

*State Fire Marshal*

State of Iowa

1943

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THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*State Fire Marshal*

TO THE

HON. BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER

GOVERNOR OF IOWA

FOR THE YEAR

1942

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JOHN W. STROHM

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Des Moines, Iowa, January 31, 1943

HON. BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, *Governor of Iowa,*

Des Moines, Iowa

SIR:

In compliance with the provisions of law, I have the honor to submit the Thirty-second Annual Report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1942, and ending December 31, 1942, both dates inclusive.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM,  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

On September 24, 1942, Hon. Geo. A. Wilson, then Governor of Iowa, issued the following Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 4 - 10, 1942:

PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF IOWA, GREETINGS:

Each time the aggressor nations strike at another peace-loving people, one of their best weapons is the burning flames of destruction, whether started from the air, by sabotage or by accident.

It is reliably reported that more American lives were lost by fire in the first six months of 1942 than in the armed services. The Iowa fire loss for this period amounted to \$2,190,-934.

It becomes increasingly important that every citizen and property owner familiarize himself or herself with the principles of prevention of fire and the putting out of fire, whether in time of peace or war.

Every Iowa fireman devotes his life to the work of saving person and property from the ravages of fire. They are entitled to the sincere congratulations and the whole-hearted cooperation of all.

Therefore, I, Geo. A. Wilson, do hereby designate and proclaim the week of October 4 to 10, 1942, as

IOWA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

and urge all citizens to make study and take appropriate action in fire prevention and protection, and to remember that when we "Keep the Home Fire Burning" these must not be fires that destroy.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Iowa. Done at Des Moines, this 3rd day of September, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-two, the State of Iowa, the Ninety-sixth, and of the Independence of the United States the One Hundred and Sixty-seventh.

(SEAL)

GEO. A. WILSON,  
GOVERNOR.

## STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

One of the best weapons of the aggressor nations is the burning flames of destruction, whether started from the air, by sabotage, or accident.

Therefore, it becomes the duty of every citizen and property owner to familiarize himself, or herself, with the principles of prevention of fire, and extinguishing fires, in time of peace or war.

Our fire loss amounted to \$3,602,151 in Iowa in 1942, an increase of \$147,108 over the fire loss for 1941.

Iowa, located as it is in the middle west, plays an important part in supplying the food and equipment for our armed forces, and the allies, and we must see to it that our cities, towns and rural communities are fully protected from destruction by fire.

We must protect the Nation's bread basket from fire as well as protect our industrial plants which are producing the implements of war.

The men in the armed forces are drawn from every walk of life, the city, the town, the village and the farm. They are dependent on those of us at home for food, clothing, weapons and other necessities to be used in the protection of our freedom.

Every fire removes a source of supply to these men. Every fire requires the use of vital materials to replace the damage.

Let us remember that Fire is a Friend of the Enemy. Fight fires with FIRE PREVENTION and Beat the Enemy.

### FIRE LOSS

In checking the fire records for 1942, we find that 15½ per cent of the total fire loss occurred in farm dwellings, 13½ per cent occurred in town dwellings, and 10 per cent occurred in farm barns.

### CAUSE OF FIRES

33 per cent of Iowa's fires were of "Unknown" origin, 7 per cent were caused by Defective Electric Wiring, 5 per cent by Sparks from Chimney, 4½ per cent by Defective and over-heated stoves and heating plants, 4 per cent by Lightning—not rodded, 3 per cent by spontaneous combustion in hay and

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

### DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

Appointed by the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
Term, Four Years, Expires July 1, 1943

Office	Name	Legal Residence	County
Fire Marshal	John W. Strohm	Clinton	Clinton
Assistant	A. Lubberden	Pella	Marion
Assistant	C. W. Cornell	Bedford	Taylor
Assistant	Zack T. Cook	Des Moines	Polk
Secretary	Olive R. Sly	Boone	Boone

straw, 3 per cent by spontaneous combustion in rags and rubbish, and 21½ per cent by smoker's carelessness.

### CIVILIAN DEFENSE

As State Fire Coordinator, the State Fire Marshal has made a survey of all fire departments relative to the type and amount of fire equipment in each department.

Forms were sent to fire chiefs in each county seat town with a request that they call a meeting of all fire chiefs in the county. Meetings were called and every fire chief was given information as to the fire equipment in his neighboring town on which he can depend in an emergency.

We also made a survey of fire departments to ascertain just how many of them answer rural fire alarms and found that about 60 per cent of the fire departments responded to fire calls in the rural district.

This Department has taken an active part in Fire Defense Schools at the Iowa State College and throughout the state. A representative from this office took the complete basic training course at the Iowa State College and has assisted in putting on fire defense demonstrations in 50 fire defense meetings, in addition to 25 demonstrations on the use and care of gas masks.

25,000 adults and children have been reached through these meetings, and 163 showings have been given of the fire defense pictures, "Fighting the Fire Bomb," "London Fire Raids," "The Warning," and several other similar films.

In addition to this work, the office has had a part in the organization and instruction of Rural Fire Protective Defense work, sponsored by the Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa, under the direction of Professor R. K. Bliss and Harold Beatty, and meetings have been held in 46 Iowa towns.

Two Iowa firemen were chosen and given a complete Instructor's course at the Fire Defense Instructors' School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and classes in fire defense are being held throughout the state under the supervision of Mr. Lindon J. Murphy, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

The Farm Fire Prevention Committee, including the Chairman of the Civilian Defense organization in each county,

County Agents, local insurance agents, both stock and mutual companies, have had fire prevention meetings in 88 counties in Iowa.

### INSPECTIONS

339 inspections have been made by the State Fire Marshal's office and Orders issued for the removal of fire hazards, correction of compressed gas installations, erection and repair of fire escapes.

Frequent and thorough inspections aid in the elimination of fire hazards, thereby reducing the annual fire loss.

Your Fire Department will be glad to assist you in making an inspection in your home to ascertain the location of fire hazards.

The removal of fire hazards will not only protect your own life and property, but may save the life and property of your neighbor.

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

12,000 Fire Prevention Week posters and Fire Prevention material were mailed out to Fire Chiefs, County Superintendents of Schools, school teachers, school children and service clubs.

Fire Prevention and Fire Defense pictures were shown and addresses made to 21,280 adults and children.

Four radio talks were made by the State Fire Marshal over Iowa stations; One recording was made and used by all radio stations in Iowa.

### IOWA STATE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

The Iowa State Fire Prevention Association, a non-profit organization, reports as follows:

34 addresses to 7,922 school children.

6 addresses to 4,224 adults.

16 radio stations gave 35 Fifteen-minute periods

1 radio station gave a 30-minute period for a round table discussion.

Estimated radio coverage, 500,000.

## IOWA FIRE SCHOOL

The annual Fire School sponsored by the Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa, in June 1942, under the supervision of Mr. Lindon J. Murphy, Engineering Extension Service, was attended by 429 Iowa firemen, representing 114 Iowa towns.

The 1943 Fire School will be held in Ames, the week of June 21, 1943.

## TO FIRE CHIEFS, MAYORS AND TOWNSHIP CLERKS:

Sections 1624, 1625, 1626 and 1627, Code, Iowa, 1939, provide that all fires shall be reported to this office within one week of the occurrence of such fires; reports of fires in cities and towns to be made by the Chief of the Fire Department, and fires that occur OUTSIDE of the corporate limits of cities and towns are to be reported by the township clerk for the township in which the fire occurred.

## FIRE LOSS RECORDS

In view of the small number of fires reported from some counties, we are inclined to believe that all fires are not reported as required by law. We find no fires have been reported from one county, only ONE fire from another county, two fires each from three other counties, three fires each from two counties, and a similar record is shown in 31 counties in Iowa.

If all fire reports are sent to this office promptly all through the year, it will help us keep our records up to date and not pile the work up at the end of the year.

We will appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

## FIRE DRILLS

We are at a loss to understand the attitude of those who think fire drills are unnecessary in schools, factories and industrial plants. Preparedness in an emergency may save a life.

Complaints are received in this office that no fire drills are held in schools in some cities and towns in Iowa, while the state law provides for fire drills as follows:

## SECTION 1651, Code, Iowa, 1939—

"1651. FIRE DRILLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—EXITS UNLOCKED. It shall be the duty of the state fire marshal and his designated subordinate to require teachers of public and private schools, in all buildings of more than one story, to have at least one fire drill each month, and to require all teachers of such schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during school hours."

## ARSON INVESTIGATIONS

Arson investigations have been made in 43 counties in 1942, and cases of special interest are submitted for your information.

**APPANOOSE COUNTY:** Assisted by local and County officials, this office investigated two barn fires that occurred on a small farm near Centerville. A boy, 14 years of age, admitted burning these barns and was placed in the custody of his parents.

**BOONE COUNTY:** This Department assisted by local officials, made an investigation of a barn fire, and found that two boys, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  and 6 years of age, while playing with matches, started a fire in the dwelling which was extinguished, and then started a fire in the barn which was a total loss.

**CERRO GORDO COUNTY:** At the request of County officials and assisted by them, we made an investigation of a fire which occurred in a mercantile building in Ventura. The owner of the building was arrested and plead guilty to the crime of arson and was sentenced to serve not to exceed ten years in the State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa.

**DES MOINES COUNTY:** At the request of local officials and assisted by them, we made an investigation of a fire that caused approximately \$10,000 damage to a warehouse and junk yard in Burlington, Iowa. Two boys, ages 9 and 10, admitted starting this fire, together with several other fires. They had been in the custody of the Police several times for various misdemeanors and this case was placed in the hands of the Juvenile authorities.

**DES MOINES COUNTY:** An investigation was made of a factory building fire where one of the employees was suspected and after some questioning, confessed setting this fire. He

was then committed to the State institution at Mt. Pleasant for treatment.

**JOHNSON COUNTY:** At the request of and assisted by local officials, this Department investigated an incendiary fire that occurred in a Department Store basement in Iowa City, Iowa. A small boy admitted starting this fire and the following day a fire occurred in an apartment building which he also admitted starting.

This case was presented to the Juvenile Judge by the County Probation Officer and the boy placed in a Juvenile Home.

**MADISON COUNTY:** Assisted by local and County officials, we made an investigation of a dwelling house fire, where a friend of the owner was suspected of having set the fire. He confessed setting the fire, and was sentenced to two years in the State Penitentiary on a charge of "Attempt to defraud".

**MITCHELL COUNTY:** Several mysterious fires having occurred in Osage, Iowa, over a period of several months, this Department was notified and with the assistance of local officials, made an investigation which resulted in the arrest and conviction of a prominent business man in the town. He was sentenced to the State Penitentiary in Fort Madison.

**MUSCATINE COUNTY:** At the request of the local fire chief and assisted by him, and by the county and state officers, we made an investigation of a garage fire wherein the burned body of a man was found. The owner of this garage admitted killing the man and setting fire to the garage. He was sentenced to the state penitentiary for life.

**POLK COUNTY:** An investigation was made by this Department covering a barn fire that occurred in West Des Moines. Three boys, ages 13, 17 and 13, admitted burning the barn and the case was placed in the hands of the Juvenile authorities of Polk County.

**RINGGOLD COUNTY:** An investigation was made of a dwelling house fire, the suspect confessed, and was sentenced to the Women's Reformatory in Rockwell City, Iowa.

**TAMA COUNTY:** We made an investigation of a dwelling house fire in 1941, and the case was tried in the District Court in January 1942. The suspect was found guilty of Arson, and was sentenced to twenty years in the Womens' Reformatory in Rockwell City, Iowa. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, and in December 1942, the Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the lower court.

**VAN BUREN COUNTY:** At the request of the County Officers and assisted by them, this Department investigated a fire which occurred in a granary on a farm near Mt. Sterling, Iowa.

Two boys admitted starting this fire and both were committed by the Court to the Iowa Juvenile Home in Toledo, Iowa.

#### IOWA FIRE DEATHS

Careless handling of gasoline, smoker's carelessness, match carelessness, children playing with matches, bonfires, and other similar fires caused the death of One Hundred men, women and children in Iowa in 1942.

Ten of these deaths occurred during the last week of November. This fact alone clearly shows the real need of extra fire prevention work.

Prevent fires, and save a life.

#### FARM FIRES

The farm fire loss dropped from \$1,314,022 for 1941, to \$1,121,000 for 1942.

We believe the reduction in this item is due to the farm fire equipment in rural farm communities throughout the state, fire prevention education in our schools, the work of the 4-H Clubs in Fire Prevention, and farm people cooperating with all fire prevention organizations in an effort to reduce our farm fire loss.

\$803,337 of our farm loss occurred in farm barns and farm dwellings.

Farm barn fires are caused by spontaneous combustion in hay, lightning, lantern carelessness, match carelessness, smoker's carelessness, gasoline carelessness, etc.

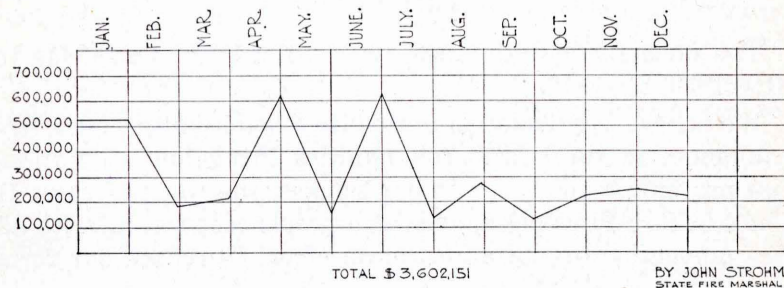
The principal causes of farm dwelling fires being defective flues, defective and overheated stoves and heating plants, sparks from chimney, defective oil and gasoline stoves, match carelessness, smoker's carelessness, using kerosene or gasoline to start fires, etc.

Careless handling of gasoline has been responsible for a great many farm fires, and numerous deaths by fire.

IOWA'S FIRE LOSS

(Compiled by Months)

MONTH	1939	1940	1941	1942
January	\$ 361,463	\$ 612,782	\$ 357,690	\$ 517,426
February	700,392	512,382	398,858	189,349
March	388,877	516,999	615,546	206,338
April	450,411	438,048	442,068	613,246
May	298,258	211,230	211,965	155,516
June	313,588	230,681	73,782	644,386
July	343,695	392,640	158,757	142,450
August	214,636	389,593	165,720	286,134
September	384,744	228,768	217,146	131,235
October	429,750	356,922	265,704	234,999
November	470,149	168,620	228,137	242,072
December	389,946	390,556	319,670	239,000
	\$4,745,909	\$4,449,221	\$3,455,043	\$3,602,151



This graph, compiled by the State Fire Marshal's office, shows the monthly fire loss in Iowa for 1942.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS

The National fire loss for the first 11 months of 1942 amounted to \$278,380,000.

IOWA'S PER CAPITA FIRE LOSS

Year	Fire Loss	Per Capita
1939	\$4,745,909	\$1.87
1940	4,449,921	1.75
1941	3,455,043	1.43
1942	3,602,151	1.43

TABLE NO. I

Showing the total number of fires reported by counties. Cities of more than 10,000 are set out separately. Damage to buildings and contents is combined.

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adair	6	\$ 18,185
Adams	3	3,535
Allamakee	6	15,966
Appanoose	37	95,087
Audubon	9	4,917
Benton	16	25,304
Black Hawk—Waterloo	151	115,343
Balance—Black Hawk County	19	24,284
Boone—Boone	69	14,188
Balance—Boone County	9	27,460
Bremer	8	19,131
Buchanan	19	27,244
Buena Vista	16	15,254
Butler	11	29,975
Calhoun	5	9,825
Carroll	20	9,266
Cass	42	27,453
Cedar	24	36,974
Cerro Gordo—Mason City	82	25,405
Balance—Cerro Gordo County	10	11,636
Cherokee	15	18,214
Chickasaw	4	2,455
Clarke	13	11,280
Clay	19	30,157
Clayton	14	8,858
Clinton—Clinton	77	28,697
Balance—Clinton County	12	28,090
Crawford	11	9,470
Dallas	23	41,395
Davis	12	11,887
Decatur	2	21,000
Delaware	13	19,357
Des Moines—Burlington	122	49,571
Balance—Des Moines County	6	20,573
Dickinson	8	60,705



TABLE NO. I Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Dubuque—Dubuque	111	394,013
Balance—Dubuque County	6	9,446
Emmet	11	74,515
Fayette	35	19,531
Floyd	10	18,890
Franklin	10	20,967
Fremont	16	39,782
Greene	15	19,721
Grundy	16	27,143
Guthrie	7	5,626
Hamilton	14	10,496
Hancock	2	416
Hardin	20	18,685
Harrison	27	29,877
Henry	10	28,932
Howard	15	20,729
Humboldt	12	13,820
Ida	14	6,443
Iowa	9	3,670
Jackson	16	20,537
Jasper	46	29,944
Jefferson	38	19,202
Johnson—Iowa City	58	45,990
Balance—Johnson County	12	24,174
Jones	5	24,620
Keokuk	13	9,793
Kossuth	6	17,585
Lee—Fort Madison	18	132,753
Keokuk	41	13,691
Balance—Lee County	10	14,167
Linn—Cedar Rapids	139	99,036
Balance—Linn County	19	10,307
Louisa	7	44,520
Lucas	5	8,083
Lyon	5	3,277
Madison	23	15,029
Mahaska—Oskaloosa	29	24,361
Balance—Mahaska County	22	33,485
Marion	30	8,324
Marshall—Marshalltown	46	69,339
Balance—Marshall County	1	3,450
Mills	9	9,027
Mitchell	9	4,361
Monona	3	45,450
Monroe	17	13,437
Montgomery	23	19,021
Muscatine—Muscatine	66	75,435
Balance—Muscatine County	19	42,687
O'Brien	30	38,115
Osceola	2	5,150
Page	15	19,148
Palo Alto	13	19,206
Plymouth	17	23,560
Pocahontas	7	7,390
Polk—Des Moines	814	211,341
Balance—Polk County	24	14,031
Pottawattamie—Council Bluffs	120	30,314
Balance—Pottawattamie County	16	19,153

TABLE NO. I Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Poweshiek	31	21,069
Ringgold	13	3,564
Sac	13	32,179
Scott—Davenport	135	65,388
Balance—Scott County	13	34,760
Shelby	8	960
Sioux	13	11,787
Story—Ames	33	3,386
Balance—Story County	28	26,835
Tama	19	15,651
Taylor	13	4,395
Union	11	22,125
Van Buren	17	24,613
Wapello—Ottumwa	73	88,839
Balance—Wapello County	7	10,923
Warren	26	65,823
Washington	10	24,325
Wayne	12	3,070
Webster—Fort Dodge	51	16,851
Balance—Webster County	18	27,871
Winnebago	0	0
Winneshiek	13	2,595
Woodbury—Sioux City	205	57,803
Balance—Woodbury County	7	12,690
Worth	6	10,885
Wright	25	34,425
	3,866	\$3,602,151

TABLE NO. II

Showing the kind of property destroyed. Damage to Buildings and contents set out separately.

Kind of Property	No. Fires	Damage Buildings	Damage Contents
Automobiles	304	\$ 19,716	\$ 543
Trucks	60	16,746	1,747
Auto Accessories	6	2,871	3,966
Auto Repair Shops	4	1,620	3,055
Tire Shops	5	9,536	22,358
Awnings	37	1,600	0
Bakeries	9	1,615	1,129
Banks	2	0	2,515
Barns—FARM	116	241,125	123,554
TOWN	56	15,323	6,904
Beer Taverns	25	9,822	13,253
Bridges	1	25	0
Cars—Box Cars and Coal Cars	7	1,135	2,336
Passenger and Street Cars and Buses	8	605	0
Car Repair Shops and Roundhouses	3	175	450
Chicken Brooders and Hatcheries	62	11,567	15,208
Chicken Houses and Poultry Houses	22	7,025	5,090
Churches	23	49,601	4,536
Cleaning and Dyeing	13	2,731	2,193

TABLE NO. II Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Damage Buildings	Damage Contents
Coal Mines	0	0	0
Corn Cribs and Granaries	15	14,950	16,451
Creameries—Cream Stations and Dairies	11	7,686	3,647
Dance Halls	3	15,085	3,157
Depots—Freight and Passenger	3	2,020	0
Elevators and Seed Houses	11	79,860	44,957
Engine and Boiler Rooms	2	2,602	1,505
Factories	52	121,442	381,414
Filling Stations	29	5,896	3,145
Oil Storage	3	2,734	2,595
Foundries	3	611	0
Funeral Homes	6	2,463	664
Garages—Private	167	22,552	27,034
Public	34	21,126	16,452
Hay, Grain and Straw Stacks, Grain Fields, and Meadows	16	3,876	0
Hog Houses	12	3,892	3,020
Hospitals and Nurses' Homes	6	12,614	5,674
Hotels	30	7,196	2,268
Houses—Apartments	120	40,114	23,094
Fraternity	5	239	261
Farm	228	438,658	129,424
Town	1,681	346,732	141,784
Rooming Houses	17	7,029	2,633
Summer Kitchen & Wash Houses	11	1,405	2,208
Laundries	11	16,879	14,205
Lodge Halls	6	2,634	979
Lumber Yards	4	15,890	41,567
Meat Markets	4	1,071	509
Mills—Feed Mills and Feed Stores	2	3,525	10,000
Flour	2	0	417
Office and Office Buildings	34	3,305	8,136
Packing Plants and Stock Yards	8	3,368	15,040
Pool Halls—Bowling Alleys	9	4,526	1,864
Printing Plants	11	21,624	19,157
Produce Houses	4	2,600	2,381
Pump and Engine Houses	5	903	1,343
Restaurants, Cafes and Lunch Rooms	55	9,613	8,091
Schools	10	9,835	4,741
Sheds—Coal and Wood	63	6,368	2,020
Machine Sheds	16	9,888	17,104
Shops—Barber	5	600	371
Blacksmith	8	3,190	4,632
Carpenter and Work Shops	5	2,780	3,723
Hair Dressing Shops	1	0	292
Plumbing and Heating	1	70	0
Shoe Repair Shops	5	2,043	3,625
Smoke Houses	4	514	70
Stores	167	200,661	276,274
Theatres	13	14,244	15,298
Trailer Houses	11	379	429
Warehouses and Storage	67	51,957	66,394
Miscellaneous	107	59,994	61,184
	3,866	\$2,002,081	\$1,600,070
			2,002,081
			\$3,602,151

TABLE NO. III

Cause of Fire	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adjoining	157	\$ 157,364
Ashes and Coal Against Wood	37	7,540
Auto Backfire	30	7,772
Auto Wreck	5	5,650
Broken Gas Line—Alcohol on Motor	55	5,911
Blow and Oil Torches	41	10,952
Bonfires, Grass Fires	155	42,076
Brooder Lamps and Stoves	53	28,973
Candle, Lamp and Lantern Carelessness	8	1,181
Children with Matches	103	12,922
Cleaning Clothing, Rugs and Floors with Gasoline	8	1,746
Clothing too Near Stoves and Stovepipes	19	997
Compressed Gas	4	4,765
Curtains Blowing into Flames	11	3,571
Defective Auto Wiring	133	20,169
Defective Electric Wiring	178	263,440
Defective Electric Cords, Lamps, Appliances and Neon Signs	39	10,900
Defective Electric Appliances	14	7,253
Defective Fireplace	13	486
Defective Flues	232	183,718
Defective and Overheated Stoves and Heating Plants	162	153,562
Defective Oil Burners	13	23,600
Defective Oil and Gasoline Stoves	132	37,969
Defective and Overheated Pipes to Stoves and Furnaces	91	35,738
Dust in Hot Air Registers	4	2,772
Electric Iron—Current Left On	12	1,772
Films	4	1,688
Fireworks	1	41
Friction	6	7,850
Fumigation	2	114
Gas Leak	3	745
Gasoline and Kerosene carelessness	67	43,177
Gasoline and Volatile Oil Explosion	7	23,735
Grease, Paint, Tar, Wax and Food Boiling Over	34	12,487
Incendiary	18	7,828
Lightning—Not Rodded	94	134,685
Rodded	6	22,200
Lightning Running in on Radio Wires	5	1,333
Match Carelessness	39	8,783
Rubbish Piled Against Furnace and Flues	15	5,525
Short Circuit—Electric Motors, Refrigerators, Etc.	109	70,908
Smoker's Carelessness	367	82,114
Smoking Meat	5	2,261
Sparks From Engines and Locomotives	16	13,821
Sparks From Chimney	627	191,658
Sparks From Stoves and Furnaces	34	32,235
Spontaneous Combustion—Coal-Dust	14	23,616
Hay, Straw, Grain, Feed	32	100,555
Rags—Rubbish	82	110,132
Shavings—Sawdust	4	383
Static Electricity	6	4,221
Thawing Water Pipes	5	144
Unknown	439	1,186,045
Using Gasoline and Kerosene to Start Fires	9	22,503
Miscellaneous	107	458,565
	3,866	\$3,602,151

### CONCLUSION

We want to take this opportunity to thank all Iowa citizens who have taken an active part in Iowa's Fire Prevention campaign, for the interest they have taken in reducing Iowa's fire loss, in the preservation of life and property in our state.

We also want to thank the radio stations, the newspapers, local, county and state officials who have given of their time to help in the War Against Fire.

It is the duty of every American citizen to Fight Fire With Fire Prevention, therefore, we must start RIGHT NOW to PREVENT FIRES.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM, *State Fire Marshal*  
DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

