

U.S. FIRE EXPERIENCE BY REGION

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Abstract

Number of fires per thousand populations for the 2004-2008 period indicate that the South and Midwest with 5.9 fires per thousand people had the highest overall rates for the five year period. The Midwest with 15.4 and South with 14.3 had the highest annual average fire death rates per million people for the period. The Midwest had an average civilian injury rate of 78.2 for the five year period or 35% higher than the national rate. The South had the highest civilian death rates for most community sizes under 100,000. The Northeast with 51% had a higher occurrence of cooking equipment fires than other regions, while the West with 24% had a high occurrence of fires involving heating equipment.

Keywords: fire statistics, civilian fire deaths, civilian fire injuries, property loss, region, community size, cause of fire.

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Summary of Major Findings

Fire Incident Rates

- Numbers of fires per thousand populations for the 2004-2008 period show that the South and Midwest with 5.9 fires per thousand people had the highest overall rates for the five year period.

Fire Death Rates

- The Midwest with 15.4 and South with 14.3 had the highest annual average fire death rates per million people for the 2004-2008 period. The West had the lowest death rates for all five years. All regions except the Midwest experienced lower death rates in 2004-2008 than in 2002-2006, with the Northeast (down 17%), and the West (down 13%) exhibiting the large decreases.

Fire Injury Rates

- Rates of civilian fire injuries per million people by region indicate that the Midwest had the highest injury rates all years except for 2008 when the Northeast had the highest. The Midwest had an average civilian injury rate of 78.2 for the five year period or 35% higher than the national rate.

Property Loss Rates

- Property loss rates per capita by region for the 2004-2008 period indicate that the West had the highest rate in 2007 and 2008 due to the Southern California Wildfires, and the Midwest had the highest rates in 2005 and 2006.



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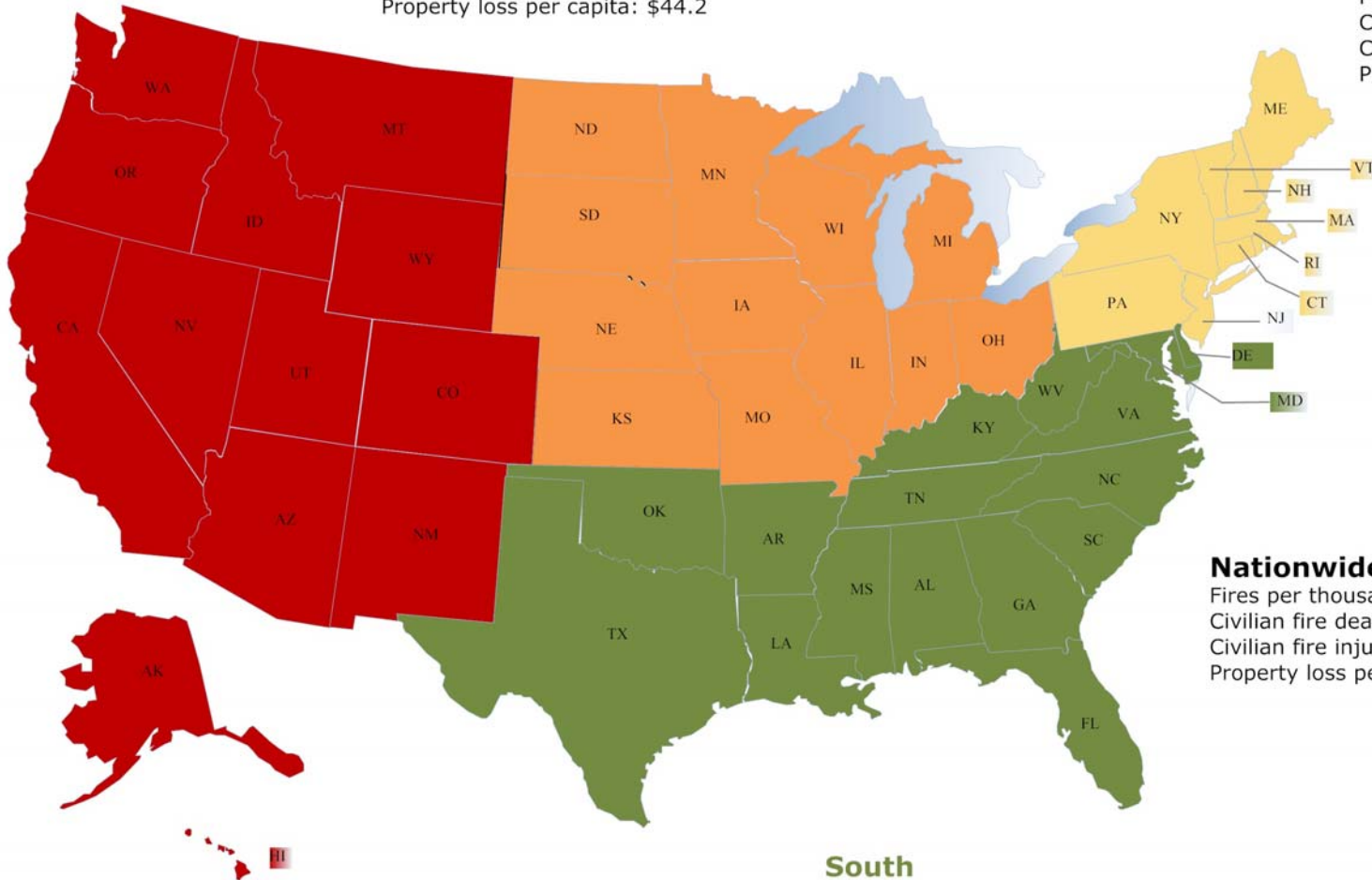
U.S. Fire Experience by Region 2004-2008 Annual Averages

Midwest

Fires per thousand population: 5.9
 Civilian fire deaths per million population: 15.4
 Civilian fire injuries per million population: 78.2
 Property loss per capita: \$44.2

Northeast

Fires per thousand population: 5.1
 Civilian fire deaths per million population: 9.8
 Civilian fire injuries per million population: 62.0
 Property loss per capita: \$32.2



Nationwide

Fires per thousand population: 5.2
 Civilian fire deaths per million population: 11.8
 Civilian fire injuries per million population: 58.0
 Property loss per capita: \$38.8

West

Fires per thousand population: 4.0
 Civilian fire deaths per million population: 6.8
 Civilian fire injuries per million population: 43.5
 Property loss per capita: \$42.3

South

Fires per thousand population: 5.9
 Civilian fire deaths per million population: 14.3
 Civilian fire injuries per million population: 54.9
 Property loss per capita: \$37.9