

*State fire marshal*

Returned to Department

State of Iowa  
1945

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THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# State Fire Marshal

FOR THE YEAR

1944

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION

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Published by  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
Des Moines



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Des Moines, Iowa, January 31, 1945

HON. ROBERT D. BLUE, *Governor of Iowa.*  
Des Moines, Iowa

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of law, I have the honor to submit the Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1944, and ending December 31, 1944, both dates inclusive.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM,  
*State Fire Marshal.*

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

Appointed by the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety,  
Term, Four Years, Expires July 1, 1947

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.....
Assistant.....	*Paul E. Hodgson.....	Alden.....	Hardin.....
Secretary.....	Olive R. Sly.....	Boone.....	Boone.....
Stenographer.....	Grace Foster.....	Des Moines.....	Polk.....

\*(On leave of absence—in military service)

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

We have come to the end of another year of war, a war that goes on year after year in Iowa—The War Against Fire.

Iowa's War Against Fire has resulted in the reduction of our fire loss amounting to \$516,175 less than the 1943 fire loss.

Farm fire losses have been reduced by \$310,306.

Town dwelling fires were responsible for 14 per cent of the total fire loss, while factory fires were responsible for 10 per cent of the loss.

Factory fires mean a slowing down of war production inasmuch as a large percentage of Iowa's factories are engaged in producing vital war material.

Defective electric wiring caused 4 per cent of the 1944 fire loss, Defective flues, 3½ per cent, Defective and overheated stoves and furnaces, 6 per cent, Lightning, (not rodded) 4½ per cent, Smoker's Carelessness, 3½ per cent, Sparks from chimney, 4 per cent, Spontaneous combustion in rags and rubbish, 7 per cent, and Unknown, 32 per cent.

THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL SAYS

Be extra careful with cigarettes. When through with them, make positive they're not burning. Never smoke in the attic, in the garage, or in bed.

Keep ashes in metal trash cans. Burn regularly in a brick or metal incinerator. Watch the fire!

Check up on your furnace downstairs—and that goes for your chimney too. If repairs are needed, have them made at once.

Don't substitute a penny for a fuse. When a fuse blows out, replace it with a new one.

Gas is a motor fuel. Don't use it for cleaning purposes. Keep it out of the house.

Handle your iron and other electrical devices with care. Have your home checked regularly for faulty wiring.

Don't hesitate to ask the advice of a fireman when you want fire protection information. Know where your nearest fire box is located—and the telephone number at the fire house.

If your clothes catch on fire, don't run. Roll up in a rug and smother the fire.

Right now is a good time to start thinking of all these things.

*Make Every Week Fire Prevention Week.*

The farm fire loss for 1942 was \$1,121,000, for 1943, it was \$1,341,012, and \$1,030,706 for 1944.

Fires in farm barns and farm dwellings cost \$728,540, the balance of the farm fire loss covering other farm buildings, corn cribs, granaries, machine sheds, and other miscellaneous buildings.

In 1943 there were 210 farm dwelling fires resulting in a fire loss of \$610,809.

Effective farm fire prevention has helped reduce this item to 169 farm dwelling fires at a cost of \$353,515 or a reduction of 41 fires and \$257,294.

Removal of fire hazards pays.

Our farm dwelling fires have averaged \$2,091 per fire. With more farm fire fighting equipment this average fire loss can and will be reduced from year to year.

There were 1,536 *town dwelling* fires with a fire loss of \$611,645, or an average of \$398 per fire.

If you will compare the average fire loss for farm dwellings with the average town dwelling fire loss, you will readily see the need for more and better farm fire protection.

## FARM FIRE CONTROL PROGRAM

Iowa's rural fire prevention program is moving forward. The Farm Fire Control Program was made possible through the cooperation of the Farm Bureau organization, Farmers Mutual Reinsurance Association, Iowa Association of Mutual Associations, the Extension Service of the Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, and other Fire Prevention groups with the State Fire Marshal as Chairman.

4000 rural school children have made 5000 fire hazard inspections of farmsteads, 4300 hazards were found and 1700 hazards removed. 647 schools have taken part in the contest.

Cash awards of \$220 were made by The Farmers' Mutual Reinsurance Association, the Iowa Association of Mutual Insurance Associations and Radio Station WHO. The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation also presented plaques to the County Superintendents in which over half of the rural schools took part in the campaign.

The ten winning schools were in the following counties: O'Brien, Adair, Hamilton, Allamakee, Floyd, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Union, Ringgold and Winneshiek.

This is a portion of Iowa's Fire Prevention program carried on throughout the year—frequent Fire Prevention programs are held through the year. Fire Prevention films are shown as part of the Fire Prevention Educational program.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Report of the Iowa State Fire Prevention Association:

26 addresses to school children

6,271 school children addressed

3 addresses to 134 adults

Radio address made by State Fire Marshal over Station WHO, Des Moines, Iowa.

Iowa State Fire Prevention Association prepared a recorded fifteen minute interview between State Fire Marshal, John W. Strohm, and Fred E. Brake, Chairman of the Speakers Bureau of the Iowa State Fire Prevention Association. Copies of the recording were furnished and broadcast over Iowa radio stations:

KSO .....	Des Moines
KRNT .....	Des Moines
KBIZ .....	Ottumwa
KFNF .....	Shenandoah
KVFD .....	Fort Dodge
KXEL .....	Waterloo
KBUR .....	Burlington
WKBB .....	Dubuque
WOC .....	Davenport
WOI .....	Ames
WSUI .....	Iowa City

There were 15,000 Fire Prevention Week posters and other fire prevention material mailed out by the State Fire Marshal for Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14, 1944.

Fire Prevention meetings were held and Fire Prevention films shown in seven Iowa towns during Fire Prevention Week, in addition to Fire Prevention programs in the schools.

## ANNUAL FIRE SCHOOL

Plans are under way for the 1945 Annual Fire School at Ames, Iowa, and we are looking forward to a good attendance at the school.

We feel this school is important to all Iowa firemen and you should make arrangements early to attend the Fire School.

Get in touch with your City or Town Council and obtain their permission to attend the School.

Dates for the School will be announced later.

## FIRE CHIEFS, MAYORS AND TOWNSHIP CLERKS:

Since our fire records are closed on January 15, each year, no fire reports received after that date can be entered on the records for the preceding year.

When your reports are held back until the end of the year, it causes an unnecessary amount of work in the office when the statistical records are being checked and you can help yourself, and this office, by sending your reports in promptly all through the year rather than at the close of the year when the fire loss is normally greater than any other time.

Sections 1624, 1625, 1626 and 1627, Code, Iowa, 1939, provide that all fires shall be reported to the State Fire Marshal within one week of the occurrence of the fire, and complete information on all fires shall be given by the reporting officer.

ALL questions in the fire report must be answered fully.

Fires that occur within the corporate limits of cities and towns must be reported by the Fire Chief, if a fire department exists, if not, then the Mayor is required to report the fires.

Fires that occur outside of the corporate limits of cities and towns must be reported by the Township Clerk for the Township in which the fire occurs.

## INSPECTIONS

221 fire hazard inspections have been made in 44 counties in 1944.

Frequent and regular inspections are the first step in the elimination of fire hazards.

Every fire hazard eliminated reduces the danger of fire in your home or place of business.

Your local Fire Department will be glad to help you in the inspection of your property.

## FIRE ESCAPE INSPECTIONS

645 fire escape inspections have been made, covering Iowa schools, apartment buildings, and other public buildings.

## FIRE DRILLS IN SCHOOLS

Fire drills in schools are required by law, 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.

Fire drills are part of the Fire Prevention Educational program for Iowa, and we urge all teachers to conduct frequent and orderly fire drills to enable school children to know what to do and how to take care of themselves and help less fortunate children in the school in an emergency.

## STATE WAR INSPECTION SERVICE

This service is conducted as a war effort by the fire insurance companies operated in the State of Iowa, and deals directly with various War Department subdivisions, John W. Strohm, State Fire Marshal, Director.

The work done consists of the inspection of war essential facilities or manufacturing plants, the inspecting being done by eighty-eight fire insurance field representatives, their work being evaluated by a committee of seven insurance men who report the evaluated findings direct to army personnel, and at the same time conducting a follow-up system for the purpose of obtaining hazard correction. This follow-up system is conducted directly with facility management, and such corrections as are obtained are likewise evaluated to army personnel.

So far the Service has inspected 304 plants, and have obtained a very satisfactory number of hazard corrections which have, we are sure, eliminated the possibility of fire in these essential industries.

The Service has been graciously received by essential plant management, and is considered of inestimable value by the various interested governmental departments.

DWELLING FIRES

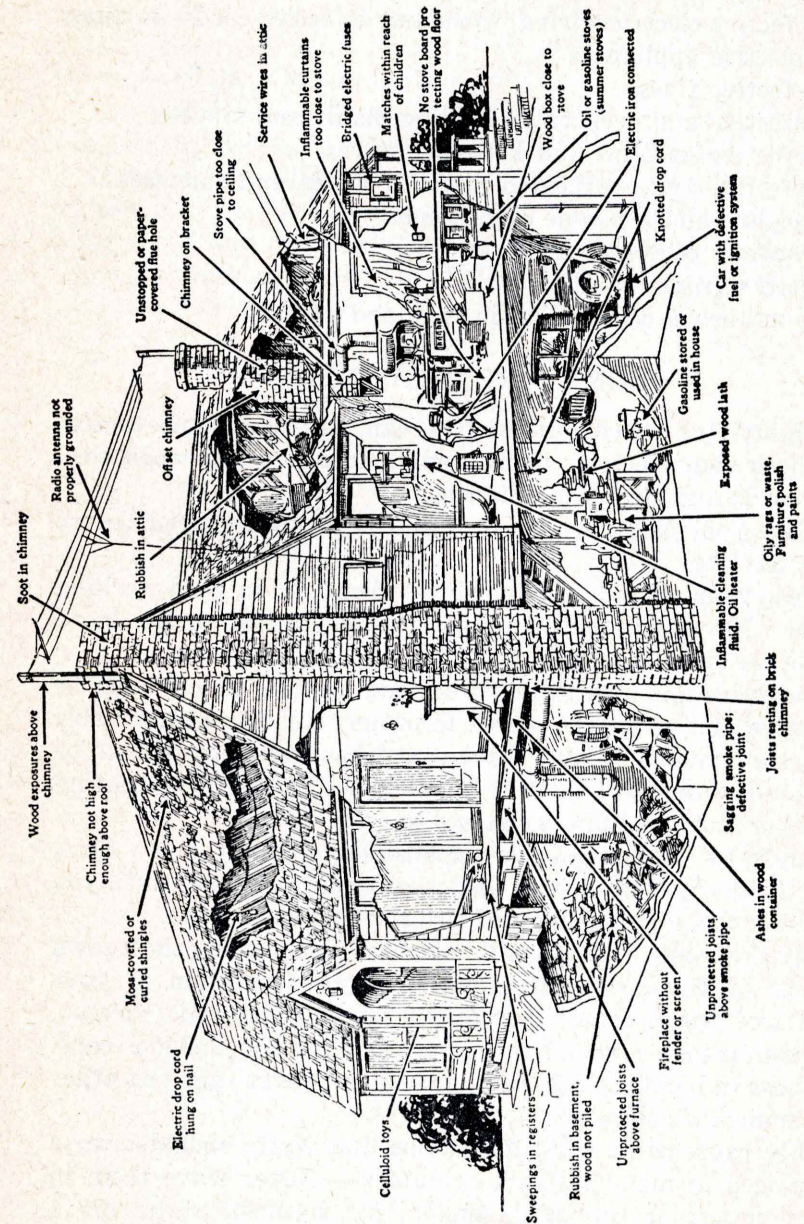
We are shocked to learn the number of homes destroyed by enemy incendiary bombs overseas, but Iowa had an average of approximately five home fires per day during 1944. Many home fires could be prevented by a careful inspection and removal of fire hazards.

There are 35 Common Causes of Fires in the Home. Why not start now, check the fire hazards shown on the chart and remove the fire hazards from your home before fire starts?

Fire Prevention is your business and mine—in fact, it is a duty, with building materials vitally needed for the war effort.

It is up to you and me to "Keep the Home Fires Burning" but we must not permit fire to destroy the homes our fighting men long to return to.

We can fight fires with Fire Prevention and prevent at least 90 per cent of these fires in homes.



35 Common Causes of Fire in the Home

## COMMON CAUSES OF HOME FIRES

Among the most common causes of fires we have

- Defective electric wiring, worn and defective cords on lamps and electric appliances
- Defective flues
- Defective and overheated heating plants and stoves
- Defective gasoline and kerosene stoves
- Defective and overheated pipes to stoves and furnaces
- Gasoline and kerosene carelessness
- Smoker's carelessness
- Sparks from chimney
- Spontaneous combustion in rags and rubbish

## HOME FIRE PREVENTION

Eighty-five per cent of our fires can, and must be prevented. Check your electric wiring, repair defective and worn electric cords and electric appliances.

Have your chimneys checked and properly repaired before it is too late.

Keep your oil and gasoline stoves clean and in good working order. Never fill the oil or gasoline container on the stove while the stove is in use.

Defective and overheated stoves and heating plants must be repaired and properly covered to protect wood or inflammable material exposed to heat. Stoves and heating plants should be set to allow not less than 18 inches space between the heating plant or stove and any wood exposure.

Smoker's carelessness is responsible for many home fires, and deaths by fire. Never dispose of your "smokes" until you are sure there is no danger of fire starting from them.

Sparks from chimneys still hold first place among the known causes of fires. Careful attention to the condition of your roof, and proper repair thereof will prevent many roof fires.

Spontaneous combustion in rags and rubbish includes carelessness in handling oily rags, dust mops, paint rags and other inflammable rubbish.

Oily rags, paint rags, dust mops and waste should always be placed in metal airtight containers—Never leave them in tight closets or cupboards under the basement stairs or in the furnace room.

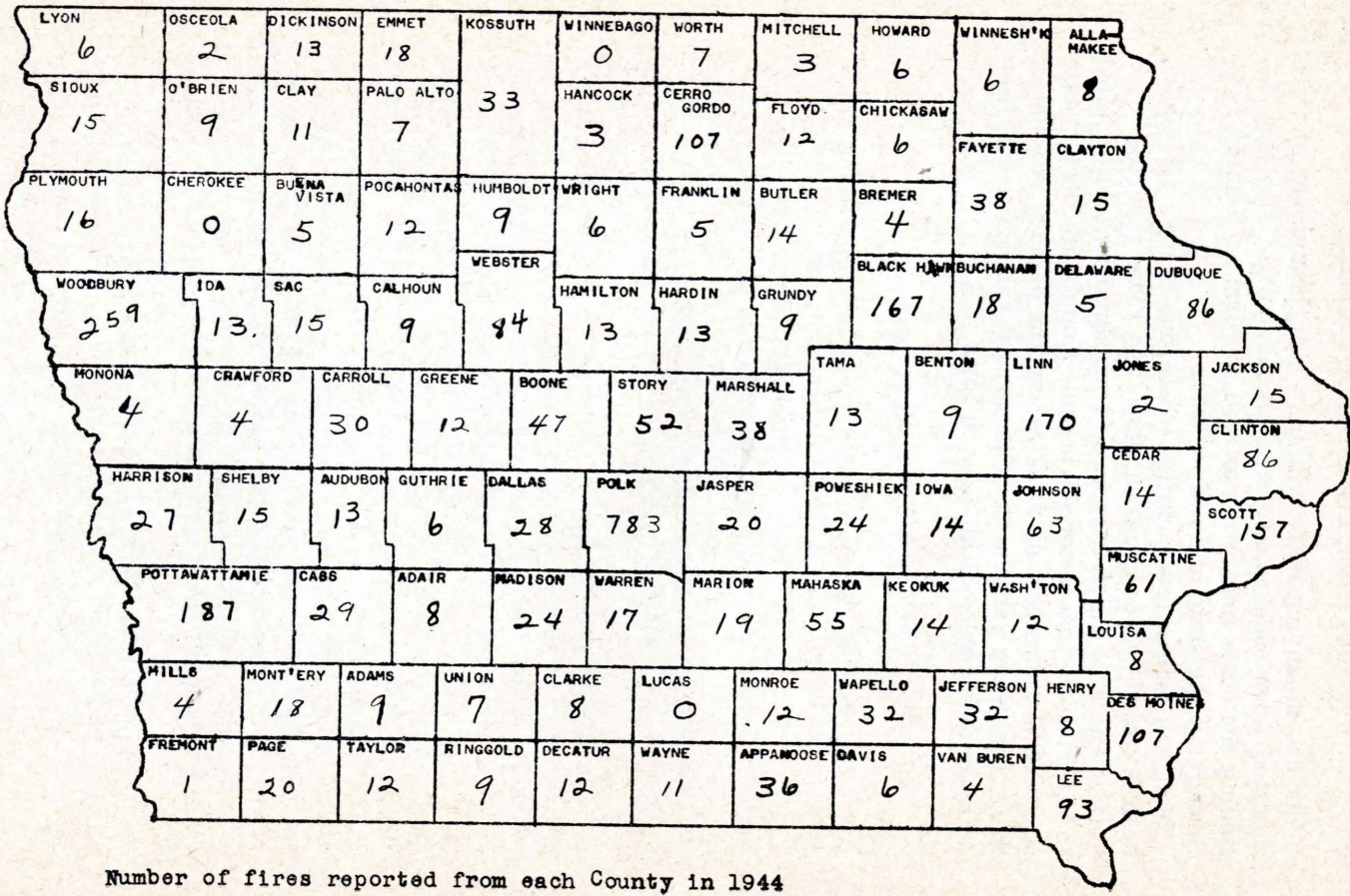
## 1944 FIRE LOSS BY COUNTIES

The accompanying maps will show you the number of fires reported from each county, also the amount of fire loss, including the cities and towns as well as rural or country fires throughout the state of Iowa in 1944.

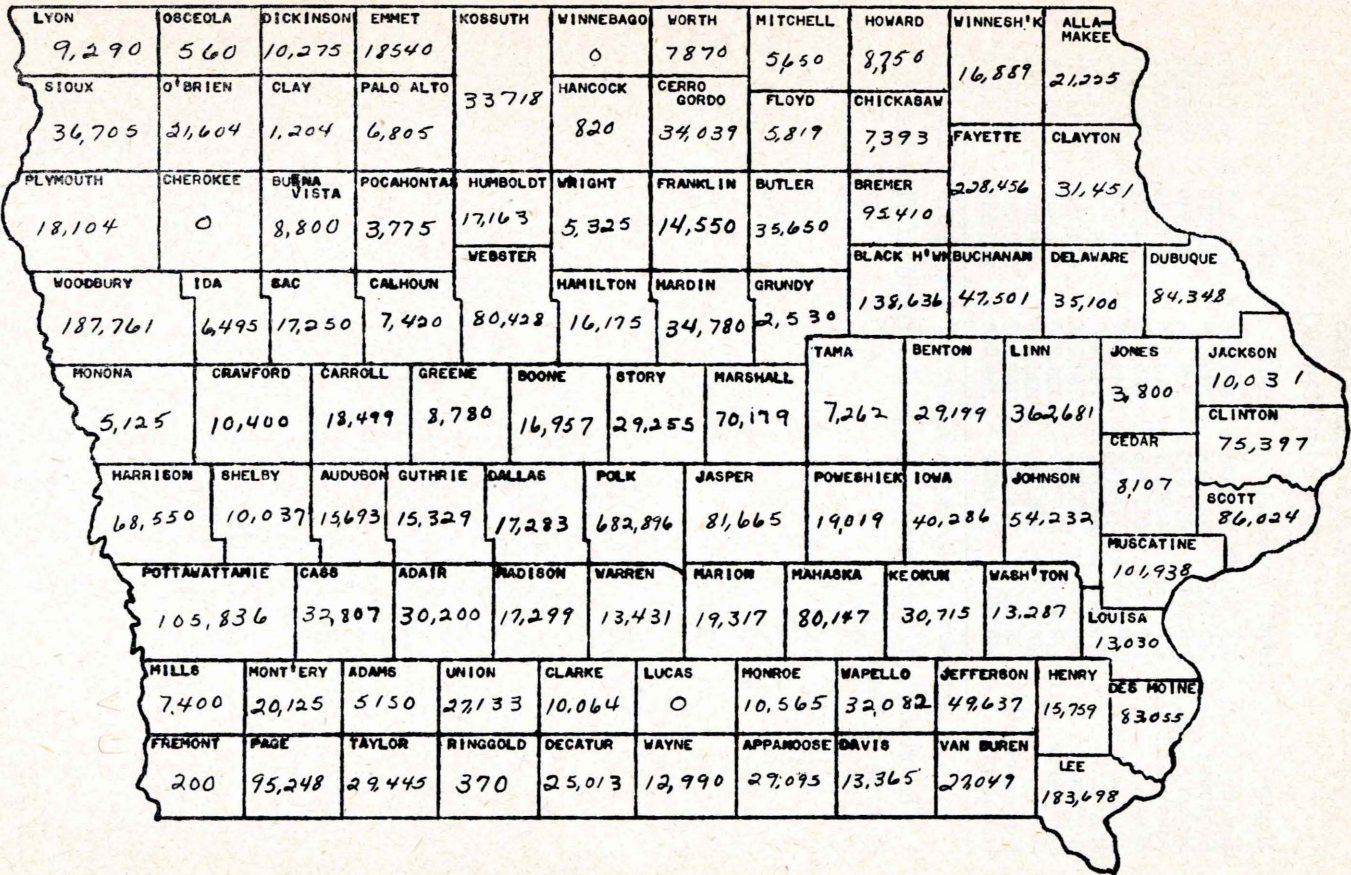
You will find a few counties where one or two fires have been reported—some counties show "No Fires reported."

If you as Fire Chief, Mayor, or Township Clerk, have failed to report fires that occurred in your County in 1944, please start NOW and report all fires, where the damage is \$5.00 or more, beginning January 1, 1945, so that this office can keep an up-to-date record of all fires in Iowa.





Number of fires reported from each County in 1944

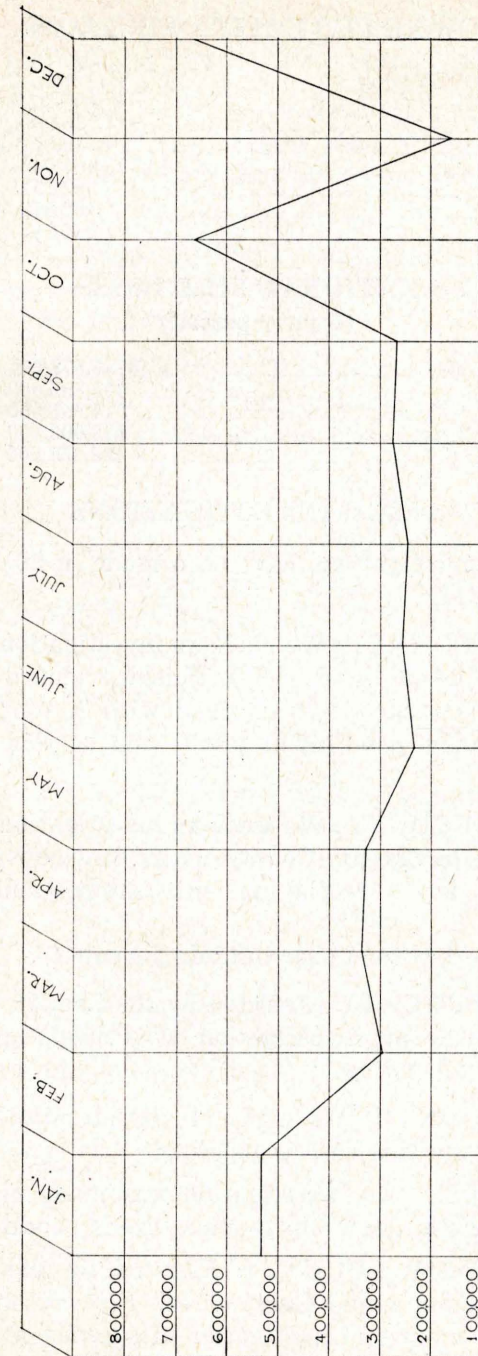


Amount of fire loss in each County in 1944

IOWA'S FIRE LOSS  
(Compiled by Months)

Month	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
January .....	\$ 612,782	\$ 357,690	\$ 517,426	\$ 799,327	\$ 530,761
February .....	512,382	398,858	189,349	336,615	297,555
March .....	516,999	615,546	206,338	426,540	335,592
April .....	438,048	442,068	613,246	363,333	329,476
May .....	211,230	211,965	155,516	265,531	232,149
June .....	230,681	73,782	644,386	774,499	254,445
July .....	392,640	158,757	142,450	156,570	244,264
August .....	389,593	165,720	286,134	214,120	274,173
September .....	228,768	217,146	131,235	133,455	266,287
October .....	356,922	265,704	234,999	289,065	661,295
November .....	168,620	228,137	242,072	336,989	156,909
December .....	390,556	319,670	239,000	666,531	663,494
	\$ 4,449,221	\$ 3,455,043	\$ 3,602,151	\$ 4,762,575	\$ 4,234,817

The accompanying graph shows the trend of fire loss by months in 1944.



## 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
1943 .....	4,762,575	1.87
1944 .....	4,234,817	1.68

## NATIONAL FIRE LOSS

(5 year period)

1940 .....	\$285,878,697
1941 .....	303,895,000
1942 .....	314,295,000
1943 .....	373,000,000
1944 .....	423,458,000 (Estimated)

## ARSON INVESTIGATIONS

Forty-two investigations have been made in 28 Iowa Counties during 1944.

**CLAYTON COUNTY:** We made an investigation of a dwelling house fire where we found sufficient evidence to warrant an arrest. The suspect was charged with Arson; he waived to the grand jury, bond set at \$2000, and he was held in the County jail.

**CLAYTON COUNTY:** We made an investigation of a dwelling house fire in Clayton County where two boys, 6 years of age, admitted they were playing with matches and set fire to the building.

The boys were turned over to their parents.

**FREMONT COUNTY:** Assisted by the Sheriff of Fremont County, we made an investigation of a dwelling house fire and this case is pending.

**HENRY COUNTY:** We made an investigation of a farm dwelling fire and this case is pending.

**LEE COUNTY:** An investigation was made in connection with a store fire in Lee County—this case is pending.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY:** Assisted by the Sheriff of Montgomery County and Chief of the Fire Department Red Oak, Iowa, we made an investigation of a series of fires occur-

ring in Red Oak, and found them to be the result of juvenile delinquency and several boys admitted starting the fires.

**MUSCATINE COUNTY:** An investigation was made covering a dwelling house fire in Muscatine where a confession was obtained and the man committed to the State Hospital at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY:** Assisted by the Sheriff's office, we made an investigation of a fire in Pottawattamie County. This case is pending.

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY:** Assisted by the Sheriff's office we investigated a fire that occurred in Pottawattamie County and in view of the evidence obtained, this case is pending.

**SAC COUNTY:** Accompanied by the Sheriff, Sac County, we made an investigation of a fire that occurred in a town dwelling, and obtained a confession from a 14 year old boy, admitting that he set the fire.

**WEBSTER COUNTY:** Assisted by the State Bureau of Investigation and the Fort Dodge Police Department, we made an investigation of a fire and robbery which occurred in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The evidence in this case was submitted to the State Board of Parole and a parolee who was employed by the owner of the property involved was returned to the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa.

TABLE NO. I

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

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adair .....	8	\$ 30,200
Adams .....	9	5,150
Allamakee .....	8	21,225
Appanoose .....	36	29,095
Audubon .....	13	15,693
Benton .....	9	29,199
Black Hawk—Waterloo .....	145	109,475
Balance—Black Hawk County .....	22	29,161
Boone—Boone .....	43	13,582
Balance—Boone County .....	4	3,375
Bremer .....	4	95,410

TABLE NO. I—Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Buchanan	18	47,501
Buena Vista	5	8,800
Butler	14	35,650
Calhoun	9	7,420
Carroll	30	18,499
Cass	29	32,807
Cedar	14	8,107
Cerro Gordo—Mason City	104	23,251
Balance—Cerro Gordo County	3	10,788
Cherokee	0	.....
Chickasaw	6	7,393
Clarke	8	10,064
Clay	11	1,204
Clayton	15	31,451
Clinton—Clinton	77	51,737
Balance—Clinton County	9	23,660
Crawford	4	10,400
Dallas	28	17,283
Davis	6	13,365
Decatur	12	25,013
Delaware	5	35,100
Des Moines—Burlington	101	74,136
Balance—Des Moines County	6	8,919
Dickinson	13	10,275
Dubuque—Dubuque	82	75,048
Balance—Dubuque County	4	9,300
Emmet	18	18,540
Fayette	38	228,456
Floyd	12	5,819
Franklin	5	14,550
Fremont	1	200
Greene	12	8,780
Grundy	9	2,530
Guthrie	6	15,329
Hamilton	13	16,175
Hancock	3	820
Hardin	13	34,780
Harrison	27	68,550
Henry	8	15,759
Howard	6	8,750
Humboldt	9	17,163
Ida	13	6,495
Iowa	14	40,286
Jackson	15	10,031
Jasper	20	81,665
Jefferson	32	49,637
Johnson—Iowa City	58	24,480
Balance—Johnson County	5	29,752
Jones	2	3,800
Keokuk	14	30,715
Kossuth	33	33,718
Lee—Fort Madison	36	20,381
Keokuk	49	63,767
Balance—Lee County	8	99,550
Linn—Cedar Rapids	150	322,725
Balance—Linn County	20	28,373
Louisa	8	13,030
Lucas	0	.....
Lyon	6	9,290

TABLE NO. I—Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Madison	24	17,299
Mahaska—Oskaloosa	34	52,610
Balance—Mahaska County	21	27,537
Marion	19	19,317
Marshall—Marshalltown	36	67,421
Balance—Marshall County	2	2,758
Mills	4	7,400
Mitchell	3	5,650
Monona	4	5,125
Monroe	12	10,565
Montgomery	18	20,125
Muscatine—Muscatine	51	76,951
Balance—Muscatine County	10	24,987
O'Brien	9	21,604
Osceola	2	560
Page	20	95,248
Palo Alto	7	6,805
Plymouth	16	18,104
Pocahontas	12	3,775
Polk—Des Moines	759	650,501
Balance—Polk County	24	32,395
Pottawattamie—Council Bluffs	180	90,933
Balance—Pottawattamie County	7	14,903
Poweshiek	24	19,019
Ringgold	9	370
Sac	15	17,250
Scott—Davenport	143	68,274
Balance—Scott County	14	17,750
Shelby	15	10,037
Sioux	15	36,705
Story—Ames	36	15,505
Balance—Story County	16	13,750
Tama	13	7,262
Taylor	12	29,445
Union	7	27,133
Van Buren	4	27,049
Wapello—Ottumwa	31	31,432
Balance—Wapello County	1	650
Warren	17	13,431
Washington	12	13,287
Wayne	11	12,990
Webster—Fort Dodge	74	28,106
Balance—Webster County	10	52,322
Winnebago	0	.....
Winneshiek	6	16,889
Woodbury—Sioux City	253	179,361
Balance—Woodbury County	6	8,400
Worth	7	7,870
Wright	6	5,325
	3,608	\$4,234,817

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 .....	297	\$ 23,015	\$ 30
Trucks .....	67	18,781	5,593
Auto accessories—			
Auto repair shops—			
Tire shops .....	17	9,828	18,820
Awnings .....	67	3,123	0
Bakeries .....	8	9,715	7,183
Banks .....	2	7,575	2,300
Barns—FARM .....	106	213,250	103,775
TOWN .....	46	24,009	19,152
Beer taverns .....	38	13,004	8,602
Bridges .....	1	50	0
Cars—Box cars and coal cars.....	5	2,563	190
Passenger and street cars and buses .....	15	1,249	0
Car repair shops and round-houses .....	4	4,755	1,650
Chicken brooders and hatcheries....	47	17,949	18,421
Poultry houses .....	25	4,586	4,637
Churches .....	17	110,987	33,784
Cleaning and dyeing.....	13	3,134	4,414
Coal mines .....	0	0	0
Corn cribs and granaries.....	17	11,055	20,738
Creameries—cream stations and dairies .....	9	11,287	4,815
Dance Halls .....	1	500	800
Depots—freight and passenger.....	3	944	10,356
Elevators and seed houses.....	10	127,837	73,648
Engine and boiler rooms.....	1	250	50
Factories .....	38	138,386	307,674
Filling stations—Oil storage.....	25	6,249	6,403
Foundries .....	4	1,974	360
Funeral Homes .....	2	269	433
Garages—Private .....	144	18,274	16,488
Public .....	27	108,464	126,404
Hay, grain and straw stacks, grain fields and meadows.....	23	12,455	0
Hog houses .....	10	10,200	6,555
Hospitals and nurses' Homes.....	2	115	25
Hotels .....	30	6,818	2,258
Houses—Apartments .....	112	56,020	16,592
Fraternity and Sorority .....	3	42	78
Farm .....	169	261,908	91,607
Town .....	1,536	418,033	193,612
Rooming houses .....	16	7,222	2,181
Summer kitchen—wash houses .....	8	1,590	3,455
Ice houses .....	6	20,930	5,150
Laundries .....	11	4,551	10,121
Lodge Halls .....	2	1,240	109
Lumber yards .....	0	0	0
Meat markets .....	6	265	100
Mills—Feed mills and feed stores	16	131,519	185,440
Flour .....	2	70,000	250

TABLE II—Continued

Office and office buildings.....	30	9,352	8,179
Packing plants and stock yards....	5	911	593
Pool halls—bowling alleys.....	6	4,092	4,309
Printing plants .....	5	810	1,150
Produce houses .....	4	10,128	12,020
Pump and engine houses.....	3	5,550	23,075
Restaurants, cafes and lunch rooms .....	50	38,145	20,667
Schools .....	13	33,040	3,480
Sheds—Coal and wood.....	63	4,453	1,972
Machine sheds .....	28	16,460	32,245
Shops—Barber .....	7	595	720
Blacksmith .....	5	875	5,366
Carpenter and work shops.....	9	1,240	3,748
Hair dressing shops.....	1	25	1,223
Plumbing and heating.....	2	1,225	625
Shoe repair shops.....	2	33	0
Smoke houses .....	4	315	349
Stores .....	144	122,707	174,562
Theatres .....	16	76,767	29,551
Trailer houses .....	12	2,350	1,685
Warehouses and storage.....	79	91,920	156,293
Miscellaneous .....	112	77,009	44,780
	3,608	\$ 2,393,972	\$ 1,840,845
			2,393,972
			\$ 4,234,817

TABLE NO. III

Cause of Fire	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adjoining .....	124	\$ 119,601
Ashes and coal against wood.....	54	27,244
Auto backfire .....	48	5,481
Auto wreck .....	6	5,765
Broken gas line—alcohol on motor.....	81	4,539
Blow and oil torches.....	21	231,844
Bonfires—grass fires .....	134	38,566
Brooder lamps and stoves.....	45	30,646
Candle, lamp and lantern carelessness.....	18	17,761
Children with matches.....	138	37,039
Cleaning clothing, rugs and floors with gasoline	6	2,685
Clothing too near stove and stovepipes.....	12	3,221
Compressed gas .....	2	2,070
Curtains blowing into flames.....	7	2,640
Defective auto wiring.....	143	32,691
Defective electric wiring.....	177	175,005
Defective electric cords, lamps, appliances and Neon Signs .....	33	20,704
Defective electric appliances.....	6	884
Defective fireplace .....	5	450
Defective flues .....	149	144,726
Defective and overheated stoves and heating plants .....	153	257,770
Defective oil burners.....	23	44,644
Defective oil and gasoline stoves.....	147	69,537
Defective and overheated pipes to stoves and furnaces .....	71	68,459

TABLE NO. III—Continued

Dust in hot air registers.....	5	251
Electric iron—current left on.....	12	6,445
Films .....	7	21,720
Fireworks .....	2	296
Friction .....	8	1,903
Fumigation .....	2	18,020
Gas leak .....	3	3,725
Gasoline and kerosene carelessness.....	28	18,462
Gasoline and volatile oil explosion.....	7	43,966
Grease, Paint, tar, wax and food boiling over.....	36	13,118
Incendiary .....	19	7,425
Lightning—Rodded .....	10	108,920
Not roddeed .....	102	208,499
Match carelessness .....	39	12,262
Rubbish piled against furnace and flues.....	17	3,827
Short circuit—electric motors, refrigerators, etc.	116	92,953
Smoker's carelessness .....	372	143,512
Smoking meat .....	6	1,656
Sparks from engines and locomotives.....	27	22,665
Sparks from chimney.....	573	192,289
Sparks from stoves and furnaces.....	18	15,934
Spontaneous combustion—Coal dust.....	11	44,000
Hay, straw, grain, feed.....	22	122,165
Rags and rubbish.....	64	317,821
Shavings and sawdust.....	1	55
Static electricity .....	4	5,536
Thawing water pipes.....	6	5,525
Unknown .....	409	1,339,969
Using gasoline and kerosene to start fires.....	7	5,501
Miscellaneous .....	72	112,425
	3,608	\$4,234,817

## CONCLUSION

## TO ALL IOWA:

Due to your cooperation, Iowa's 1944 fire loss shows a reduction of \$516,175, and we thank you for your part in Iowa's Fire Prevention campaign.

Throughout Iowa, radio stations, newspapers, schools, civic and service clubs, 4-H Clubs and Fire Prevention organizations have helped to bring about the reduction in fire loss.

We have had the full support and cooperation of state, county and city officials.

We are counting on you to help win the war against fire. This war goes on year after year, and we must work together to win the war against fire with FIRE PREVENTION.

Respectfully submitted,

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

