

State of Iowa
1924

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
of
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE YEAR 1923

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State Fire Marshal

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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For the year 1923, 5,510 fires were reported to this office, totaling a loss of \$8,223,967. The property involved in these fires was valued at \$55,114,181.

There is a decrease of 42 fires as well as a decrease of loss of \$1,927,044 over the year 1922. (There were hundreds of small incipient fires with no loss of any consequence that were not reported.)

There were 352 adjoining fires (which are included in the 5,510) totalling a loss of \$642,107. These 352 fires caught from rooms, buildings or place where the first fire originated.

Included in the total loss there were 565 fires with a loss of \$526,871 that carried no insurance. In 1309 fires included in the total loss there was a loss of \$1,950,514 above the insurance carried.

The per capita fire loss in the state of Iowa during 1923 was \$3.42 plus which is a decrease of 79 cents plus over 1922. The per capita loss in the United States was \$4.75. Iowa therefore should be congratulated on this enormous decrease. The per capita loss in England is 72 cents. Some other foreign countries are as low as 11 cents per capita.

This reduction in fire waste might be attributed to the strengthening of the fire departments all over the state, fire prevention activities, educational work, vigorous prosecutions and inspections.

During the year 1923, nine fires occurred in each of which the loss exceeded \$50,000, as follows:

Feb.	3	Leon	.....	\$ 120,400
Feb.	11	Fort Dodge (near)	.....	200,000
April	4	Burlington	.....	85,650
April	15	Sioux City	.....	50,000
May	15	Des Moines	.....	72,600
Aug.	11	Amana	.....	250,000
Oct.	13	Mediapolis	.....	58,800
Oct.	20	Rockwell City	.....	102,000
Dec.	25	Grimes	.....	190,000

Total \$1,129,450

1922 was the heaviest fire loss Iowa has ever had so far as any of the records show. It is also conceded that at least three-fourths of all these fires were from carelessness and could have

been prevented. A careful reading of the causes set out in the table in the back of this book will substantiate this statement.

SPECIAL MENTION

Sparks From Flue: During 1923 there were 1,747 fires caused from sparks from flues falling on roofs, totalling a loss of \$759,254, and all these roofs were of wooden shingles so far as we have been able to learn.

I want to quote a part of an address by T. F. Baker, then Deputy State Fire Marshal, Austin, Texas, before the Fire Marshal's Association of North America at Nashville, Tennessee, in November, 1916. In opening his address he read an allegory by Robert T. Gebler which was published in the News Bulletin issued by the State Fire Marshal of Michigan, as follows:

"I am the WOODEN SHINGLE

Ruin-Death and Tears upon my foot-steps wait,

He who puts me on his home for protection, I betray,

I have a soul of FIRE. I glory in ruin,

Each straggling spark sets me upon some fresh hatched lust.

"When I am new I am attractive, but treachery lingers in my beauty. My greatest admirers I turn to scorn.

Those who boost me most I crumple with ridicule,

And those who use me to shelter loved ones I tear at their throats with fingers of fire.

"Blackened ruins sing my symphony—for at best I am but a fickle friend. I am a thief in the night. I hate beauty.

I am an enemy of all things useful. Security irritates me and I crush those most who fear me least.

"I am the WOODEN SHINGLE

For a brief spell I am fair to look upon.

But scorching suns soon rot out my vitality. I split and splinter and soften like the weakling that I am,

Winter freezes tear at my vitals. I am a mark for drenching rains.

I tear at my moorings a discontent. I warp with fiendish glee.

I let in the rains—and the weather and ALWAYS I crave for sparks. I thrive on flying brands, I curl—I crack—I splinter and decay.

I am worn out before my usefulness begins—a decrepit in my youth—a coward—a sneak—one of nature's misfits.

And mark ye—I shall steal as long as you trust me. I shall betray you with fire as long as you depend upon me to protect you.

I shall rob ye of your homes—I shall come like a plague in the night and murder and plunder and destroy,

I hate those that love me.

And ye—fools—ye trust me.

It is to laugh!

"I am the WOODEN SHINGLE."

The wooden shingle has vindicated this description in no less than fifteen (15) conflagrations during the past several years beginning with Jacksonville, Florida, and including Yazoo, Mississippi, Chisholm, Minnesota, Chelsea, Massachusetts, Fort Worth, Texas, Wallace, Idaho, Bangor, Maine, Houston, Texas, Hot Springs, Arkansas, Salem, Massachusetts, Paris, Texas, Augusta, Georgia, Nashville, Tennessee, Berkeley, California, and Astoria, Oregon. In these conflagrations property to the value of \$80,000,000 was destroyed. Eye-witnesses as well as competent engineers in each case attributed to the wooden shingles the cause of the fires attaining conflagration proportions.

In the Berkeley, California, fire last year there were 584 buildings totally destroyed, 540 of which were covered with wooden shingles. During this fire the high wind carried burning shingles as far as one-half mile, depositing them on wooden roofs that quickly burst into flames and soon communicated to other buildings. The loss was about \$10,000,000 in this fire.

Defective Flues. During 1923 there were 360 fires from defective flues causing a loss of \$563,898 and still many persons insist on running a stovepipe through walls, ceilings and roofs without proper protection.

We have in our office a copy of a proposed chimney ordinance which if adopted and enforced would solve the question of prevention of fires from defective chimneys. A copy of this will be sent on request.

ELECTRIC WIRING

During 1923 there were 187 fires from defective wiring totaling a loss of \$284,590. Very few people seem to realize the danger both to life and property from defective wiring.

In our inspection work we find many cases where the fuse had blown, caused by overloading, and found a wire, nail or penny had been used as a fuse instead of putting in the regular fuse intended to be used. Over-fusing entirely eliminates the safety-valve and takes away all the protection afforded through the regular size fuse for the load to be carried. The over-loading and installation of electric wiring by unauthorized persons is responsible for seventy per cent (70%) of the losses.

Spontaneous Combustion. One of the great enemies to the farmer. See Table No. III in back of this book.

Lightning, the Farmers' Worst Enemy. In five years the farm barn fires, caused by lightning, were 435, totalling a loss of \$1,077,968. *None of these barns were rodDED.* During the same period there were 33 farm barn fires caused by lightning, totalling a loss of \$92,431, which were *rodDED.* There is evidence in several of these cases tending to show that the rods were either defective or improperly installed. In some cases it is known that the rods were damaged by stock rubbing against them. A rod should be protected at least six feet above the ground.

Electric experts claim a first class bolt of lightning is equal to 50,000,000 kilowatts and lasts less than one-one-thousandths of a second.

A lightning rod of good standard material, properly constructed, is almost a sure protection against damage by lightning.

Domestic Oil Burners. This subject is rapidly coming to the front as one receiving attention from fire officials as well as insurance companies. A number of cities are passing ordinances on the subject.

The Underwriters' Laboratories, composed of the highest efficiency experts in the United States, has set out a wrong way and the best way to install an oil burner. This information may be had free of charge by writing the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 76 William Street, New York City.

The Laboratories claim the storage tank should be lower than the burner and vented to the outside. Oil from this tank should be pumped into an auxiliary tank large enough for the day's use. This auxiliary tank should be piped back to the storage tank in such a way that the auxiliary tank could not overflow. The auxiliary tank should also be vented to the outside.

If you must install oil burners, expert knowledge should be had as to the kind of oil to use, how to clean and adjust the burner.

Some insurance companies will not insure property using oil burners.

Deaths by Fire. In 1923 there were 79 deaths reported as the direct result of fire, of which number 19 were women and 39 were children.

In 21 cases fatal to life, gasoline or coal oil was involved. In 7 cases persons were burned to death as the result of bonfire

carelessness, and 11 children burned to death playing with matches.

Twenty-two (22) persons lost their lives in burning buildings, the origin of the fires being unknown.

Tables numbered I, II and III in the back of this report will give you detailed information showing the number of fires, loss by counties, kinds of structures, and causes of the various fires reported.

Tables numbered IV and V will give you the names of the cities and towns in which inspections were made as well as the counties in which suspicious fires were investigated.

A COMPARISON OF THE LOSSES IN NINETEEN LARGEST CITIES IN IOWA IN 1922 AND 1923

Cities	—1922—		—1923—	
	No. Fires	Loss	No. Fires	Loss
Boone	42	\$ 7,069	50	\$ 24,485
Burlington	51	56,756	59	168,604
Cedar Rapids	128	166,617	143	166,256
Clinton	155	119,094	139	89,060
Council Bluffs	254	398,096	214	112,124
Davenport	200	397,915	273	147,714
Des Moines	708	641,139	611	334,462
Dubuque	112	44,442	111	57,078
Fort Madison	36	56,953	42	18,631
Fort Dodge	79	297,720	65	78,645
Iowa City	73	141,509	67	76,392
Keokuk	93	108,526	83	82,766
Marshalltown	100	34,338	99	78,746
Mason City	52	75,240	64	30,838
Muscatine	58	22,474	73	10,198
Oskaloosa	25	114,005	26	21,014
Ottumwa	153	90,259	145	110,322
Sioux City	417	186,224	383	213,045
Waterloo	164	349,707	188	91,556
Totals	3,000	\$3,402,243	2,803	\$1,991,926

A COMPARISON OF FIRE LOSS BY MONTHS FOR 1922 AND 1923

	—1922—		—1923—	
	No. Fires	Loss	No. Fires	Loss
January	924	\$ 1,216,465	582	\$ 529,931
February	877	1,622,044	833	1,247,506
March	479	1,184,397	720	867,826
April	410	767,337	571	707,318
May	277	588,129	389	512,644
June	286	782,912	247	409,993
July	340	488,605	281	555,734
August	223	363,293	297	773,455
September	301	604,565	225	450,196
October	428	652,012	362	729,548
November	321	392,957	457	535,308
December	687	1,488,295	546	914,508
Totals	5,553	\$10,151,011	5,510	\$8,233,967

KINDS OF STRUCTURES IN WHICH THE MOST DISASTROUS FIRES OCCURRED

	No. Fires	Loss
Barns, farm	354	\$1,065,031
Barns, town	164	164,620
Churches	32	111,270
Dwellings, farm	452	1,209,510
Dwellings, town	2,657	1,263,572
Garages, private and public	171	223,652
Factories (various kinds)	50	352,605
Hotels	39	140,992
Houses, apartment, board and rooming	135	123,091
Offices and office buildings	55	60,566
Restaurants and cafes	73	125,276
Schoolhouses	28	150,446
Stores (various kinds)	317	961,791
Warehouses	49	548,145
Totals	4,576	\$6,505,567

TWELVE CAUSES OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FIRES

	No. Fires	Loss
Sparks from flue	1,747	\$ 759,254
Defective flues	360	563,898
Adjoining	352	642,107
Defective electric wiring	187	284,590
Spontaneous combustion	159	664,046
Smokers' carelessness	152	94,633
Lightning	123	311,300
Incendiary and probably incendiary	100	223,146
Defective pipes to stoves and heating plants	99	48,246
Overheated stoves and heating plants	93	88,449
Children and matches	91	45,051
The Great UNKNOWN	1,051	3,714,545
Totals	4,514	\$7,439,265

Many of the unknown fires might be attributed to defective chimneys, defective wiring, spontaneous combustion, smokers' carelessness, incendiary, defective pipes and defective heating plants.

INVESTIGATIONS

During the year 1923, 209 cases in 70 counties were investigated by this department. There were 31 cases involving 42 persons submitted to county attorneys, resulting in 22 indictments, 3 pending before grand juries, 10 ignored by county attorneys, 5 ignored by grand juries, 2 suicided during investigations.

There were 12 convictions, 6 cases pending for trial, 2 acquitted by trial, and 2 indictments dismissed by county attorney.

In addition to the 31 cases sent to county attorneys there were 60 cases in which there was over-insurance running up into thousands of dollars. There were also several cases where there was evidence tending to show the fires were set by design but no motive could be found on the part of the assured.

In the rest of the cases investigated there were many suspicious circumstances but not enough tangible evidence to fully determine the real origin of the fires and no one knows how many crooked fires there were which are listed as "unknown."

In several cases where investigations were made no claim was made for loss by the assured.

In cases where investigations have been made, we have exercised the greatest care that no innocent person should suffer, but when evidence has been secured tending to show that a crime has been committed, we submitted the evidence to the county attorney for his consideration.

In this connection I want to urge that the people in general help, aid and assist the law enforcing officers to bring to justice the persons who set fire for revenge or to collect insurance.

I urge that you back up your county attorney in all arson cases that come to your attention.

The names of persons arrested will be found in this report under the heading, "Arrests and Prosecutions."

INSPECTIONS

In 1923, 950 inspections were made in 190 different cities and towns. In 41 towns general inspections were made but not included in the 950 inspections, and hundreds of fire hazards removed.

Our records will show that about 95 per cent of the orders issued have been complied with, and I am thoroughly convinced that thorough inspections would prevent hundreds of fires that would otherwise occur.

Every city of any size could well afford to hire a competent inspector during certain seasons of the year to examine chimneys, heating plants, and order defects remedied.

Cities should pass and enforce local ordinances prohibiting the burning of trash near buildings, regulations for the handling and storing of gasoline, construction of chimneys, an anti-single

ordinance, and an electrical code requiring that wiring be done in harmony with the National electrical code.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

Under the law the state fire marshal has prepared a bulletin on the causes and dangers of fire for use in schools and has endeavored to reach every schoolhouse in the state. The present law requires every teacher to teach fire prevention in connection with other branches.

Fire drills are also required each month in all buildings of more than one story.

This office has been sending out 30,000 large size fire prevention posters each year and through the splendid cooperation of the State Superintendent and County Superintendents of Schools, has placed at least one poster in each schoolhouse in the state. Posters were also sent to newspapers, banks, hotels, commercial clubs, fire chiefs, mayors, and others.

In addition to the fire prevention posters, we have sent out thousands of fire prevention circulars furnished by fire prevention agencies. Lectures have also been given to fire departments, farm institutes, commercial clubs, insurance gatherings, schools, city councils, et al. City councils have also been urged to buy better fire equipment and to adopt better building ordinances.

STATISTICAL WORK

Until the establishment of the state fire marshal's office and the provisions for the collection and publication by this department of certain data pertaining to fire losses, there had been no office or other agency in the state concerned in securing this information except the companies and associations doing a fire insurance business. The fire data reported by them to the various departments does not give full information outside of the amount collected from the insurance companies. No account could therefore be taken by them of the losses that were either partially or wholly without insurance, and when we consider that about 33 per cent of the total annual fire loss in the state is not covered by insurance, we must at once conclude that the only approximately complete and accurate statistical information relative to these matters is obtained by the state fire marshal.

It is true that in many cases the values are based on the combined judgment of the owner and the fire chief or the township

clerk who inspects the risk and makes the report, and oftentimes the owner places a higher value than disinterested parties.

In addition to the loss and damage, our report covers the material destroyed, the damage to the buildings and the contents set out separately, also the cause of each fire so far as known.

For more detailed information see tables numbered I, II, and III.

FIRE PREVENTION

The loss by fire has been on the increase for several years until the year 1923, when there was a decrease of \$1,927,044 over the year 1922.

The increase in fire producing agencies in the way of gasoline and electricity became so alarming that the general public was awakened as never before in Fire Prevention activities.

The insurance companies are making more inspections than in former years. This fact is shown by the requests for inspections and the elimination of fire hazards carrying insurance or adjacent to insured risks.

I claim that every person who carries insurance owes a certain duty to the insurance company as well as his neighbors—that duty being to examine his own property often and remove all fire hazards in and about his premises. And the sooner the agent for the insurance company cancels off every risk where fire hazards are found until the hazard is removed, the sooner we will come to a better understanding of what Fire Prevention really means. Or, if we would follow the practice of foreign countries and make every person responsible for the loss, damage or injury caused by his own acts of carelessness or negligence, we soon would see the fire loss rapidly diminish.

Why not make the same law apply to the owner of fire hazards that you do to cities, corporations or persons who dig ditches in the street and allow obstructions to lay in such a way as to cause an injury to some innocent person?

When a person knowingly permits a fire hazard to exist, and a fire starts from that hazard, he should by law forfeit his insurance in case of loss.

The loss is something the general public must pay, but why should they pay when a person knowingly permits a dangerous hazard to exist?

ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS

COUNCIL BLUFFS, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

About 1:05 p. m., December 20, 1922, a fire broke out in a dwelling house owned and occupied by Clyde Bishop. Bishop was indicted January 4, 1923, tried February 7, 1923, convicted and sentenced to Fort Madison penitentiary for a term of five years. Motive, burning to injure the insurance company.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

On December 29, 1922, at 12:30 a. m., a fire broke out in the basement of a Candy Kitchen owned by Tom Gates. Gates had \$15,500 insurance on stock and fixtures that would not exceed \$5,500 in value. At the time the fire broke out there were 10 people sleeping on the second floor over this Candy Kitchen. Gates was indicted, tried and convicted in January, 1923, and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Fort Madison penitentiary for setting fire to an inhabited dwelling in the nighttime.

FORT DODGE, WEBSTER COUNTY

On February 20, 1923, about 4:50 a. m., a fire broke out in a pool hall owned by E. S. Bouvier. On entering the building the firemen found two distinct fires burning, one in the front part of the room and one in the rear part of the room, coal oil having been used. Bouvier was indicted for arson. His whereabouts are unknown. Motive, insurance.

OTTUMWA, WAPELLO COUNTY

About 1:50 a. m., February 25, 1923, a fire broke out in the J. Aliber general merchandise store. Loss total. At the May grand jury, J. Aliber, Mrs. Anna Aliber (wife), and Leonard Rabon (of St. Louis, Missouri, and a brother of Mrs. Aliber's) were jointly indicted with setting fire to injure the insurance company. There was heavy insurance on the stock at the time of the fire. Mrs. Aliber was tried at the October term, 1923, and acquitted. Other cases pending.

MORNING SUN, LOUISA COUNTY

About 1:45 a. m., April 7, 1923, a fire broke out in a dwelling house owned and occupied by Charles R. Secrest. Coal oil was used to start this fire. Secrest was indicted at the April term of court and charged with setting fire to injure the insurance company. On May 23, 1923, he entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to Fort Madison penitentiary for a term of 10 years.

BUCKNELL, MONROE COUNTY

About 10:30 p. m., April 19, 1923, a fire broke out in a general store owned by Mrs. S. Sax, who lives in California. The store was being managed by her son, Harry E. Sax with H. H. (Nick) Winchall of Ottumwa, as clerk.

Several separate and distinct fires were found burning at the same time. Coal oil had been poured over the floor.

At the April term of court Harry E. Sax and H. H. (Nick) Winchall were indicted, charged with arson. There was also one secret indictment returned; party not yet apprehended. Cases pending for trial.

NEWTON, JASPER COUNTY

About 1 a. m., April 28, 1923, a fire broke out in a vacant dwelling-house near the city limits of Newton, owned by Alex Laskewitz who resides near Sully, Jasper County.

A confession was secured from Willard Ballard that he (Ballard)

set fire to the house at the request of the owner for \$50.00. Ballard was indicted on a charge of arson. Case still pending.

KEOKUK TOWNSHIP, WAPELLO COUNTY

About noon, May 26, 1923, a fire destroyed a dwelling house located about four miles southeast of Ottumwa. House occupied by William Seaman. This property was owned by Mrs. R. L. Murphy alias Lillie Dale.

A confession was secured from L. C. Carter alias "Happy Jack" that he set the fire at the request of Mrs. Murphy for the purpose of getting rid of Seaman and realizing on the house through the insurance company.

Both Carter and Mrs. Murphy were indicted charged with burning to injure the insurance company. Mrs. Murphy was tried during the December term of court and acquitted. Carter was the main prosecuting witness. Since the trial, Carter has been sent to the Institution for the Feeble Minded at Glenwood, Iowa.

WARREN TOWNSHIP, BREMER COUNTY

On June 8 and June 16, 1923, barn fires occurred on the Herman Thiemann farm. Henry Barr was arrested charged with setting these fires, also charged with driving an automobile while intoxicated. Haar was at one time employed on this farm. The burning charge was ignored by the grand jury but an indictment was returned for driving an automobile while intoxicated, to which Haar pleaded guilty and was fined \$100.00.

WATERLOO, BLACK HAWK COUNTY

About 1:30 a. m., July 25, 1923, a garage owned by W. C. Ackman was found to be on fire. This fire was set with the aid of gasoline. During the investigation, a confession was secured from Isaac Busey to the effect that he (Busey) set the fire at Ackman's request for pay. Ackman had heavy insurance.

Both Ackman and Busey were indicted for burning to injure the insurance company, to which they entered a plea of guilty.

November 14, 1923, Ackman was fined \$200.00 and sentenced to jail for 30 days. November 15, 1923, Busey was sentenced to five (5) years in the penitentiary at Fort Madison.

CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY

About 2:20 a. m., October 10, 1923, a fire broke out in the Union Outlet store owned and operated by S. Cimmamon and H. Fogel (recently of Kansas City, Missouri.)

In this fire there was a "plant" connected by a fuse, well soaked with coal oil, running to cigar boxes well filled with coal oil, also to a box containing shifnola and coal oil.

Both Cimmamon and Fogel were indicted at the November term on two counts each, one for arson, and the other for burning to injure the insurance company. They had \$21,000 insurance on about \$8,000 worth of stock and fixtures.

On January 21, 1924, both S. J. Cimmamon and Hyman Fogel entered pleas of guilty and were sentenced to the Fort Madison penitentiary for a term of ten years each.

GREAT OAK TOWNSHIP, PALO ALTO COUNTY

On October 21, 1923, about 9:30 a. m., a fire broke out in a dwelling occupied by John Burns. The fire occurred while the Burns family was away from home, and when they returned, they found a fire had been set in a bed and coal oil poured over the floor. August Reitz, a hired man, was at the house when the Burns family went to church, but on their return Reitz was missing. A rifle was also missing.

Reitz did not return. During the week of November 19, 1923, Reitz was found in a field dead, evidently having shot himself. Reitz had shown some signs of insanity previous to the fire.

NEWTON, JASPER COUNTY

About 2 p. m., November 5, 1923, a fire destroyed a dwelling owned by Homer Wyatt, located six miles northwest of Newton. The dwelling was occupied by August Schnelle. Homer Wyatt was indicted on a charge of arson. There was heavy insurance on the building. Case still pending.

KNOXVILLE TOWNSHIP, MARION COUNTY

On November 13, 1923, it was discovered that the Flagler school-house had been set on fire in the attic in several places. These fires had gone out for lack of air. Entrance was gained to the attic through a trap door in the roof. This condition was called to our attention on November 14, 1923. It was decided to let the matter drift for a short time, and during the last week of November, 1923, two boys sixteen years of age confessed to having set the fires. November 28, 1923, the boys were arranged before the court, plead guilty and were paroled to their parents.

JEFFERSON, GREENE COUNTY

On October 25, 1923, about 4 p. m., fire broke out in a dwelling owned and occupied by Mrs. Kearney. A boy eight years old confessed to setting this fire and was put in the custody of the State Children's Home.

In one other case in the southern part of the state where a suspicious fire occurred, the suspect committed suicide by hanging himself while the investigation was being made.

In most of these cases valuable assistance was rendered this department by the local officers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I wish to renew my recommendations as follows:

A larger department in order that we may be able to make general inspections all over the state and thereby create a better fire prevention sentiment in cities and towns as well as in the public schools.

A larger department would also help us in our investigations of suspicious fires which with the present force must now wait, and in many cases the evidence is destroyed before we can reach the scene of the fire, which no doubt allows the guilty person to go "Scot free".

CONCLUSIONS

To my entire office force whose loyal and faithful services to me and the state have been rendered in a most competent and generous manner, I desire to make this public acknowledgment of my appreciation.

The state fire marshal's office is no longer an experiment; its

usefulness and influence for good will be more manifest in the future than it has been in the past.

I earnestly ask that you investigate the department in the way of efficiency, as we know it will give you a better insight into the needs of the department.

The Fire Marshals' Association extends all over North America and is recognized as a leading factor in convicting persons who set fire for gain, as well as a leader in Fire Prevention activities, and should have the support of all law-abiding citizens.

TABLE NO. I

Showing the Total Number of Fires Reported by Counties and Cities of More Than 10,000, Damage to Buildings and Contents Combined, and Showing the Number of These Fires and Loss Uninsured, as well as Number of Fires and the Excess Loss Over Insurance.

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Damage to Buildings and Contents	No. of Fires No Insurance	Loss	No. of Fires	Excess Loss Over Insurance Carried
Adair.....	14	\$ 32,170	0	\$ 0	8	\$ 12,236
Adams.....	19	45,985	3	6,200	9	16,875
Allamakee.....	20	43,882	3	2,000	10	19,770
Appanoose.....	46	94,346	6	860	21	29,837
Archibald.....	15	38,439	1	2,000	10	16,630
Benton.....	18	27,245	1	2,000	8	12,800
Black Hawk-Waterloo.....	188	91,556	13	659	16	3,403
Bal. Black Hawk Co.....	28	65,456	1	100	16	22,066
Boone-Boone.....	30	24,485	3	165	1	4,000
Bal. Boone Co.....	13	56,285	2	35	13	21,713
Bruwer.....	13	17,769	0	0	4	2,080
Buchanan.....	22	70,514	1	3,000	13	22,450
Buena Vista.....	15	20,090	2	260	6	6,710
Burler.....	29	45,292	1	350	9	14,337
Calhoun.....	24	147,499	1	25	9	35,059
Carroll.....	32	39,147	2	29	12	16,560
Cass.....	51	71,689	10	2,446	19	18,610
Cedar.....	23	43,787	0	0	8	14,375
Cerro Gordo-Mason City.....	64	80,838	10	949	1	250
Bal. Cerro Gordo Co.....	19	27,739	5	3,151	5	8,307
Cherokee.....	28	57,721	6	6,430	10	21,630
Chickasaw.....	18	76,744	2	315	9	47,669
Clarke.....	12	21,965	0	0	8	8,850
Clay.....	25	44,177	3	945	10	15,472
Clayton.....	26	56,415	2	245	15	22,525
Clinton-Clinton.....	139	89,000	10	2,012	8	12,575
Bal. Clinton Co.....	20	64,302	1	5,000	13	21,469
Crawford.....	31	84,244	3	2,750	12	17,631
Dallas.....	33	81,915	7	14,725	14	19,045
Davis.....	24	48,910	4	4,235	15	16,853
Decatur.....	29	192,320	1	680	11	51,975
Delaware.....	16	48,235	0	0	13	13,223
Des Moines-Burlington.....	69	168,064	0	0	8	3,751
Bal. Des Moines Co.....	14	70,658	2	1,500	8	24,842
Dickinson.....	15	45,003	1	1,500	8	15,628
Dubuque-Dubuque.....	111	57,078	9	545	10	2,155
Bal. Dubuque Co.....	24	56,580	3	580	12	28,450
Emmet.....	18	66,475	1	1,000	8	15,322
Payette.....	27	122,020	1	1,000	6	9,510
Floyd.....	29	35,921	0	0	1	200
Franklin.....	13	29,661	3	4,150	8	6,150
Fremont.....	19	44,715	2	1,975	11	7,600
Greene.....	28	44,918	6	1,455	10	4,500
Grundy.....	39	31,633	2	2,850	9	15,833
Guthrie.....	23	29,727	4	2,825	8	9,175
Hamilton.....	28	57,481	3	515	11	18,716
Hancock.....	9	28,560	0	0	6	18,925
Hardin.....	44	39,778	5	2,970	11	13,750
Harrison.....	25	32,776	3	2,900	12	13,830
Henry.....	30	133,428	3	725	12	45,671
Howard.....	12	21,758	0	0	5	4,775
Humboldt.....	20	19,295	6	1,675	4	5,300
Ida.....	8	40,775	1	125	4	16,000
Iowa.....	27	307,632	3	367,350	15	18,502
Jackson.....	36	69,400	4	1,540	10	29,565
Jasper.....	68	69,424	8	4,062	15	17,459
Jefferson.....	34	24,341	4	685	10	4,448
Johnson-Iowa City.....	67	76,392	11	2,345	7	9,825
Bal. Johnson Co.....	12	29,865	1	1,100	6	15,975
Jones.....	26	50,783	2	166	14	29,510
Keokuk.....	36	53,644	3	1,120	15	23,315
Kossuth.....	32	81,111	3	610	23	32,837
Lee-Fort Madison.....	42	18,631	4	285	4	1,441
Keokuk.....	83	82,756	3	515	19	29,540

TABLE NO. I—Concluded

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Damage to Buildings and Contents	No. of Fires No Insurance	Loss	No. of Fires	Excess Loss Over Insurance Carried
Bal. Lee Co.	9	19,133	0	0	5	9,450
Linn—Cedar Rapids	143	166,256	2	2,525	9	4,318
Bal. Linn Co.	41	86,175	4	601	25	40,922
Louisia	18	53,936	1	1,900	10	18,024
Lucas	19	66,306	1	850	12	17,125
Lyon	12	15,020	2	2,530	4	3,501
Mahaska	27	51,307	8	2,186	19	17,785
Madison	36	21,014	2	815	4	275
Bal. Mahaska Co.	32	66,100	2	4,800	20	29,875
Marion	51	62,471	6	1,885	16	21,900
Marshall—Marshalltown	99	78,746	17	15,456	3	474
Bal. Marshall Co.	25	45,431	3	775	13	19,850
Mills	28	48,457	3	445	12	14,002
Mitchell	28	77,513	4	1,585	17	35,104
Monona	19	27,465	4	3,225	9	11,100
Monroe	36	82,472	3	1,405	20	27,439
Montgomery	23	21,886	6	2,629	11	11,400
Muscatine—Muscatine	73	10,198	5	897	8	800
Bal. Muscatine Co.	31	71,442	4	1,500	13	34,170
O'Brien	27	47,755	5	2,445	9	11,684
Osceola	14	10,032	3	555	3	2,251
Page	72	95,361	10	4,888	17	32,305
Palo Alto	14	5,415	0	0	3	1,325
Plymouth	31	48,076	1	250	10	14,725
Pocahontas	14	49,634	2	4,900	10	25,427
Polk—Des Moines	611	334,492	42	5,617	125	10,170
Bal. Polk Co.	46	245,145	4	100	16	26,200
Pottawattamie—Council Bluffs	214	113,124	38	6,785	13	4,440
Bal. Pottawattamie Co.	36	81,018	9	3,520	15	18,880
Poweshiek	38	28,344	5	6,190	11	11,450
Ringgold	31	62,378	3	4,138	21	27,732
Sac	37	60,959	3	6,175	10	21,412
Scott—Davenport	273	147,714	25	4,280	6	1,885
Bal. Scott Co.	10	66,664	0	0	13	20,401
Tama	31	30,400	0	345	11	9,035
Shelby	60	125,284	9	15,885	11	81,450
Sioux	31	74,139	9	2,100	20	41,035
Story	41	65,961	8	4,035	14	13,425
Taylor	30	28,642	1	50	12	8,347
Union	41	35,075	5	595	13	13,505
Van Buren	23	30,883	3	319	12	10,975
Wapello—Ottumwa	143	140,323	5	330	3	1,560
Bal. Wapello Co.	32	64,382	7	3,240	16	23,828
Warren	47	101,804	7	3,770	21	27,305
Washington	34	88,977	2	4,070	11	25,393
Wayne	20	47,440	4	7,050	11	9,550
Webster—Fort Dodge	53	75,645	0	0	14	17,618
Bal. Webster Co.	19	27,221	0	0	11	17,563
Winneshiek	35	77,877	3	874	13	15,049
Winneshiek	31	81,013	2	1,550	21	23,170
Woodbury—Sioux City	383	213,618	40	4,068	23	5,630
Bal. Woodbury Co.	30	76,013	1	15	9	19,300
Worth	7	20,700	0	0	4	12,685
Wright	64	113,950	16	18,402	19	24,006
Totals	5,510	\$ 8,233,967	565	\$ 826,276	1,336	\$ 1,560,515

TABLE NO. II

Showing the Nature and Character of the Buildings or Properties Destroyed or Damaged, the Value of Each, the Damage Thereof, the Value of the Contents of Each and the Damage Thereof, the Kind of Material of Which Each Was Constructed and Whether the Loss Was Total or Partial, for the Year 1923.

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings Affected			
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick or Stone	Loss on Buildings	Loss on Contents
		Total	Partial	Total	Partial	Total	Partial	Total	Partial
Armory	1	\$ 16,000	\$ 186	\$ 600	\$ 225	0	0	0	1
Asphalt	1	250,523	55,233	140,170	30,345	0	0	0	1
Automobile showroom	8	6,585	15,566	11,000	20,355	0	0	0	0
Barber shop	140	405,400	9,705	48,000	9,978	8	8	162	0
Bakeries	10	465,400	9,705	77,885	14,762	0	0	0	31
Banks	12	271,800	81,621	17,885	34,470	1	10	13	20
Barns	354	731,451	719,561	361,100	345,470	353	3	341	309
Barns—Farm	146	125,500	102,846	55,668	44,274	144	0	63	62
Town	22	10,000	17,625	61,450	6,100	10	0	7	6
Bath parlor, feed and sales	1	10,000	1,430	14,300	6,917	4	0	1	0
Battery stations	7	13,600	4,820	14,300	5,569	4	0	2	1
Boats and dredges	4	1,225	425	275	26,185	0	0	1	0
Boiler rooms and houses	15	100,000	6,005	44,005	20,185	0	0	1	0
Briggs—Box	1	100,000	30	6,300	11	0	0	0	0
Cure	11	24,000	14,724	6,300	1,225	0	0	0	0
Rink	1	24,000	14,724	6,300	1,225	0	0	0	0
Refrigerator	1	3,000	875	7,100	1,035	0	0	0	0
Street and passenger	5	25,000	66	0	0	0	0	0	0
Way (emboose)	5	9,500	2,825	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken brooders and poultry houses	29	11,500	8,471	12,288	9,535	0	0	1	4
City and township halls	22	51,700	6,471	69,250	35,700	49	1	39	14
City and township halls	7	31,700	2,000	12,500	2,000	1	0	1	0
Cleaning and dyeing establishments	33	295,550	13,000	103,754	27,034	4	19	3	20
Colleges	6	235,000	6,850	14,800	3,601	0	0	0	0
Corn cribs and granaries	17	35,000	21,900	22,000	20,801	15	1	15	1
Court houses, jails and police stations	4	18,000	1,775	1,250	104	0	0	0	0
Cure	1	18,000	1,775	1,250	104	0	0	0	0
Dance halls	3	300,700	24,725	3,300	3,150	0	0	0	0

TABLE NO. II—Continued

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings Affected						
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick	Cement or Stone	Loss on Buildings		Loss on Contents	
									Total	Partial	Total	Partial
Depots.....	7	202,500	7,000	0,100	1,105	4	3	0	1	5	2	1
Dwellings—Farm.....	452	1,216,422	929,565	427,707	280,005	445	5	2	336	111	147	237
.....Town.....	2,637	10,183,673	950,420	1,661,451	313,152	2,549	103	5	104	2,489	62	329
Elevators.....	15	287,069	73,519	400,800	34,065	15	0	0	9	6	6	5
Factories—Auto parts.....	2	2,000	200	15,500	233	0	2	0	0	1	0	2
.....Basket.....	1	5,000	1,113	4,000	756	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
.....Battery.....	1	4,500	4,000	4,200	3,400	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
.....Box.....	1	7,500	7,500	32,000	18,000	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
.....Brick and tile.....	2	53,000	21,000	45,000	30,000	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
.....Button.....	2	20,000	345	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	2
.....Candy.....	1	50,500	2,331	60,000	7,557	1	2	0	1	0	1	1
.....Cement.....	1	100,000	300	50,000	300	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
.....Cereal.....	1	80,000	250	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
.....Cigar.....	3	26,000	115	25,000	886	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
.....Cracker.....	1	100,000	1,530	92,000	1,524	0	1	0	0	2	0	1
.....Excelsior.....	2	18,000	6,025	19,500	12,305	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
.....Fish bait.....	1	0	0	1,230	1,100	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
.....Fur.....	1	0	0	60,000	146	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
.....Furniture.....	2	687,287	1,513	902,247	4,500	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
.....Gas.....	2	40,000	3,050	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
.....Hat.....	1	20,000	505	10,000	5,000	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
.....Hog serum.....	1	3,000	15	48,803	48,803	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
.....Ice.....	1	30,000	17,430	50,000	13,500	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
.....Mattress.....	2	300	100	8,000	550	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
.....Novelty.....	2	27,000	62	10,000	10	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
.....Pen.....	1	100,000	15,000	5,500	550	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
.....Plating.....	1	10,000	0	1,000	275	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
.....Sash and fixtures.....	4	313,800	83,856	35,300	31,300	1	3	0	2	2	1	1
.....Silo.....	1	15,000	84	12,000	178	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
.....Soda products.....	1	35,000	80	30,000	30	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
.....Sorghum.....	1	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
.....Steel products.....	2	31,000	14,759	9,000	7,000	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
Tank.....	2	79,736	1,308	5,000	722	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
Tire.....	1	142,000	3,275	270,500	8,443	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Trunk.....	1	5,000	200	5,000	50	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Washing machines, etc.....	1	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,105	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fair grounds.....	1	200	200	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fence and sidewalks.....	5	8,285	708	0	0	5	0	0	1	4	0	0
Foundries.....	17	437,000	26,030	388,044	15,504	4	12	0	0	16	0	9
Garages—Private.....	132	98,706	33,804	70,176	41,476	125	5	3	52	78	43	50
.....Public.....	30	330,000	63,732	239,564	84,038	15	21	4	11	23	8	26
Hay, grain and straw.....	33	60	50	2,877	2,787	2	1	0	1	1	30	2
Hospitals.....	6	175,000	809	3,000	13	0	0	0	0	6	4	0
Hotels.....	20	1,318,300	104,001	252,725	36,001	18	21	0	9	26	4	23
Houses—Apartments and flats.....	63	1,471,100	25,209	92,100	12,883	24	38	1	1	43	4	29
.....Rooming and boarding.....	72	655,100	97,945	190,800	21,954	51	21	0	3	60	2	31
.....Conny poor.....	3	45,000	24,500	3,000	2,100	2	1	0	1	2	0	2
Hog.....	17	13,300	10,325	11,892	10,892	16	0	1	12	5	11	1
Ice.....	10	15,400	10,400	2,550	2,000	10	0	0	8	2	3	2
Milk and separator.....	3	925	515	650	507	3	0	0	1	2	1	1
Summer cottages and kitchens.....	13	4,965	3,255	1,564	1,149	12	0	0	5	7	6	4
Wash and well.....	9	1,253	614	700	325	9	0	0	2	6	2	2
Incubators and hatcheries.....	4	0	400	831	831	3	0	1	1	2	3	0
Junk yards.....	12	44,800	19,212	63,400	21,589	9	3	0	2	10	2	9
Kilns, lime.....	1	5,000	50	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Laboratories.....	2	55	55	4,100	784	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Laundries.....	11	88,279	9,182	147,180	9,582	3	7	1	0	10	0	9
Libraries.....	2	104,000	25	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Light and power plants.....	5	5,000	3,770	162,000	117,400	2	0	3	3	2	0	4
Locomotives.....	1	5,000	725	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lodge halls.....	10	79,250	37,969	20,130	12,260	5	5	0	2	6	5	5
Lumber yards.....	11	85,183	19,100	115,162	46,748	10	0	0	3	4	3	8
Mills—Flour and feed.....	6	75,364	31,325	19,426	8,828	5	0	1	1	3	1	4
.....Paper.....	2	75,000	300	16,000	1,250	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
.....Saw.....	4	30	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
.....Woolen.....	2	110,000	107,000	210,000	190,000	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Motion picture theatres.....	12	86,500	5,610	40,300	6,294	3	8	1	1	9	0	9
Offices and office buildings.....	55	1,100,068	43,807	105,325	16,630	22	27	5	5	36	4	34
Oil stations.....	19	20,500	5,085	20,275	14,620	14	5	0	5	12	4	10
Packing plants.....	5	5,002,500	14,488	1,250,000	10	1	4	0	1	3	0	1
Pool halls and bowling halls.....	31	258,425	40,575	99,230	30,172	19	11	1	5	18	8	19
Restaurants and cafes.....	4	16,800	1,615	900	550	2	1	0	1	2	0	2
Post offices.....	4	736,975	7,932	1,221,212	27,016	4	11	5	2	12	1	13
Printing plants and binderies.....	20	25,000	2,325	18,600	2,831	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Photograph studios.....	4	330	1,900	1,070	1,070	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rabbitry.....	1	5,000	5,000	3,400	3,400	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Rendering plants.....	7	501,000	68,671	155,745	56,905	37	34	2	17	51	13	43
Roundhouses and car barns.....	3	19,318	12,318	5,000	4,500	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
School houses.....	28	1,158,100	122,960	139,412	17,450	16	10	2	9	19	7	6
Sheds—Coal and wood.....	39	21,015	3,905	3,227	1,255	37	0	0	16	20	6	12
.....Oil.....	3	365	142	185	145	2	1	0	1	2	1	1

TABLE NO. II—Continued

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings Affected								
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick	Cement or Stone	Loss on Buildings		Loss on Contents			
									Total	Partial	Total	Partial		
Shops—														
Tool and machine	49	11,440	6,781	10,655	6,756	49	0	0	23	35	15	5	8	5
Auto repair	11	31,960	4,924	24,400	12,246	7	3	1	2	8	1	17	1	17
Barber and beauty	32	352,450	27,500	23,075	9,479	20	11	1	11	15	7	6	6	6
Blacksmith	13	19,900	3,238	12,250	4,659	12	1	0	3	9	2	4	2	4
Carpenter	10	11,500	2,380	9,750	3,940	10	0	0	3	7	3	4	1	4
Dressmaking	1	0	0	800	75	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Electrical repair	2	1,250	23	1,500	250	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Flower and gift	7	13,000	2,421	6,012	1,020	4	3	0	0	5	2	2	2	2
Harness	7	36,800	8,057	27,000	13,711	3	4	0	3	3	1	1	1	1
Machine	4	14,400	2,455	6,400	1,757	3	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	1
Marble	2	6,000	3,800	8,700	1,500	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1
Paint	4	9,900	4,368	4,450	2,485	2	2	0	0	4	0	3	0	3
Plumbing and heating	6	13,000	3,674	18,300	4,208	5	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Sewing machine	2	18,000	392	6,000	115	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1
Shoe repair	8	6,500	1,477	16,514	3,921	6	2	0	0	5	0	5	0	5
Tailor and repair	9	15,000	970	23,800	2,441	3	6	0	0	4	0	9	0	9
Tin	1	0	0	7,000	122	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Typewriter repair	1	0	0	1,000	100	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Upholstering	4	16,500	429	5,700	387	4	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	2
Skating rinks	1	4,300	4,500	4,000	4,000	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Smoke houses	10	7,065	1,923	4,650	1,673	12	3	0	8	8	12	2	12	2
Soft drink parlors	4	49,500	1,430	4,100	1,125	1	3	0	0	4	0	3	0	3
Storage—Poultry and produce	3	4,300	4,300	1,600	1,300	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1
Wholesale hay and feed	1	10,000	300	3,000	2,450	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Stores—Army and navy goods	1	25,000	35	7,500	175	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
China and glassware	1	115,000	100	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cigars and tobacco	4	182,100	157	21,000	1,551	1	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
Confectionery	16	140,500	5,799	86,675	10,970	6	10	0	1	12	0	15	0	15
Clothing and shoes	26	393,200	23,295	347,200	95,912	3	22	1	2	15	3	20	3	20
Drug (wholesale and retail)	14	458,700	8,743	457,128	17,229	4	10	0	2	10	3	8	3	8
Electrical	3	31,500	2,590	29,000	3,218	0	4	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
Five and ten cent	2	177,000	606	55,000	1,700	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Flour and feed	8	49,750	4,699	13,800	2,184	4	4	0	1	6	3	3	0	3
Fruit and produce	1	50,000	4,681	29,500	10,200	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Furniture and carpet	13	463,000	12,200	129,755	22,496	2	11	0	0	13	1	14	0	14
General and department	48	269,200	56,070	484,045	109,188	31	17	0	18	24	6	28	6	28
Grocery	64	543,410	31,968	237,000	74,784	35	28	1	7	51	4	43	4	43
Hardware	15	309,000	37,544	181,250	64,309	6	8	0	6	7	5	9	5	9
Implement	8	63,000	36,450	92,500	73,741	5	2	1	4	4	3	5	3	5
Jewelry	9	31,500	5,308	131,800	10,067	1	8	0	2	3	0	3	0	3
Meat market	28	193,000	15,438	60,215	19,338	15	12	1	7	16	2	14	5	14
Millinery and hat	9	34,100	7,322	29,480	9,636	6	3	0	2	6	2	6	2	6
Musie	2	75,100	150	36,500	56	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Poultry and produce	11	30,100	16,223	64,900	27,821	0	3	0	5	5	4	4	4	4
Second hand	7	15,300	676	12,000	2,347	7	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	6
Shoe	13	121,800	13,630	187,776	49,229	1	12	0	1	8	1	6	1	6
Tires and auto accessories	5	34,500	3,284	75,000	4,073	1	3	1	0	4	0	4	0	4
Vacant	5	25,300	1,775	0	0	3	1	1	1	4	0	4	0	4
Wallpaper and paint	2	5,500	1,167	14,700	2,426	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
Tanks	2	800	75	280	120	1	Iron	-----	0	2	0	1	0	1
Telephone stations	3	1,500	1,500	775	775	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	0
Tents and awnings	4	156	156	4,075	95	0	-----	-----	3	0	1	1	1	1
Theatres	6	406,700	78,670	49,521	30,214	0	5	0	1	5	1	1	1	1
Undertaking parlors	3	32,700	110	4,100	2,600	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1
Wagons, camp, etc.	3	450	145	300	115	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
Warehouses	49	3,310,900	100,308	2,185,789	387,937	31	16	2	13	30	12	35	12	35
Water tanks and works	2	3,700	1,650	2,000	1,000	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
Totals	5,510	\$39,682,116	\$4,836,308	\$15,462,065	\$3,877,639	4,335	726	50	1,302	3,890	944	2,008	944	2,008

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

TABLE NO. III.

Containing a Summary of the Origin and Cause of the Various Fires Reported, the Number of Each, and the Damage to the Buildings and Contents, for the Year 1923.

Causes	Number Fires	Loss
Adjoining.....	353	\$ 642,107
Ashes or live coals against wood.....	49	10,126
Automobile backfire and carburetor leak.....	49	13,378
Blow and oil torches.....	15	11,517
Bonfires.....	27	10,900
Brooder lamp and stove.....	29	11,924
Burning grass, leaves, paper, rubbish, etc.....	45	9,374
Candle carelessness.....	12	1,402
Children playing with matches.....	91	45,051
Cleaning clothes at home with gasoline.....	6	559
Clothing and bedding near stove or pipe.....	24	5,221
Coffee urn explosion.....	3	5,020
Curtains blowing into flame.....	8	517
Defective auto battery.....	11	2,361
Defective auto wiring.....	4	1,376
Defective electric appliances.....	22	21,390
Defective electric wires.....	187	284,590
Defective fireplace.....	7	471
Defective flues.....	200	563,898
Defective flue stops.....	10	3,705
Defective gas and electric meters.....	7	1,345
Defective gas and gasoline water heaters.....	6	2,542
Defective heating plants.....	55	34,925
Defective oil burners.....	20	55,737
Defective oil and gasoline stoves.....	25	8,066
Defective pipes to stove, etc.....	99	48,246
Electric irons with current left on.....	30	8,712
Feed cooker.....	3	965
Flims.....	3	2,565
Fireworks.....	18	3,556
Friction.....	8	1,327
Fumigation.....	5	2,175
Furnace, coal and gas stove explosion.....	5	83,160
Gasoline or coal oil to start fire in stoves.....	9	6,023
Gasoline engine backfire.....	11	21,580
Gas explosion (illuminating).....	10	42,688
Gasoline and oil stove carelessness.....	72	73,807
Gasoline and oil stove explosion.....	51	54,204
Gasoline pipe line.....	5	5,653
Gasoline soldering pot.....	3	1,825
Gasoline and volatile oil explosion.....	52	73,115
Grease, paint and tar boiling over.....	29	31,399
Incubator.....	5	2,905
Incendiary and probably incendiary.....	160	223,146
Lamp explosion and carelessness.....	20	7,750
Lantern explosion and carelessness.....	11	15,023
Lightning, no rods.....	114	365,715
Lightning, rodded.....	8	41,375
Lightning, running in on wires.....	1	4,300
Match carelessness.....	55	29,555
Matches and mice (supposed).....	12	5,631
Overheated furnaces and stoves.....	93	88,849
Overheated ovens.....	5	2,568
Smokers' carelessness.....	152	94,633
Smoking meat.....	15	2,065
Sparks from cupola.....	6	2,313
Sparks from engines and locomotives.....	44	51,321
Sparks from fire.....	1,747	759,254
Sparks from forge.....	4	1,859
Sparks from stoves and fireplaces.....	20	7,917
Spontaneous combustion:		
Baled and loose paper.....	11	16,920
Binding twine.....	1	1,075
Clothing and rags.....	3	37,475
Coal and coke.....	12	49,683
Dust.....	1	256,000
Fertilizer.....	3	1,175

TABLE NO. III—Concluded

Causes	Number Fires	Loss
Grain, fodder and cobs.....	3	5,359
Hay and straw.....	47	178,700
Oil, mops, paint, waste.....	38	98,321
Rubbish, excelsior and saw dust.....	32	55,933
Sweeping compound.....	1	15
Static electricity.....	3	846
Stoves and furnaces too near wood.....	25	6,230
Thawing water pipes and pumps.....	9	764
Tramps and thieves.....	11	13,510
Unknown.....	1,051	3,714,545
Vulcanizing machine.....	2	373
Whiskey still.....	6	3,330
Miscellaneous, one and two each.....	25	19,024
Totals.....	5,510	\$ 8,233,902

TABLE NO. IV

Giving the Cities and Towns in which 950 Inspections Were Made of Dilapidated Buildings and Inflammable Conditions During the Year 1923.

Adel	Estherville	Newton
Albia	Fairfield	New Virginia
Aigona	Fonda	Obedoit
Allerton	Forest City	Oelwein
Altoona	Fort Des Moines	Ogden
Ames	Fort Dodge	Okauchosa
Angus	Fort Madison	Ottumwa
Armstrong	Galt	Panora
Arnold's Park	Gladbrook	Parkersburg
Ashton	Glidden	Pella
Atlantic	Grand Junction	Pierson
Auburn	Grant	Pleasantville
Avoca	Gravity	Plover
Bagley	Green Island	Polk City
Bancroft	Grinnell	Postville
Barnes City	Guthrie Center	Prairie City
Bassett	Hamlin	Reasnor
Bayard	Harlan	Reinbeck
Bedford	Harper	Rhodes
Belle Plaine	Hartley	Richland
Bellevue	Hastings	Rock Valley
Belmond	Hawarden	Rubio
Bentonsport	Hedrick	Ryan
Boone	Hinton	Sac City
Brighton	Holstein	Saint Ansgar
Britt	Hopkinton	Searsboro
Buffalo Center	Humboldt	Shenandoah
Burt	Ida Grove	Sibley
Carlisle	Indianola	Sigourney
Carroll	Inwood	Sioux City
Carson	Iowa Falls	Sioux Rapids
Cedar	Jefferson	Smithland
Cedar Falls	Jewell	Spencer
Cedar Rapids	Kellerton	Spirit Lake
Centerville	Keokuk	Storm Lake
Chariton	Keosauqua	Strawberry Point
Charter Oak	Keota	Swea City
Clarinda	Kimballton	Taber
Clear Lake	Kierner	Tama
Colfax	Knoxville	Terrill
Columbia	Lake City	Thompson
Corracionville	Lake Mills	Truesdale
Council Bluffs	Leland	Ute
Creston	Lenox	Varina
Dallas Center	Leona	Villisca
Danbury	Liberty Center	Vinton
Decora	Linden	Walnut
Defiance	Lucas	Washta
Denison	Lynnville	Waterloo
Des Moines	Madrick	Waukeo
De Witt	Manilla	Waukon
Dows	Maquoketa	Waverly
Duncombe	Marcus	Webster
Dunlap	Marion	Webster City
Eagle Grove	Marshalltown	Westfield
Earlham	Martinsburg	West Liberty
Earlville	Mason City	West Side
Early	Maysville	What Cheer
East Pleasant Plain	Mechanicville	Williamsburg
Eddyville	Monroe	Woodward
Elberon	Monteith	Wright
Eldora	Montezuma	Yale
Elgin	Montrose	
Emmetsburg	Mount Vernon	

TABLE NO. V.

Giving Places at Which Investigations of Fires of Suspicious Origin Have Been Made During the Year 1923, and the Date When Such Investigation Began.

County	Place	Date Commencing Investigation
Adair	Adair	November 19
Adair	Hanover Township	December 6
Adair	Union Prairie Township	December 7
Adair	Bellair Township	February 26
Adair	Centerville	January 26
Adair	Excelsior	September 21
Adair	Excelsior (near)	September 21
Adair	Moulton	October 2
Adair	Barclay Township (2 fires)	November 23
Adair	Waterloo	February 27
Adair	Waterloo	February 28
Adair	Waterloo	March 30
Adair	Waterloo	July 29
Adair	Boone (near)	July 19
Adair	Des Moines Township	July 13
Adair	Warren Township (2 fires)	June 18
Adair	Madison Township	August 7
Adair	New Hartford	November 2
Adair	Anita	August 21
Adair	Anita	November 14
Adair	Anita (near) (3 fires)	February 7
Adair	Atlantic (3 fires)	February 17
Adair	Griswold (near) (2 fires)	January 19
Adair	Mason City (2 fires)	May 23
Adair	Mason City (near)	November 15
Adair	Murray	October 26
Adair	Clinton (4 fires)	November 26
Adair	Deloit	July 13
Adair	Iowa Township	February 21
Adair	Brough	May 14
Adair	Linn Township	March 8
Adair	Perry	April 24
Adair	Union Township	October 3
Adair	Lanoni (near)	July 25
Adair	Leon	February 5
Adair	Medapolis	October 23
Adair	Dubuque (2 fires)	September 14
Adair	Estherville	September 17
Adair	Estherville	September 26
Adair	Hawkeys (near) (2 fires)	December 18
Adair	Oelwein	August 15
Adair	Charles City	November 22
Adair	Perdval (2 fires)	October 24
Adair	Rippey	July 2
Adair	Washington Township	February 16
Adair	Yale	March 7
Adair	Freedom Township	March 12
Adair	Webster City	November 2
Adair	Eldora (near)	October 15
Adair	Iowa Falls	March 21
Adair	Radcliffe	March 30
Adair	Winfield (2 fires)	September 14
Adair	Galva Township (2 fires)	March 15
Adair	Amasa	August 22
Adair	North English (near)	May 8
Adair	York Township	April 12
Adair	Maquoketa (near)	April 12
Adair	Richland Twp. (2 fires)	March 23
Adair	Newton	September 6
Adair	Newton Township	December 5
Adair	Richland Township	September 26
Adair	Buchanan Township	September 25
Adair	Liberty Township	October 9
Adair	Warren Township	May 19
Adair	Ft. Madison	May 25
Adair	Keokuk	October 25
Adair	Cedar Rapids	July 5

TABLE NO. V.—Continued

County	Place	Date Commencing Investigation
	Cedar Rapids	August 20
	Cedar Rapids	October 10
Louisa	Fredonia	August 31
	Morning Sun	April 18
Lucas	Derby	March 28
Madison	Monroe Township	July 24
	Winterset (near)	October 30
Mahaska	Union Township	August 9
Marion	Flagler	November 14
	Knoxville Township	November 14
	Pella	March 26
Mitchell	Carpenter	November 14
Monona	Mapleton	May 15
	Maple Township	March 15
	Maple Township	May 16
Monroe	Bucknell	April 21
	Bucknell	May 16
	Troy Township	September 20
Montgomery	Washington Township	January 3
Muscatine	Sweetland Township	June 5
O'Brien	Sanborn	December 19
Oceola	Sibley	March 28
Page	Shenandoah	October 25
Palo Alto	Great Oak Township	November 1
Plymouth	Lincoln Township	March 28
Polk	Camp Dodge (near)	July 10
	Carney	January 10
	Des Moines	January 29
	Des Moines	February 17
	Des Moines	March 5
	Des Moines	March 24
	Des Moines	April 5
	Des Moines	April 7
	Des Moines	April 19
	Des Moines	April 20
	Des Moines	May 21
	Des Moines (2 fires)	May 31
	Des Moines	August 27
	Des Moines	November 5
	Des Moines	November 28
	Des Moines	December 7
	Des Moines	December 24
	Grimes	December 20
Potawattamie	Carson (2 fires)	August 15
	Council Bluffs (2 fires)	January 4
	Council Bluffs	January 8
	Council Bluffs	January 24
	Council Bluffs	October 30
	Minden	February 8
	Underwood	April 10
	Weston	May 18
Poweshiek	Grant Township	August 28
Ringgold	Kellerton	June 7
	Redding	April 5
Scott	Deitendorf	December 28
	Butler Township	April 25
	LeClaire	October 25
Shelby	Clay Township	July 27
	Harlan	May 7
	Harlan	May 8
Sioux	Hawarden	December 17
	Lincoln Township	April 18
	Rock Valley	June 26
	Rock Valley (2 fires)	December 18
Story	Ames	March 12
	Parshall	October 10
	Washington Township	February 21
Tama	Tama	January 8
Taylor	Blockton	December 11
	Clayton Township	March 1
	Lenox	August 18
Van Buren	Farmington (2 fires)	January 31
	Washington Township	November 15

TABLE NO. V.—Continued

County	Place	Date Commencing Investigation
Wapello	Compentine Township	July 23
	Eldon	December 6
	Kirkville	June 11
	Ottumwa	February 27
	Ottumwa	May 15
	Ottumwa (near)	June 5
Warren	Greenfield Township	October 12
	Indianola	August 24
Washington	Brighton	July 3
	Brighton	July 4
	Dutch Creek Township	August 7
Wayne	Alberton	January 23
	Alberton (near)	January 25
Webster	Clare	September 20
	Cooper Township	August 14
	Elkhorn Township	August 13
	Fort Dodge	January 30
Winnebago	Fort Dodge	February 22
	Buffalo Center (5 fires)	May 22
	Lake Mills	June 26
	Thompson	November 16
Winneshek	Canoe Township	October 10
	Canoe Township (3 fires)	December 4
	Oriana Township	December 19
	Pleasant Township (2 fires)	December 19
Woodbury	Sioux City	July 9
	Sioux City	July 10
	Sioux City	July 11
	Sioux City (2 fires)	October 25
	Sioux City	October 28
Wright	Galt (5 fires)	August 15
	Galt (2 fires)	October 31
	Lincoln Township	November 30

State of Iowa

1925

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE YEAR 1924

J. A. TRACY

State Fire Marshal

Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

State of Iowa
1925

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Des Moines, Iowa, January 29, 1925.

HON. JOHN HAMMILL, *Governor of Iowa:*

Sir:—In compliance with the provisions of law I have the honor to submit herewith the fourteenth annual report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1924, and ending December 31, 1924, both dates included.

J. A. TRACY, *State Fire Marshal.*

J. A. TRACY
State Fire Marshal

THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Appointed by the Governor. Term, Four Years. Expires July 1, 1927.

Office	Name	Legal Residence	Birthplace
Fire Marshal.....	J. A. Tracy.....	Sioux City.....	Iowa
Deputy.....	E. J. Frowick.....	Des Moines.....	Iowa
Assistant Deputy.....	W. C. Rabbitt.....	Des Moines.....	Indiana
Assistant Deputy.....	G. G. Shanafelt.....	Sigourney.....	Iowa
Stenographer and Clerk.....	May A. Carr.....	Ames.....	Iowa

The entire expense of the State Fire Marshal's office is paid out of the general revenues of the state.

REPORT OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

In presenting the Fourteenth Annual Report of the State Fire Marshal, I wish to bring to your attention some of the outstanding features which to my mind should be carefully considered by the general public.

We have endeavored through our bulletins on "Causes and Dangers of Fires," sent to the press and schools, to educate the people to habits of carefulness. We cannot get too much publicity on this education. Our newspapers throughout the state have been liberal with their space in publishing extracts from our reports. The newspapers are the best means to give knowledge to their readers which cannot be had in any other way, and I deplore the fact that provisions are not made whereby we could keep up a vigorous publicity campaign in the press throughout the year.

If you will carefully study the figures set out in the tables in this report, you will see that about three-fifths of all fires occur in the home. These fires were caused by wooden shingles, defective heating plants, defective stoves, defective stove-pipes, children playing with matches, etc.

In order to more fully impress upon the minds of the people, you will find two pages of reproduced newspaper items with reference to the most horrible deaths and accidents caused by carelessness in handling coal oil and gasoline. During 1924, eighty deaths were reported to this office as the result of fire. This number is below the average. You will also find that the number of fires of suspicious origin is diminishing which is no doubt due to investigations, the evidence of which was presented to the county attorneys for prosecution.

It is a well established fact that at least three-fourths of all fires are from carelessness and indifference, the loss being something that the people must pay. I therefore urge that every person inspect his own property, remove all hazards found and impress upon the youth the necessity of cultivating habits of carefulness.

I want to quote you an article in the insurance department bulletin of the State of Missouri, under date of December, 1924:

A FIRE MARSHAL LAW FOR MISSOURI

The enactment of a Fire Marshal Law by the General Assembly will do more than any other thing to better insurance conditions and reduce the loss ratio in Missouri.

Every State that borders on Missouri has a Fire Marshal law and it is vigorously enforced, which means that all of the "Fire Bugs" and "Arson Crooks" are driven into Missouri from the surrounding states.

About forty states in the Union have this law and reports from all of them, where the law is properly enforced, indicate that the operation of the law inures to the benefit of the people of the State.

For the year 1924, 5,435 fires were reported to this office, totalling a loss of \$7,929,650, \$4,560,250 of which was on buildings and \$3,369,400 on contents. The buildings in which these fires occurred were valued at \$47,643,504 and the contents at \$17,554,303.

This is a decrease of 75 fires and a decrease in loss of \$294,317 over 1923, and a decrease of 118 fires and a decrease of \$2,221,361 over 1922 which is very gratifying, considering the increased number of fire producing agencies, and the increased value of property.

Included in the total loss, there were 4,201 fires in which the loss was fully covered by insurance and 1,234 fires totalling a loss of \$2,060,207 in excess of the insurance carried.

Four thousand three hundred ninety-eight fires occurred in frame buildings, 828 fires occurred in brick or cement buildings and 209 fires burned material outside of buildings. A list of the largest fires which occurred during the year 1924 is as follows:

Bellevue.....	May 29th.....	\$200,000
Clarinda.....	December 19th.....	27,000
Cedar Rapids.....	May 12th.....	39,700
Corydon.....	March 15th.....	27,000
Council Bluffs.....	August 8th.....	37,750
Council Bluffs.....	August 29th.....	28,000
Davenport.....	February 3rd.....	54,300
Davenport.....	February 5th.....	39,000
Davenport.....	February 22nd.....	42,420
Des Moines.....	January 1st.....	34,367
Des Moines.....	January 16th.....	47,280
Des Moines.....	February 25th.....	27,500
Des Moines.....	August 25th.....	48,166
Des Moines.....	August 29th.....	49,218
Des Moines.....	October 21st.....	38,400
Des Moines.....	November 16th.....	98,000
Des Moines.....	November 30th.....	121,350
Dubuque.....	April 25th.....	42,000
Eldora.....	November 12th.....	45,000
Fort Dodge.....	April 22nd.....	35,000
Hansell.....	May 5th.....	66,000
Keokuk.....	November 24th.....	70,000
Mason City.....	January 26th.....	40,000
Moravia.....	February 2nd.....	45,000
Osage.....	January 6th.....	146,000
Spencer.....	October 25th.....	35,000
St. Ansgar.....	October 17th.....	59,000
Waterloo.....	February 25th.....	46,193

SPECIAL MENTION

Defective Flues. During 1924 there were 392 fires reported, totalling a loss of \$683,362.

Defective Pipes to Stoves and Furnaces. During 1924 there were 112 fires reported, totalling a loss of \$143,596.

Domestic Oil Burners for Heating Purposes. These are being looked upon as a dangerous hazard, especially if not properly installed. Most of the installations are made by gravity feed from storage tanks. The Underwriters Laboratories of Chicago or the National Board of Fire Underwriters of New York will be glad to send you information with reference to proper method of installation.

Electric Wiring. During 1924 there were 164 fires reported, totalling a loss of \$362,416 from defective wiring. These are outside of defective auto wiring.

Very few people seem to realize the danger both to life and property by over-loading wires. This is done by over-fusing when a fuse blows out.

Heating Plants and Pipes. Don't overlook the practice of frequent inspection to see that there are no cracks in the stove and that the pipes are securely fastened, also that the pipes are free from holes.

Lightning, the Farmers' Worst Enemy. In 1924 there were 79 barns struck by lightning, totalling a loss of \$181,337. None of these barns was rodded. During the same period there were two barns struck by lightning which were rodded, causing a loss of \$6,850 and it is known that in one case the rod was defective, but it is not known in the other case whether or not the rod was defective or improperly installed.

Spontaneous Combustion. One of the greatest enemies of the farmer. See Table III.

Wooden Shingles. These have been the cause of no less than 15 conflagrations, totalling a loss of over \$90,000,000. The last conflagration was at Berkeley, California, where 584 buildings were totally destroyed; 540 of these buildings were covered by wooden shingles and the loss was \$10,000,000.

Deaths by Fire. In 1924 there were 80 deaths reported as the direct result of fire, of which number 16 were men, 29 were women and 35 were children.

In 25 cases fatal to life, gasoline or coal oil was involved. In 7

cases persons were burned to death as the result of bonfire carelessness, and 3 children burned to death playing with matches.

A COMPARISON OF FIRE LOSSES BY MONTHS FOR 1923 AND 1924

	—1923—		—1924—	
	No. Fires	Loss	No. Fires	Loss
January	582	\$ 529,931	790	\$1,150,160
February	833	1,247,506	600	958,120
March	720	867,826	584	523,387
April	571	707,318	570	801,340
May	389	512,644	423	831,862
June	247	409,993	208	325,646
July	281	555,734	250	326,316
August	297	773,455	233	489,891
September	225	450,196	260	390,258
October	362	729,548	343	401,292
November	457	535,308	455	738,973
December	546	914,508	719	992,399
Totals	5,510	\$8,233,967	5,435	\$7,929,650

A COMPARISON OF THE LOSSES IN NINETEEN LARGEST CITIES IN IOWA IN 1923 AND 1924

	—1923—		—1924—	
	No. Fires	Loss	No. Fires	Loss
Boone	30	\$ 24,485	33	\$ 14,724
Burlington	59	168,604	50	49,819
Cedar Rapids	143	166,256	164	88,934
Clinton	139	89,060	113	31,497
Council Bluffs	214	112,124	205	149,090
Davenport	273	147,714	250	304,640
Des Moines	611	334,462	689	798,463
Dubuque	111	57,978	118	70,271
Fort Madison	42	18,681	39	56,282
Fort Dodge	55	78,645	53	114,539
Iowa City	67	76,392	45	40,548
Keokuk	83	82,756	103	113,411
Marshalltown	99	78,746	90	58,492
Mason City	64	80,838	62	62,681
Muscatine	73	10,198	63	43,567
Oskaloosa	26	21,014	30	54,633
Ottumwa	143	140,322	111	75,830
Sioux City	383	213,045	436	143,710
Waterloo	188	91,556	196	167,271
Totals	2,803	\$1,991,926	2,845	\$2,438,292

KINDS OF STRUCTURES IN WHICH THE MOST DISASTROUS FIRES OCCURRED

	No. Fires	Loss
Bakeries	24	\$ 79,697
Barns, farm	278	769,210
Barns, town	159	148,177
Chicken brooders and poultry houses	81	117,177
Dwellings, farm	434	1,143,684
Dwellings, town	2,660	1,363,525
Elevators	17	150,636
Factories (various kinds)	60	723,897
Garages, public and private	223	282,487
Hotels	39	39,838
Houses, apartment and fraternities	121	134,965
Lumber yards	12	120,614
Offices and office buildings	68	68,969
Restaurants and cafes	65	80,630
Schoolhouses	30	188,489
Stores (various kinds)	302	1,396,983
Theatres	25	46,587
Warehouses	45	167,930

SIXTEEN CAUSES OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FIRES

	No. Fires	Loss
Sparks from flue	1,604	\$ 711,048
Detective flues	392	683,362
Adjoining	308	725,961
Overheated furnaces and stoves	176	349,344
Defective electric wiring	164	262,416
Lightning	146	350,964
Smokers' carelessness	140	76,914
Spontaneous combustion	115	312,303
Defective pipes to stoves and heating plants	112	143,596
Children and matches	90	38,385
Incendiary and probably incendiary	81	281,929
Defective oil and gasoline stoves	78	44,793
Gasoline and volatile oil explosion	76	96,897
Defective heating plants and furnaces	43	101,612
Defective oil burner (domestic)	38	86,274
The Great Unknown	970	2,983,641

THE CAUSE OF MANY ACCIDENTS

- Looking for a gas leak with open flame.
- Looking into a gas tank with lighted match.
- Drawing gasoline by lantern light.
- Smoking while automobile is being filled.
- Cleaning automobile parts in room heated with stove or furnace.
- Cleaning with gasoline in the home.
- Using coal oil to start fire in stove.

Filling lamp or stove with wick lighted.

Swinging gas fixture.

Allowing oily rags to accumulate.

Polishing a hot stove.

Storing ashes in wooden receptacles.

Hanging clothes too near stoves.

Using matches in clothes closets.

Leaving electric iron with current left on.

Thawing water pipe with torch.

Letting rubbish accumulate in basement.

Children playing with matches

Leaving fire place unscreened.

Throwing cigarette stubs in waste basket.

Smoking in barn.

Using lighted candles on Christmas tree.

Using cotton to represent snow.

Leaving gas flames without globes.

SLOGANS

Few merchants realize that rubbish is the most expensive stock they carry.

A match may be down but not out.

Remember the ember.

Do your part and fire won't start.

Fires are rare when care is there.

Fight fire first before fire fights you.

Haphazard—firehazard.

Fireproof isn't foolproof.

Sewing matches—reaping ashes.

Safety ever—fire never.

One reason why France has so little trouble with fires is because of the fact that arson meets with severe punishment.

Arson fires are unknown in Belgium.

INSPECTIONS

In 1924, 700 inspections were made by this department in 125 towns and in 66 different counties in the state. There were also 66 re-inspections made in 23 different towns which resulted in 54 orders for removal of buildings; 94 orders for repairs of buildings; 173 orders to remedy hazards; 27 orders to show cause why building should not be condemned and 352 verbal orders to remedy conditions. In addition to the personal inspections made, a great many fire hazards were removed through correspondence. The complaints came through fire chiefs, mayors, insurance agents and citizens. Better than 95% of the orders issued were complied with. During the year of 1924, the Iowa State Fire Prevention Association and

the Department of the Iowa State Fire Marshal joined in making a general inspection of the following cities:

Place	No. Properties Inspected.	No. Complaints Made	Recom- mendations	% Complied With
Clinton and Lyons	539	52	1,932	76%
Cedar Falls	163	10	729	100%
Cedar Rapids	786	155	2,754	90%
Estherville	137	20	648	89%
Centerville	212	14	883	72%
Monticello	113	12	401	80%
Sioux City	919	118	4,122	90%
	2,869	381	11,469	

AVERAGE 75% COMPLIED WITH

The results obtained were very gratifying not only to the insurance interests but the citizens themselves.

Arrangements are already being made to inspect Albia, Burlington, Davenport, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Fort Madison, Iowa Falls, Maquoketa and Marshalltown during 1925.

The Fire Marshal's Association of North America is beginning to see the good fruits of their efforts in securing better cooperation in eliminating hazards through education and inspections.

The inter-chamber fire waste contests are doing wonderful work in awakening the people to realize that every effort must be made toward the conservation of both life and property. Help the good work along.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

Under the law the state fire marshal has prepared a bulletin on the causes and dangers of fire for use in schools and has endeavored to reach every schoolhouse in the state.

Fire drills are required each month in all buildings of more than one story.

This office has been sending out 30,000 large size fire prevention posters each year and through the splendid cooperation of the State Superintendent and County Superintendents of Schools, has placed at least one poster in each schoolhouse in the state. Posters were also sent to newspapers, banks, hotels, commercial clubs, fire chiefs, mayors, and others.

In addition to the fire prevention posters, we have sent out thousands of fire prevention circulars furnished by fire prevention agencies. Lectures have also been given to fire departments, farm institutes, commercial clubs, insurance gatherings, schools, city coun-

GRISWOLD LADY DIES FROM BURNS SATURDAY P. M.

**Mrs. S. E. Baughman Meets
Horrible End From Gasoline
Explosion—Regains
Consciousness.**

GRISWOLD, Ia., March 20.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—Mrs. S. E. Baughman, lifelong resident of this vicinity, passed away Saturday afternoon, four hours after she sustained horrible burns from an explosion of gasoline with which she was cleaning some clothing.

VICTIM OF BURNS DIES AFTER WEEK INTENSE AGONY

Tribe (News Special).
CHARLES CITY, Ia., Dec. 1.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—Karl Wilson, who was charred from the waist down as the result of an explosion which he attempted to build a fire with kerosene ten days ago, died in a hospital here Sunday.

His 2-year-old baby died from burns the day after the explosion. Another son, 7 years old, is still in the hospital suffering from burns.

CHILD, BURNED IN HOME, DIES

Girl Loses Fight for Life of Nearly Two Weeks.

FACE, ARMS BURNED

Clothing Catches Fire Opening Stove Door.

Dorothy Marsh, 6 years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Marsh, 1184 South East Allen street, was burned when articles in the face by a sky rocket. Hospital officials reported her in a fair condition today.

Shelley Woodward, 14 years old, of E. B. Co., probably burned by the explosion of a can of snow yesterday, was taken to the Des Moines Central hospital.

Out.—Lillian Buckford, 4 years old, clothes caught fire while playing with matches.

KEOKUK BANKER AND WIFE DIE

Perish in Flames When Residence Burns Down

GIRL DIES OF BURNS; MANY OTHERS HURT

Explosives Are Cause of Injuries to a Dozen Persons.

Norma Mansfield, 3 years old, Grandeur, Ia., is dead and two others are injured and in local hospitals as a result of Fourth of July celebrations yesterday.

The little girl was taken to Iowa Methodist hospital yesterday after her clothing had caught fire from fireworks and her death occurred several hours afterwards.

AGED WOMAN DIES OF BURNS

Mrs. D. M. Heryford Succumbs to Injuries.

Mrs. D. M. Heryford, 75 years old, of Valley Junction, died at 3:15 o'clock this morning at the Iowa Methodist hospital from the effects of burns she received while trying to start a fire in the kitchen stove with the aid of matches.

Six Children Have Met Death in This Manner Since Jan. 1.

With the death of Lester Rickford, 4 years old, from burns at the city hospital last night, Des Moines' death toll from fire since Jan. 1 registered twelve persons. Out of this total, six of the victims were children less than 1 year old, giving Des Moines an unusually large number of deaths from this manner within the past six months.

The little Rickford girl, daughter of Mrs. Dove Rickford, 214 South East Eighth street, died last night from burns sustained while playing with matches near her in the afternoon. Her mother and Mrs. H. B. Dennis, when the accident occurred.

The flames from the matches with which she was playing set fire to her dress.

Lester Mrs. Dennis and the mother of the child yesterday when two pairs of pants which he was using to clean overalls with exploded. His clothing was ignited and he was covered with scalding fluid.

TEACHER'S HAIR IS
BURNED OFF BY
COMB EXPLOSION

DIED FROM BURNS RECEIVED WHEN HE USED OIL ON FIRE

(Special to News-Telegraph.)
Washington, Ia., April 14.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—A laborer, died at the county hospital as a result of burns received Saturday night when he set his clothes on fire while he was cleaning a stove in his home.

WOMAN FATALLY BURNED IN HOME

BRIMMOND, Ia., Jan. 25.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—Mrs. M. K. Lawrence, 51, was fatally burned when her clothing was ignited from a stove. Hospital care was refused.

Robert Kibler, 6-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Kibler, 2137 Seventh street, was severely burned when he was playing with matches when he was dressed at the city hospital.

PUTS WOOD IN STOVE, CHILD DIES OF BURNS

Virginia Parker, 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Parker, Garmon, living three miles north of Ankeny, Ia., was burned to death in the home late yesterday afternoon.

FATALLY BURNED CLEANING PANTS

BIOMEX CITY, Ia., June 13.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—E. W. Egan, 21, St. Charles, 23 years old, was fatally burned yesterday when two pairs of pants which he was using to clean overalls with exploded. His clothing was ignited and he was covered with scalding fluid.

MOTHER AND CHILD KILLED BY BURNS

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., April 11.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—Mrs. M. E. Albert, 35, was killed yesterday when a kerosene can exploded in the mother's hands while she was attempting to kindle a fire in a range. Mrs. Erickson died yesterday.

CHILD IS BURNED TO DEATH WITH MATCHES

Ponyhollow, Ia., May 15.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—The 6-year-old daughter of Albert Johnson living one mile south of Mallard was burned to death yesterday. The child was left in the house alone. She found some matches and set her clothes afire and before her mother returned she was lifeless.

Exploded in Mouth.
After hitting a torpedo which exploded in her mouth late Thursday, Amy Parker, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Parker, 2261 Capital street, was taken to Iowa Lutheran hospital and then to her home.

Girl Burned.
Burned while playing with fire crackers yesterday, Adeline Badley, 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Badley, 1614 University avenue, was taken to Mercy hospital in the ambulance. Hospital authorities stated this morning that her condition was improved, but still serious.

Two Decorah Girls Seriously Burned In Gasoline Blaze

(Special to News-Telegraph.)
Decorah, Ia., July 17.—Agnes and Lucille Shuman, living on their farm three miles south of Decorah, were seriously burned yesterday.

After cleaning some clothes with gasoline they started to use a charcoal iron before the clothes were dry. The gas and their clothing caught fire.

Before the fire could be extinguished their bodies were badly burned. They were rushed to the Decorah hospital for aid and medical aid was given them but little hope is entertained for their recovery.

Lucille was a sophomore in the Decorah high school last year and Agnes was a teaching school for several years.

Negro Perishes in Apartment Fire

Arthur Johnson, Negro, 40 years old, was burned to death in a fire which partly destroyed a two-story brick apartment building at 311 South West Fourth street shortly before 2 o'clock this morning.

BURNED BY GAS.

Witch, Ia., Feb. 19.—When her little son, 4 years old, struck a match close to an open pan of gasoline, Mrs. George Erickson and he were severely burned but they will recover.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH; SPARK FROM PIPE CAUSED

(Special to News-Telegraph.)
Moline, Ia., Nov. 21.—Mrs. Ruth Johnson, 15 years old, burned to death at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clark Koenig, at Bird Rock.

Her clothing caught fire from sparks from her pipe.

Laborer Is Burned.
Eagle Grove, Ia., March 24.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—Charles McKew, a Stout City laborer working here, was badly burned when a tank of hot asphalt exploded.

Deluge In Decorah.
Decorah, Ia., March 21.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—John Korman, painter, was seriously burned when a gas torch exploded today.

New Market.—The 4-year-old daughter of Mr. Ezra A. Ainsworth, a child, was burned to death in a fire.

Deaths From Fire.
The persons have died from burns since Jan. 1 are: Mrs. Wilson. They are:

BABY BURNED TO DEATH AT HAMBURG

(Special to News-Telegraph.)
Hamburg, Ia., Dec. 6.—The 2-year-old son of S. T. Crain was burned to death last night. His mother, looking out the window of the farm home near here saw the child in the yard in white clothing. She rushed out and extinguished the flames but the baby was so badly burned it died in a few hours.

The family had lost three children by violent deaths in the last two years.

WOMAN DYING OF BURNS

Cedar Rapids, Ia., Aug. 19.—(Special to News-Telegraph.)—Mrs. A. J. Paul, 28 years old, is dying as the result of burns from a gasoline stove in which her dress caught fire.

Her husband was seriously burned trying to put out the blaze.

Fire alarm also caused injury to David Garcia, 14 years old, 402 West Second street, who placed loaded cartridges in a gun.

Wife of Iowa Pastor Found Dead of Burns.
Bayler, Ia., May 21.—Mrs. A. J. Eastman, wife of the minister at the Methodist Episcopal church, was found dead in the basement of their home yesterday morning at 1 o'clock. It is reported that she was trying to start a fire with oil.

BURNS CAUSE GIRL'S DEATH

Clothes Catch Fire While Playing With Matches.

Rose Allen, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Allen, 214 Elm street, died at 3:00 o'clock this morning at Mercy hospital as a result of burns received when her clothing caught fire late yesterday.

The child had been playing with matches in the house when her clothes became a mass of flames.

Loss of life is so common that we fail to appreciate its terror until the victim is one of our own immediate family.

The victims of the fire fend are listed almost every day in the papers. Women, children, old people, sleeping persons, are all in danger.

cils, et al. City councils have also been urged to buy better fire equipment and to adopt better building ordinances.

STATISTICAL WORK

Until the establishment of the state fire marshal's office and the provisions for the collection and publication by this department of certain data pertaining to fire losses, there had been no office or other agency in the state concerned in securing this information except the companies and associations doing a fire insurance business. The fire data reported by them to the various departments does not give full information outside of the amount collected from the insurance companies. No account could therefore be taken by them of the losses that were either partially or wholly without insurance, and when we consider that about 25 per cent of the total annual fire loss in the state is not covered by insurance, we must at once conclude that the only approximately complete and accurate statistical information relative to these matters is obtained by the state fire marshal.

For more detailed information see tables numbered I, II, and III.

The state fire marshal's office is no longer an experiment; its usefulness and influence for good will be more manifest in the future than it has been in the past.

I earnestly ask that you investigate the department in the way of efficiency, as we know it will give you a better insight into the needs of the department.

The Fire Marshal's Association extends all over North America and is recognized as a leading factor in convicting persons who set fire for gain, as well as a leader in Fire Prevention activities, and should have the support of all law-abiding citizens.

INVESTIGATIONS

During the year of 1924, 152 cases in 67 different counties in the state were investigated by this department. A great number of these cases contained circumstantial evidence tending to show that the fires were set by design for the purpose of collecting heavy insurance.

When, in our opinion, there was enough evidence upon which to get a conviction, the same was sent to the various county attorneys to be presented to the grand jury.

Out of the 152 cases, 16 cases involving 25 persons were submitted to the various county attorneys with recommendation for prosecution. Those who were convicted or arrested will be found under the head of arrests and prosecutions.

ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS

CORNELL, CLAY COUNTY

About 11:30 P. M., October 10, 1924, a fire broke out in a skating rink owned by Elmer J. Miller. One Lamont Stone made a confession that he (Stone) set the fire at the request of Miller, Miller having promised to pay him (Stone) \$100.00. It appears that the skating rink was mortgaged and heavily insured. Stone plead guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary at Fort Madison for a term of ten years. Miller was indicted and tried at the January term in 1925. The judge directed a verdict of not guilty on account of lack of corroboration on Stone's statement.

DECATUR, DECATUR COUNTY

About 3:15 A. M., September 13, 1924, a fire destroyed a dwelling house owned by Mary E. McGuire, who lives near Decatur, the house being occupied by another who was not at home.

DE KALB, DECATUR COUNTY

About 10:30 P. M., October 12, 1924, fire destroyed a vacant dwelling house owned by W. J. Springer of Leon. It appears that W. H. Bronson formerly owned both pieces of property, he having deeded the property at Decatur to his daughter (Mrs. McGuire) free of charge and the other piece of property to Mr. Springer for attorney's fees, etc. Both of these fires were investigated by this department which resulted in the confession of Ed. Young, he stating that he set both buildings on fire at the request of W. H. Bronson; that Bronson gave him (Young) two cows valued at \$75.00 for setting the fires. Young plead guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary at Fort Madison for a term of fifteen years. Bronson was indicted on two counts of conspiracy with having instigated the burning of the two houses. The case of Bronson has not yet come to trial.

DUBUQUE, DUBUQUE COUNTY

About 10:00 P. M., December 18, 1923, an automobile owned by J. J. Giffney, who lived at Madison, Wisconsin, was set on fire. At that time Giffney reported to the officers that the car had been stolen and set on fire. Later Giffney was brought to the Police Station and confessed that he (Giffney) had hired one Carl Wilson to burn the car, that he (Giffney) could collect \$1,000.00 insurance. Giffney was taken before the judge where he plead guilty and was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary at Fort Madison. At that time he was given a bench parole to his brother who lives in Chicago. Wilson has not yet been apprehended.

IOWA CITY, JOHNSON COUNTY

About 10:00, also 11:30 P. M., February 10, and 3:30 A. M., February 11, 1924, fires occurred in a dwelling occupied by John Ware (colored). The circumstantial evidence was very strong in this case. Ware was arrested and arraigned before Justice T. E. Murphy, who ruled that there was evidence of guilt, but not enough to warrant a conviction. The defendant was discharged. The complaint was filed to collect insurance on goods that had been removed prior to the fire.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, LUCAS COUNTY

About 3:00 A. M., July 22, 1921, a fire destroyed a residence owned by Lem Parry and occupied by Merritt Garrison, a hired man of Parry's. At the time this fire occurred, there were some suspicious circumstances in connection with the fire, but not enough evidence to warrant the case being presented to the grand jury.

In June, 1924, an investigation was made by this department based upon a confession of Garrison that he (Garrison) set the fire at Parry's request. A special grand jury was called because the statute of limitation

would expire before the regular grand jury term. Parry was indicted on a charge of instigating the burning to collect heavy insurance. It appears that Parry has had numerous fires.

DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY

On February 25 and 26, 1924, twelve or thirteen separate fires broke out in the Harbach Furniture Factory. During our investigations, evidence was found which fully warranted the filing of information against Anton Hart, an employee of the Harbach Factory, for insanity. Hart was nineteen years old and came from Holland in February, 1923. In the hearing, Hart was adjudged insane and sent to the hospital at Clarinda for treatment. It is apparent that steps will be taken to deport Hart.

DAVENPORT, SCOTT COUNTY

About 2:40 A. M., February 24, 1924, a fire broke out in the candy kitchen owned by Spiro Jannes. It appears that there was \$21,500 insurance on contents valued at about \$11,000.00. Oil soaked papers and cans of different sizes containing oil and oily rags were found in the building. Oil had also been splashed around the rooms. Jannes was indicted for setting the fire to injure the insurance company. After a trial, lasting nine days, Jannes was acquitted. One of the state's witnesses testified that Jannes had offered him \$500.00 to set the fire. The witness further testified that he was offered \$2,000.00 if he would leave the country and not testify.

BETTENDORE, SCOTT COUNTY

About 12:10 A. M., December 2, 1923, a vacant dwelling house owned by W. F. Edmiston was destroyed by fire. One August Gaido claims that Edmiston tried to hire him to burn the property. Gaido then tried to hire Howard Knable to help burn the house. Knable refused. Gaido then tried to hire Gale Bliss to set the fire. All three of the boys deny that they had anything to do with setting the fire. Both Gaido and Edmiston were arrested on information received from the Deputy Fire Marshal, charging conspiracy. Later the case was dismissed by the County Attorney.

PLATT TOWNSHIP, TAYLOR COUNTY

During the night of February 26, 1924, several buildings were destroyed on the farm of Fred Payton which was occupied by Thomas Clarey. During the investigation, evidence was found which resulted in three indictments against Clarey, one for burning the house, one for burning the corn crib and one for grand larceny. Clarey was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary at Fort Madison for a term of ten years. Later he plead guilty on another count and five years were added to his sentence.

WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY

About 4:00 A. M., June 29, 1924, a fire occurred in the residence occupied by Clarence Goodwin. Coal oil was used in setting several fires. During the investigation, Goodwin made a clean-cut confession that he himself poured coal oil in several places and set the fire with a view toward collecting heavy insurance. Goodwin was fined \$300.00 and sentenced to jail for a term of eight months. The motive was to collect over insurance.

In one county where a number of farm fires had occurred, suspicion was directed toward a man of unsound mind. This man was sent to the asylum. Since that time, the number of suspicious fires has diminished.

Investigations were also made in Hancock County, Hamilton County, Des Moines County, Van Buren County and Wapello County and evidence in all of these cases was submitted to the county attorneys for the purpose of presenting it to the various grand juries.

TABLE NO. I

Showing the Total Number of Fires Reported by Counties and Cities of More Than 10,000, Damage to Buildings and Contents Combined, also Showing the Number of Fires Fully Covered by Insurance, and the Number of Fires Not Fully Covered by Insurance, and Excess of Loss over Insurance Carried.

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Loss	No. of Fires Fully Covered by Insurance	No. of Fires Not Fully Covered by Insurance	Excess of Loss Over Insurance Carried
Afair.....	24	\$ 56,000	12	12	\$ 23,300
Adams.....	12	32,758	7	5	8,700
Allamakee.....	13	26,003	6	7	9,771
Appanoose.....	43	171,844	28	15	69,785
Audubon.....	19	49,839	12	7	16,005
Benton.....	33	45,958	23	10	27,040
Black Hawk—Waterloo.....	106	167,271	185	11	3,245
Bal. Black Hawk Co.....	27	61,911	14	13	23,003
Boone—Boone.....	35	14,724	28	5	3,409
Bal. Boone Co.....	22	36,756	11	11	8,005
Bremer.....	22	40,966	14	8	14,705
Buchanan.....	19	40,069	8	11	11,238
Buena Vista.....	23	22,920	16	7	14,651
Buier.....	20	29,376	7	13	7,880
Cahoon.....	20	29,730	4	4	12,104
Carroll.....	20	62,002	17	13	18,462
Cass.....	37	51,184	25	12	19,159
Cedar.....	18	33,582	11	7	11,282
Cerro Gordo—Mason City.....	62	62,681	58	4	1,489
Bal. Cerro Gordo Co.....	18	59,891	12	6	13,000
Cherokee.....	20	37,323	23	7	19,821
Chickasaw.....	12	34,512	3	9	10,840
Clarke.....	23	44,408	13	10	9,373
Clay.....	37	101,320	28	9	37,742
Clayton.....	35	65,725	18	17	27,994
Clinton—Clinton.....	113	31,407	111	2	3,350
Bal. Clinton Co.....	27	86,965	14	13	35,748
Crawford.....	29	71,956	16	13	27,882
Dallas.....	33	70,525	13	20	20,240
Davis.....	19	36,733	7	12	29,835
Decatur.....	29	31,795	15	14	13,810
Delaware.....	13	46,445	5	8	13,480
Des Moines—Burlington.....	59	49,319	46	1	1,459
Bal. Des Moines Co.....	17	48,750	6	11	25,239
Dickinson.....	14	25,873	10	4	6,230
Dubuque—Dubuque.....	113	70,271	104	9	2,786
Bal. Dubuque Co.....	18	45,313	11	7	23,078
Emmet.....	13	28,374	5	8	5,146
Fayette.....	26	43,131	17	19	12,776
Floyd.....	25	27,800	30	9	6,400
Franklin.....	21	94,640	12	9	26,265
Fremont.....	33	91,797	21	12	25,128
Freese.....	28	29,546	15	13	15,315
Grundy.....	34	64,739	19	15	39,133
Guthrie.....	22	42,199	11	11	13,778
Hamilton.....	35	72,533	14	21	26,800
Hancock.....	9	26,517	8	1	5,483
Harrison.....	51	125,790	34	17	36,312
Harrison.....	28	45,874	29	9	14,700
Henry.....	21	15,045	18	3	8,265
Howard.....	8	13,675	5	3	5,830
Humboldt.....	8	22,125	4	4	4,300
Ia.....	19	51,674	10	9	17,720
Iowa.....	19	42,990	10	9	12,705
Jackson.....	28	234,122	17	11	59,214
Jasper.....	52	76,023	43	9	11,898
Jefferson.....	25	38,430	19	6	10,634

TABLE NO. I—(Continued)

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Loss	No. of Fires Fully Covered by Insurance	No. of Fires Not Fully Covered by Insurance	Excess of Loss Over Insurance Carried
Johnson—Iowa City	45	40,548	42	3	1,335
Bal. Johnson City	20	38,805	9	11	1,717
Jones	19	35,579	11	6	9,265
Keokuk	34	75,533	14	20	31,988
Kossuth	22	33,945	14	8	15,820
Lee—Pt. Madison	39	56,382	34	5	6,424
Keokuk	103	113,411	90	13	37,880
Bal. Lee Co.	16	44,340	4	12	2,903
Linn	104	88,034	154	10	22,392
Bal. Linn Co.	27	97,391	14	13	32,665
Louisiana	15	53,008	7	8	14,825
Lucas	12	32,241	6	6	7,476
Lyon	21	51,806	13	8	20,323
Madison	23	49,317	10	13	17,165
Mahaska—Oskaloosa	31	54,633	25	5	1,700
Bal. Mahaska Co.	18	55,643	7	11	23,703
Marion	64	77,951	50	14	18,635
Marshall—Marshalltown	90	58,492	85	5	3,601
Bal. Marshall Co.	23	33,236	11	11	11,790
Mills	30	43,302	15	15	19,032
Mitchell	28	241,971	15	12	38,690
Monona	17	19,850	10	7	11,420
Monroe	20	49,751	8	12	22,556
Montgomery	27	41,090	16	11	10,400
Muscatine—Muscatine	63	43,567	58	5	2,675
Bal. Muscatine	14	46,125	6	8	14,990
O'Brien	36	68,538	14	22	40,540
Oscola	19	20,514	10	9	14,240
Page	102	95,614	81	21	31,766
Palo Alto	15	39,255	7	8	9,810
Plymouth	23	43,992	14	9	11,275
Pocahontas	25	61,249	15	8	10,580
Polk—Des Moines	680	798,463	649	39	36,747
Bal. Polk Co.	88	59,329	23	15	29,321
Pottawattamie—Connell Bluffs	205	149,000	188	17	25,117
Bal. Pottawattamie Co.	27	53,668	15	12	18,324
Poweshiek	47	60,598	37	10	28,330
Ringgold	31	69,515	7	24	39,799
Sac	28	35,518	24	4	14,078
Scott—Davenport	250	304,610	246	4	12,994
Bal. Scott Co.	19	89,556	9	10	39,405
Shelby	30	58,123	13	7	30,135
Stonx	45	75,776	27	16	33,955
Story	60	88,069	50	10	25,805
Tama	23	38,983	15	8	7,310
Taylor	28	40,278	18	10	16,100
Union	20	25,515	10	10	10,505
Van Buren	23	29,572	12	11	7,590
Wapello—Ottumwa	111	75,889	108	3	4,325
Bal. Wapello Co.	31	51,612	19	12	14,585
Warren	19	45,655	7	12	13,390
Washington	20	21,767	12	8	6,623
Wayne	33	71,480	22	11	37,615
Webster—Fort Dodge	33	114,589	41	14	4,123
Bal. Webster Co.	30	119,964	13	17	48,934
Winneshiek	17	31,575	6	11	9,240
Winneshiek	18	29,732	10	8	8,568
Woodbury—Sioux City	436	143,710	412	24	6,584
Bal. Woodbury Co.	25	51,006	11	14	18,925
Worth	9	14,700	6	4	4,575
Wright	24	34,370	25	9	17,692
Total	5,435	\$ 7,929,630	4,201	1,234	\$ 2,000,307

TABLE NO. II
Showing the Nature and Character of the Buildings or Properties Destroyed or Damaged, the Value of Each, the Damage Thereto, the Value of the Contents of Each and the Damage Thereto, the Kind of Material of Which Each Was Constructed, for the Year 1924.

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Kinds of Buildings	
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick, Cement or Stone
Armory	1	\$ 00,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0	1
Auto salesroom and supplies	15	44,800	36,931	38,962	12,262	2	3
Automobiles and trucks	173	139,395	28,488	75	35	0	0
Bakeries	24	274,500	25,326	156,050	47,841	9	15
Banks	11	176,700	15,310	41,000	4,277	2	9
Barns	278	542,013	592,489	291,378	266,790	578	0
Barns—Farm	24	111,990	100,353	71,691	47,351	159	0
Town	4	43,023	4,134	0	0	0	5
Battery stations—lead and sales	12	58,750	4,304	58,162	17,138	7	0
Bridges, boats and boat houses	4	23,750	2,328	0	0	4	0
Cars—Box and bunk	14	22,550	4,610	4,610	3,265	14	0
Cars—Refrigerator	6	19,500	965	2,325	1,070	6	0
Street cars	4	115,418	4,303	0	0	0	0
Chicken brooders and poultry houses	32	79,944	79,944	112,825	39,332	67	13
Cleaning and dyeing plants	23	688,750	6,449	10,000	22,327	7	16
Corn cribs and granaries	23	183,850	6,449	84,709	15,213	17	0
Creameries, dairies and cream stations	14	12,400	12,400	16,297	15,702	13	0
Dance halls	14	169,800	19,325	139,185	17,835	10	4
Depots and freight houses	3	46,000	2,500	14,000	4,123	1	2
Dwellings—Town	437	1,325,900	3,655	46,000	12,300	895	42
Elevators	2,600	10,546,181	1,088,375	3,699,409	335,675	2,532	108
Engine and boiler rooms	17	44,335	109,233	74,653	41,043	13	6
Factories, various kinds	12	41,335	2,380	6,100	4,550	6	6
Filling stations and oil storage	69	6,295,175	235,692	2,705,658	36,236	17	42
Garages—Public	18	120,074	3,496	104,075	1,251	12	6
Garages—Private	132	60,003	24,922	117,250	1,339	13	4
Public	91	1,067,759	83,105	510,441	33,689	42	49

TABLE NO II—Continued

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Kinds of Buildings	
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick, Cement or Stone
Hay, grain and straw stacks.....	23	0	0	4,300	4,300	0	0
Hospitals.....	3	180,000	114	5,000	30	2	1
Hotels.....	39	1,537,500	29,022	643,800	19,136	15	24
House—Apartments, flats and fraternities.....	121	1,540,188	42,953	330,553	92,032	52	59
Old people and orphans.....	3	37,000	54	3,000	0	0	3
Summer, wash and kitchen.....	17	11,204	4,541	5,323	3,397	17	9
Hog.....	7	11,325	10,075	2,963	1,803	7	0
Ice.....	5	33,350	23,000	41,500	10,688	6	1
Junk yards.....	11	62,500	10,335	50,300	22,893	6	4
Laundries.....	13	688,000	7,849	404,000	2,332	4	9
Lodge halls.....	17	305,500	6,538	92,350	4,117	3	14
Lumber yards.....	12	32,500	19,661	348,256	100,953	8	1
Mills—Flour and feed.....	4	25,200	12,337	28,000	8,300	2	2
Offices and office buildings.....	68	3,443,500	24,225	455,550	44,644	13	56
Packing plants and stock yards.....	5	1,670,250	783	367,800	450	3	2
Photograph studios.....	7	103,000	1,273	41,800	3,349	1	6
Pool halls and bowling alleys.....	21	567,700	13,656	62,100	13,898	9	13
Post offices.....	5	32,200	9,240	5,500	3,325	4	1
Printing plants.....	14	124,200	3,072	340,500	20,991	6	8
Public buildings.....	9	4,841,000	6,751	6,375	435	4	5
Pump houses.....	2	24,475	16,965	15,150	5,163	7	2
Rendering plants and cafts.....	2	2	2	3,000	3,000	2	2
Restaurants and cafes.....	65	428,000	41,078	185,450	39,552	26	29
Roundhouses.....	2	5,000	17	72,750	0	2	0
School houses.....	30	1,255,800	100,336	36,700	29,150	16	14
Sheds—Coal, wood, etc.....	62	47,730	6,955	12,982	1,297	68	0
Tool and machine.....	18	22,300	11,032	28,000	9,370	18	0
Shops.....	23	48,700	9,343	21,000	4,359	15	8
Barber.....	10	22,900	5,338	29,000	13,419	12	4
Blacksmith and welding.....	6	8,440	753	8,000	1,375	4	2
Carpenter.....	7	121,000	2,285	42,230	12,483	5	2
Electric.....	5	26,175	5,965	15,150	6,358	3	2
Harness.....	4	62,500	2,235	53,000	5,005	3	1
Machine.....	12	81,800	2,655	47,500	3,602	7	5
Paint.....							
Plumbing.....	4	66,000	2,240	27,000	1,647	1	3
Shoe repair.....	8	45,550	3,991	9,450	4,984	6	2
Tailor.....	9	71,300	4,944	24,500	5,140	3	6
Upholstering.....	2	1,600	400	1,700	1,292	1	1
Vulcanizing.....	7	69,700	7,010	57,600	7,377	3	4
Skating rinks.....	1	1,500	1,500	200	200	1	0
Smoke houses.....	13	1,825	1,710	975	910	13	1
Soft drink parlors.....	3	27,000	1,763	2,800	200	1	2
Storage—Poultry and produce.....	8	66,950	21,475	128,950	34,820	8	0
Stores—Clothing.....	29	697,000	26,518	327,715	104,313	2	27
Confectionery.....	10	68,500	5,223	94,913	21,123	4	6
Drug.....	21	156,300	12,064	227,250	38,085	4	17
Dry goods and general merchandise.....	52	686,400	129,809	750,114	329,783	28	24
Flour and feed.....	7	66,000	5,438	18,075	5,473	5	2
Fruit, retail and wholesale.....	9	275,000	49,940	122,000	41,996	2	7
Furniture and carpet.....	14	928,000	37,585	464,500	99,496	6	8
Grocery.....	77	805,200	86,375	1,469,519	106,421	47	30
Hardware and implements.....	18	218,800	38,642	232,600	87,992	7	11
Jewelry.....	6	51,000	1,372	89,000	6,648	3	4
Ladies' ready-to-wear.....	4	77,000	1,538	51,844	27,320	0	4
Meat market.....	20	102,300	13,797	75,000	27,548	9	11
Millinery.....	6	20,000	750	10,000	2,850	1	5
Various kinds.....	29	729,350	46,513	239,837	66,905	11	18
Tanks.....	4	3,000	310	300	100	3	Iron
Tents and awnings.....	6	1,485	148	40	40	0	0
Theatres.....	25	356,800	28,947	86,850	17,640	7	18
Undertaking parlors.....	4	110,400	1,492	18,800	3,416	1	3
Wagons, milk and popcorn.....	6	1,150	320	30	30	6	0
Warehouses.....	45	338,150	68,687	314,668	99,243	32	13
Miscellaneous kind of material.....	14	106,845	18,311	134,900	7,700	10	4
Total.....	5,435	\$ 47,643,504	\$ 4,590,250	\$ 17,554,303	\$ 3,809,400	4,208	828
Grand total.....					\$ 4,560,250		
					\$ 7,929,650		

TABLE NO. III

Containing a Summary of the Origin and Cause of the Various Fires Reported, the Number of Each, and the Damage to the Buildings and Contents, for the Year 1924.

Causes	Number Fires	Loss
Adjoining	308	\$ 725,961
Ashes or live coals against wood	33	29,810
Automobile backfire and carburetor leak	32	18,406
Blow and oil torches	25	1,599
Bonfires	76	19,641
Brooder lamp and stoves	32	17,297
Candle carelessness	15	2,282
Children playing with matches	59	38,385
Cleaning clothing at home with gasoline	5	294
Clothing and bedding near stove or pipe	22	6,146
Coffee urn explosion	4	830
Curtains blowing into flame	7	1,411
Defective auto wiring	80	27,782
Defective electric appliances	19	45,717
Defective electric wires	164	362,416
Defective fire place	20	3,118
Defective flues	392	683,362
Defective flue stops	10	3,126
Defective gas and gasoline water heaters	3	576
Defective gas pipes and stoves (illuminating)	16	24,449
Defective heating plants, furnaces, etc.	43	191,612
Defective oil burners (domestic)	38	86,274
Defective oil and gasoline stoves	73	44,793
Defective pipes to stoves, etc.	112	143,536
Defective range and cook stoves	15	12,769
Electric irons with current left on	32	31,825
Electricity (static)	7	4,188
Flans	9	4,223
Fireworks	16	2,620
Friction	9	6,733
Fumigation	5	7,832
Furnace, coal and gas stove explosions	18	22,508
Gasoline or coal oil to start fire in stoves	8	14,674
Gasoline engine backfire	17	16,933
Gas explosion (illuminating)	3	1,241
Gasoline and oil stove carelessness	8	3,228
Gasoline and oil stove explosions	26	18,000
Gasoline and volatile oil explosions	76	96,397
Grease, paint, tar, etc., boiling over	29	32,661
Incendiary and probably incendiary	31	281,529
Lamp explosion and carelessness	22	20,353
Lantern carelessness and explosions	8	17,909
Lightning, no rods	149	328,394
Lightning, rodless	3	9,425
Lightning, running in on wires	3	13,175
Match carelessness	51	39,099
Matches and mice (supposed)	15	14,499
Oil cook stove carelessness	8	820
Overheated furnaces, stoves and ovens	179	349,344
Rubbish in basement	16	9,740
Smokers' carelessness	149	76,914
Smoking meat	15	7,277
Sparks from cupolas and foundries	9	1,101
Sparks from engines and locomotives	34	56,428
Sparks from flue	1,064	711,948
Sparks from forge	3	3,128
Sparks from stoves and fireplaces	22	25,073
Spontaneous combustion:		
Chemicals	1	16,262
Coal and coke	7	18,836
Dust	8	31,399
Grain	3	68,570
Hay and straw	26	77,897
Oily rags, waste and paint	29	100,666

TABLE NO. III—(Continued)

Causes	Number Fires	Loss
Rubbish	24	14,573
Thawing water pipes	28	3,696
Tramps and thieves	4	19,680
Unknown	970	2,983,641
Miscellaneous, one and two each	28	32,154
Totals	5,435	\$ 7,929,600