



2008 Media-Reported Fire Deaths



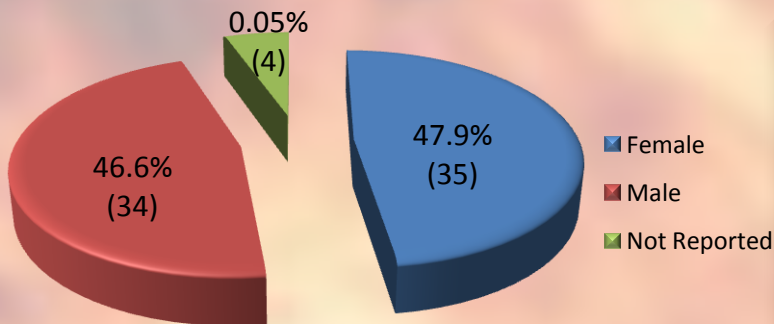
As part of our annual efforts to maintain a current picture of Tennessee's fire problem, Fire Team Tennessee was able to capture information from various media outlets across the state on a number of fatal fire incidents.

Based on information provided in these news reports, there were 73 fire-related fatalities in 2008, down from 74 in 2007. Other data elements (age, gender, etc.) from each incident were also collected, as available, and compiled in this report.

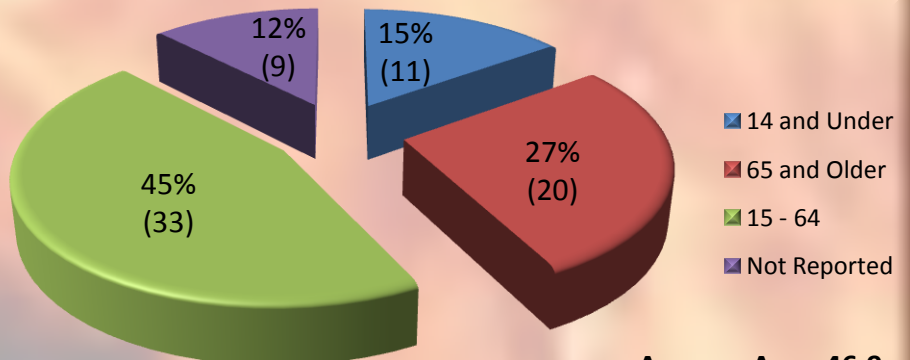
While the collected data does not stray from the "norm", it does let us know where our prevention efforts should be focused.

At Left: Image from a fatal Blount County house fire that occurred in April of 2008.

Victim Gender



Victim Age



Average Age: 46.9



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There were 6 multiple-fatality fires in 2008, with the largest loss of life occurring in the Orange Mound neighborhood of Memphis in August. The fire claimed seven lives, six of which were children.

Reports indicated that the residence had no working smoke alarms, and a history of electrical problems.

At Left: A neighborhood shows sympathy with a makeshift memorial in front of the damaged residence.

Fire Deaths by County



County	Count	County	Count	County	Count	County	Count
Anderson	1	Fentress	2	McMinn	3	Smith	2
Bledsoe	1	Hamilton	4	Montgomery	1	Sullivan	4
Blount	2	Hawkins	2	Putnam	2	Sumner	1
Bradley	1	Knox	1	Rhea	1	Tipton	1
Campbell	2	Lake	1	Roane	1	Unicoi	1
Carroll	1	Lincoln	1	Rutherford	1	Washington	1
Claiborne	1	Loudon	1	Sequatchie	1	Wayne	1
Coffee	2	Madison	3	Sevier	1	Weakley	1
Davidson	7	Maury	2	Shelby	13	Wilson	2

Tennessee Firefighter Line-of-Duty Deaths

2006: 3

2007: 3

2008: 0



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Above: A photojournalist from WTVF operates at a house fire in Brentwood this past summer. While there were no deaths or injuries at this incident, fire loss was estimated at over \$2 million.

It is important to remember that the numbers included here are based solely on news media reports – not TFIRS, death certificates, or anything official. Until the “official” numbers are made available, comparing the annual tally of media-reported deaths is our only glimpse at the state’s fire problem in “real-time”.

It is an unfortunate fact that not every fire-related fatality is considered “newsworthy”. As a fire service, we should work to partner with the media as a method of fire prevention.

This is an important tool to educate the public that death and injury from fire is still a problem in our state, and can also be used to carry the fire prevention message.

Media-Reported Fire Deaths by Year

