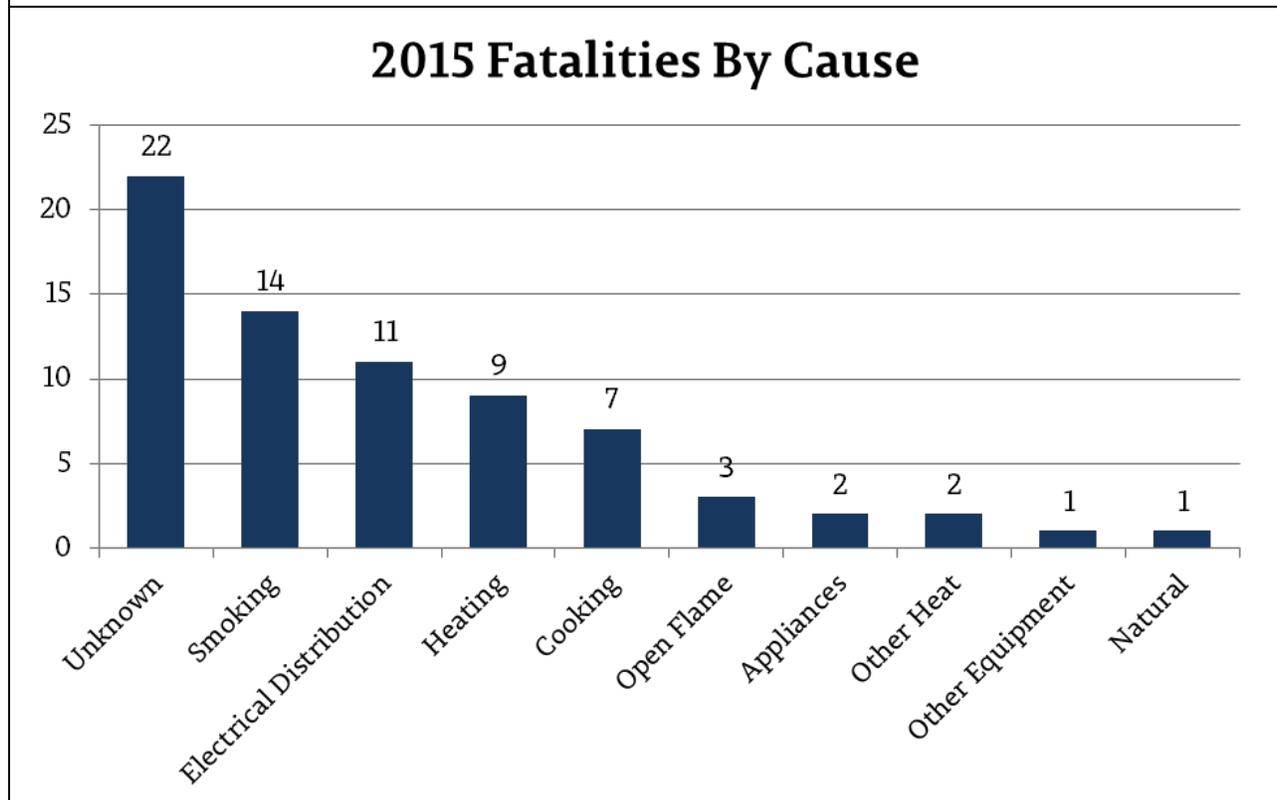
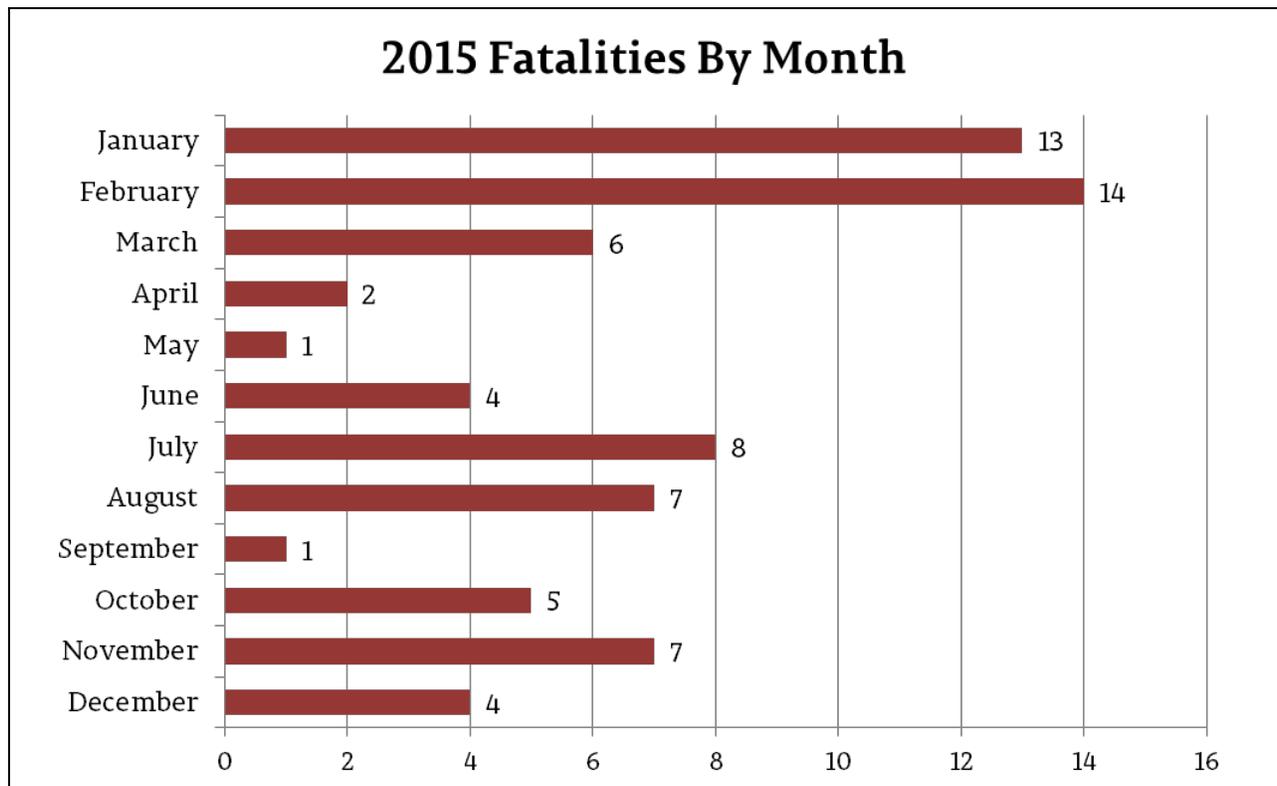
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2015 Fire Fatality Summary

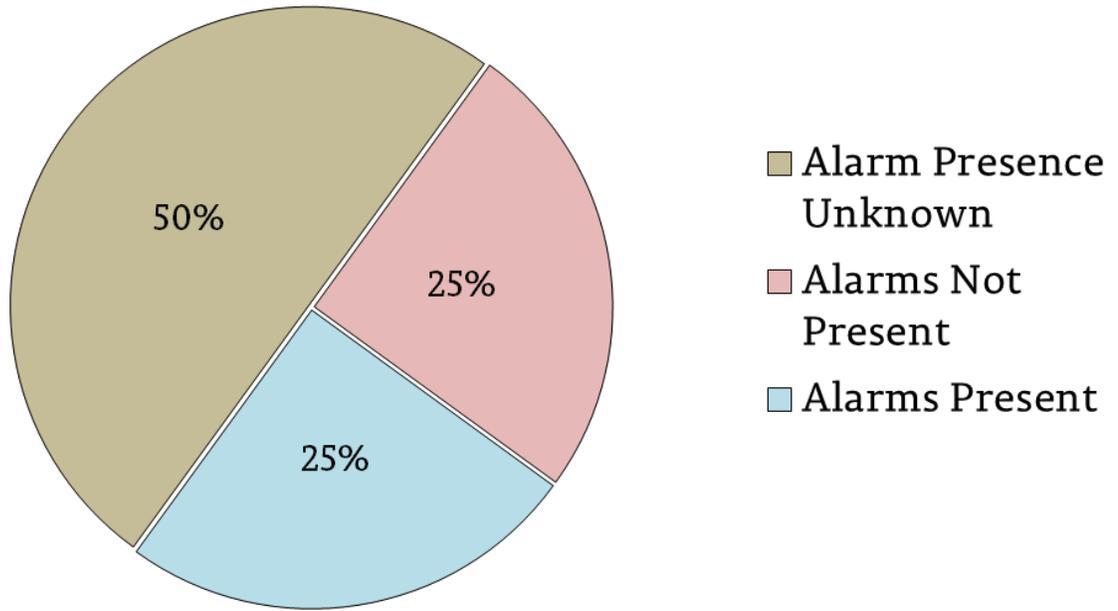
Number of fatalities	72
Number of fatal fires	60
Fatalities per fatal fire	1.20
Average age of victim	54
% over 50 years old	64%
% Female victims	56%



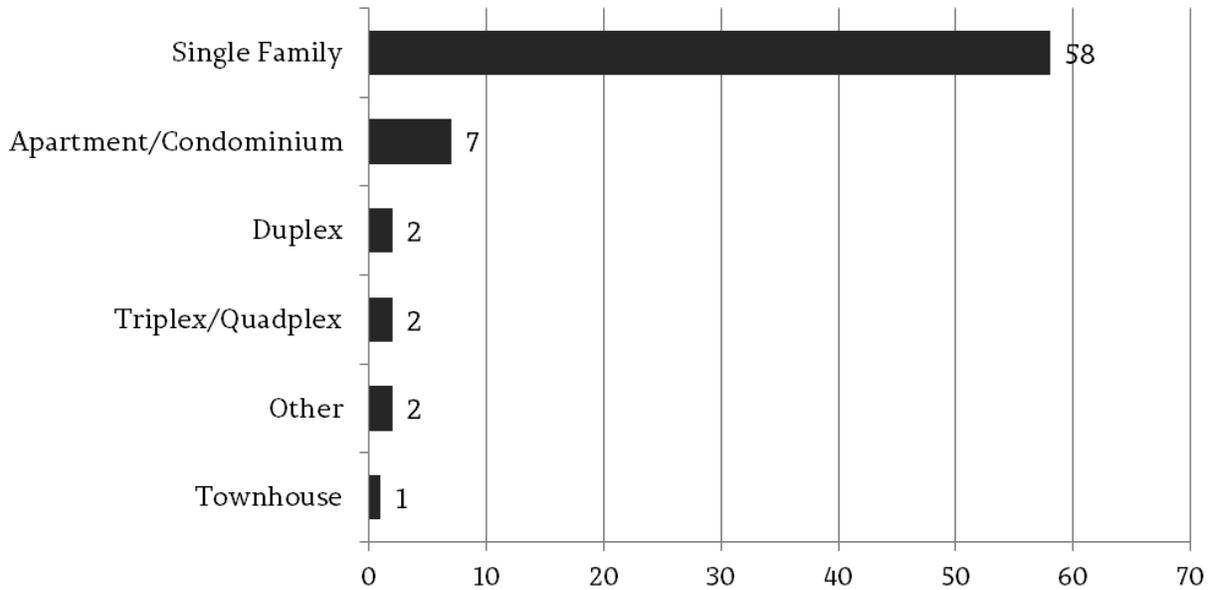
Fire Fatality Charts & Analysis



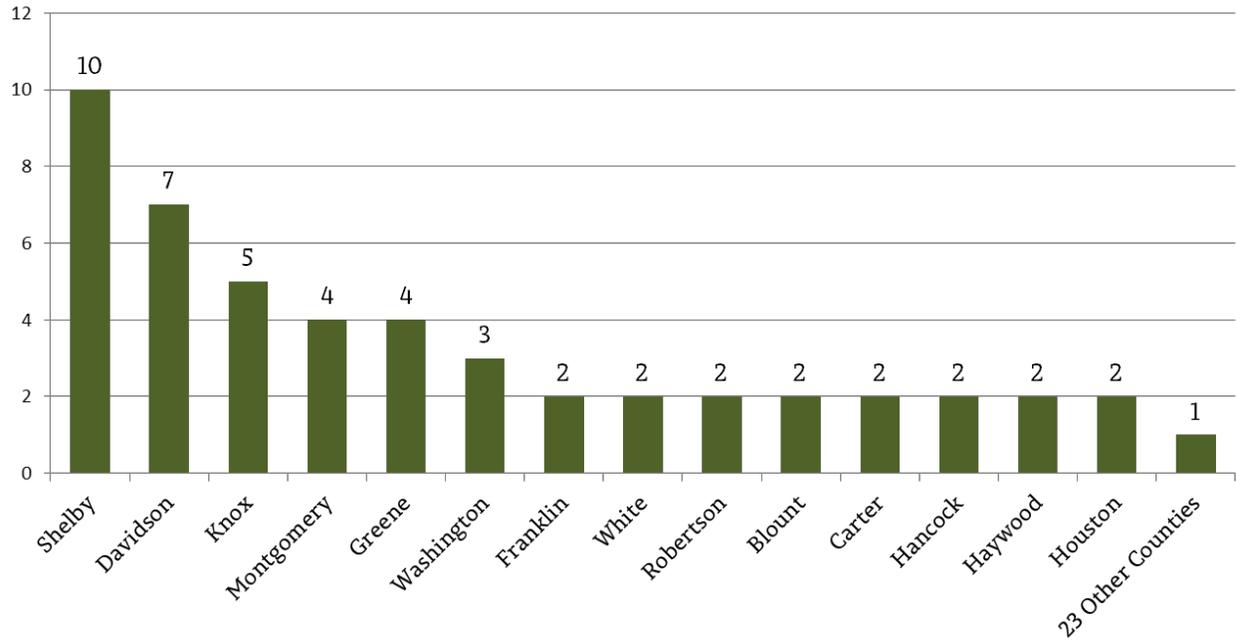
Smoke Alarm Presence In 2015 Fatal Fires



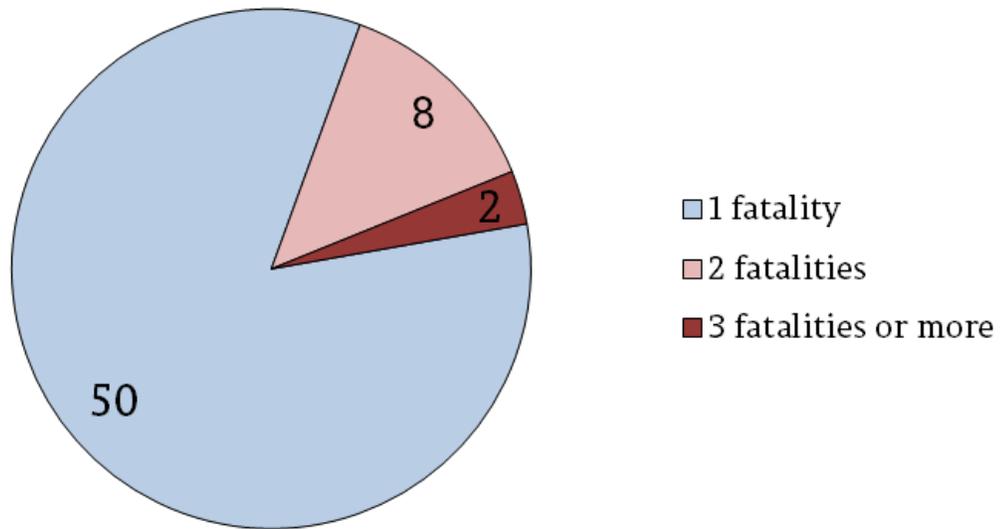
2015 Fatalities by Occupancy Type



2015 Fatalities By County

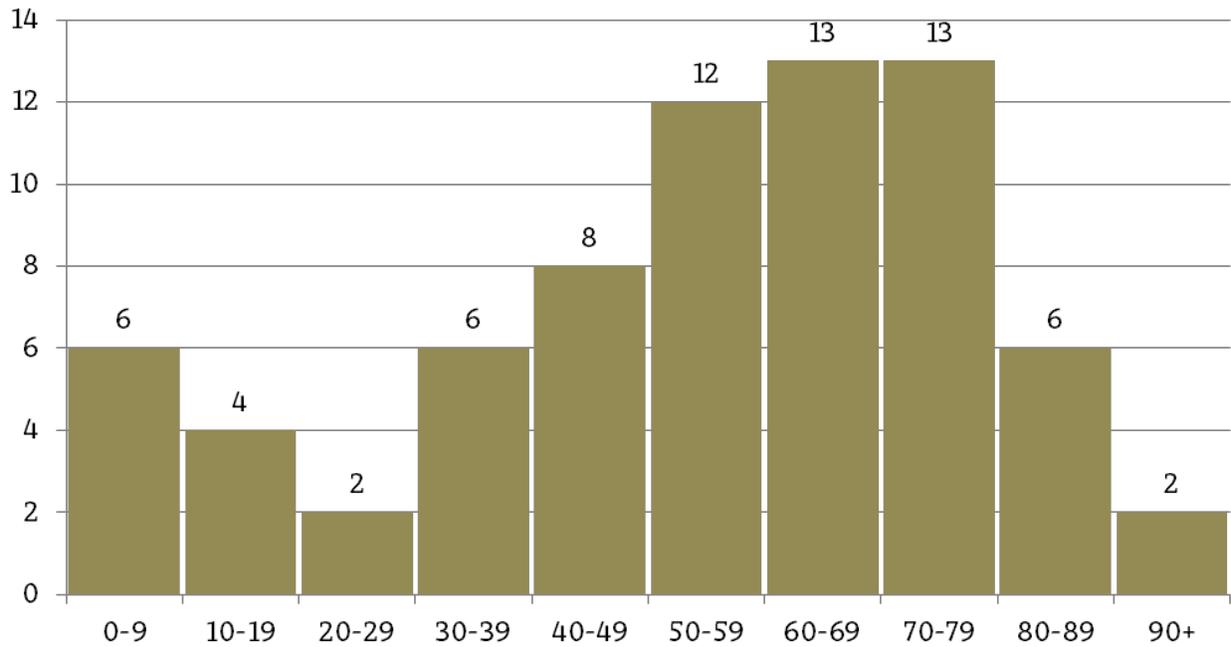


2015 Multiple Fatality Incidents

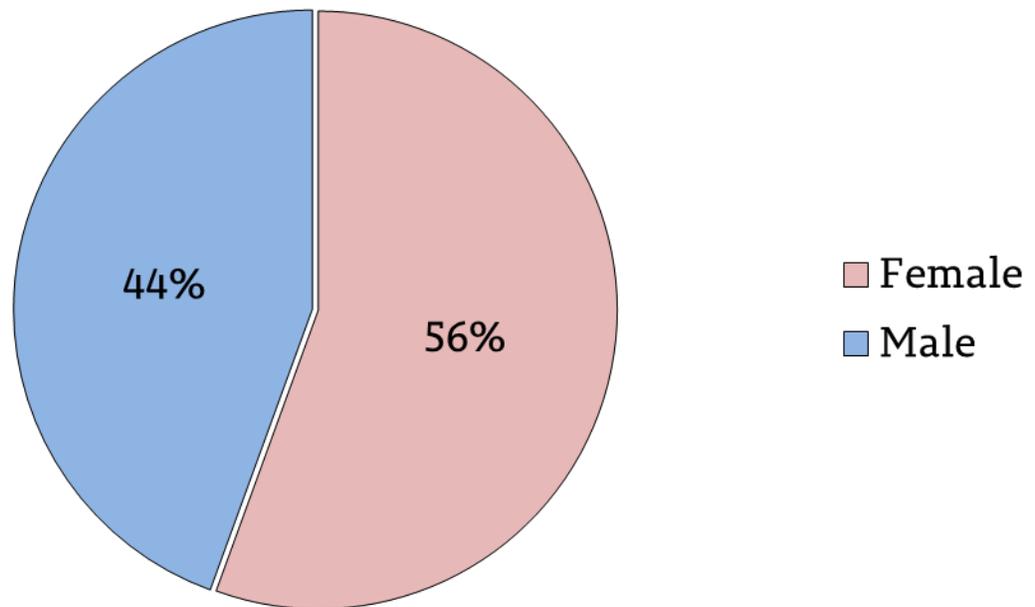


Fire Victims

2015 Fatalities by Age of Victim



2015 Fatalities by Sex of Victim



January

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
1/1/2015	1	Robertson	Springfield	Open Flame	Male	76
1/5/2015	1	Greene	Greeneville	Heating	Male	93
1/12/2015	1	Roane	Harriman	Unknown	Female	65
1/14/2015	2	Shelby	Memphis	Electrical Distribution	Female	20
					Female	1
1/14/2015	1	Tipton	Brighton	Electrical Distribution	Male	54
1/20/2015	1	Greene	Mosheim	Electrical Distribution	Female	58
1/22/2015	1	Shelby	Memphis	Heating	Male	80
1/23/2015	2	Houston	Erin	Heating	Female	38
					Female	12
1/26/2015	1	Henry	Cottage Grove	Unknown	Male	61
1/31/2015	1	Rhea	Dayton	Electrical Distribution	Female	80
1/31/2015	1	Lincoln	Fayetteville	Smoking	Female	58

February

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
2/2/2015	2	Hancock	Thorn Hill	Unknown	Male	80
					Female	77
2/4/2015	1	Cumberland	Crossville	Smoking	Female	49
2/6/2015	1	Hamilton	Chattanooga	Smoking	Male	58
2/14/2015	1	Knox	Knoxville	Unknown	Male	17
2/15/2015	1	Blount	Walland	Smoking	Male	58
2/17/2015	1	Montgomery	Clarksville	Heating	Female	71
2/19/2015	3	Knox	Knoxville	Heating	Male	75
					Female	66
					Male	47
2/22/2015	1	Franklin	Estill Springs	Unknown	Male	70
2/27/2015	1	Bradley	Cleveland	Cooking	Female	88
2/28/2015	1	Davidson	Nashville	Unknown	Male	45
2/28/2015	1	Shelby	Memphis	Other Equipment	Female	51

March

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
3/1/2015	1	Shelby	Memphis	Smoking	Male	78
3/5/2015	1	Crockett	Alamo	Unknown	Female	83
3/23/2015	1	Washington	Telford	Open Flame	Female	73
3/25/2015	1	McMinn	Athens	Unknown	Female	32
3/26/2015	2	Davidson	Nashville	Cooking	Male	34
					Female	4

April

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
4/21/2015	1	Robertson	Springfield	Electrical Distribution	Female	75
4/23/2015	1	Franklin	Decherd	Heating	Female	89

May

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
5/16/2015	1	Knox	Knoxville	Electrical Distribution	Female	31

June

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
6/2/2015	1	Shelby	Memphis	Cooking	Female	66
6/4/2015	1	Hawkins	Rogersville	Unknown	Female	35
6/7/2015	1	Carter	Roan Mountain	Unknown	Male	78
6/7/2015	1	Fayette	Somerville	Natural	Male	55

July

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
7/7/2015	2	Montgomery	Clarksville	Electrical Distribution	Female	11
					Male	9
7/10/2015	2	Greene	Camp Creek	Appliances	Female	67
					Female	63
7/13/2015	1	Giles	Pulaski	Cooking	Male	69
7/15/2015	3	Shelby	Memphis	Unknown	Female	25
					Female	7
					Female	5

August

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
8/2/2015	2	Haywood	Brownsville	Electrical Distribution	Male	61
					Female	47
8/4/2015	1	Davidson	Nashville	Cooking	Female	55
8/14/2015	2	White	Sparta	Unknown	Male	49
					Female	46
8/21/2015	1	Sumner	Gallatin	Smoking	Male	92
8/23/2015	1	Hickman	Nunnely	Unknown	Male	75

September

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
9/22/2015	1	Davidson	Nashville	Smoking	Male	40

October

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
10/1/2015	1	Clay	Celina	Unknown	Female	33
10/5/2015	1	Morgan	Wartburg	Smoking	Female	65
10/23/2015	1	Hardeman	Bolivar	Cooking	Female	54
10/23/2015	1	Washington	Limestone	Smoking	Female	48
10/23/2015	1	Gibson	Rutherford	Smoking	Male	78

November

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
11/2/2015	1	Washington	Jonesborough	Smoking	Male	64
11/8/2015	1	Shelby	Memphis	Open Flame	Female	72
11/11/2015	1	Davidson	Nashville	Smoking	Male	73
11/14/2015	1	Blount	Louisville	Smoking	Female	68
11/21/2015	1	Grundy	Gruetli-Laager	Other Heat	Female	60
11/23/2015	1	Claiborne	New Tazewell	Unknown	Male	57
11/23/2015	1	Montgomery	Clarksville	Smoking	Male	69

December

Date of Incident	Fatalities	County	City	Cause	Sex	Age
12/1/2015	1	Davidson	Nashville	Unknown	Male	50
12/16/2015	1	Carter	Johnson City	Other Heat	Male	54
12/17/2015	1	Marion	Jasper	Unknown	Male	13
12/29/2015	1	Fentress	Clarkrange	Unknown	Female	3

General Trends

- 2015 saw the lowest number of accidental fatal fires (60) and the lowest number of accidental fire fatalities (72) in our state's history.
- Smoking was the leading known cause of fire fatalities in Tennessee. Cooking, which led all known causes in 2014, dropped to 4th.
- Since 2010, smoking remains the leading known cause of fire fatalities with 76 total deaths. Heating is the 2nd known cause with 59 deaths. Cooking and Electrical Distribution are 3rd and 4th with 55 and 54 deaths respectively.
- There were 10 multiple fatality incidents in 2015. This is up from 8 multiple fatality incidents in 2014.

Contributing Factor Trends

- Since 2010, there have been 32 fatal fires (34 fatalities) where medical oxygen was present in the home. There were 7 fatal incidents (7 fatalities) involving medical oxygen in 2015, the 2nd highest recorded number in the state's history (2014 was 1st with 9 fatalities).
- There were 45 fatal fires in 2015 where no smoke alarm was present in the home or where the presence of a smoke alarm was unknown. There were 40 such incidents in 2014, 54 such incidents in 2013, and 46 such incidents in 2012.
- There was 1 fatal fire in 2015 where a smoke alarm was present but did not operate. There have been 29 fatal fires since 2010 where a smoke alarm was present but did not operate.

Victim Trends

- 56% of fatal house fire victims were female in 2015, which is starkly different from 2014, where only 41% of victims were female. Nationally, women have a higher risk of dying in accidental house fires than men.
- Shelby, the most populous county in Tennessee, led the state with 10 fire fatalities. However, this was the lowest number of fatalities in a year for Shelby County. Shelby previously had a low of 12 fatalities in 2014.