



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Estimating Fire Dollar Loss and Property Value

Information from fire incident data is becoming a crucial tool in decision-making and in helping to reduce loss to life and property due to fires. Estimating fire dollar loss and property value are important pieces of data when assessing fire at local, state, and national levels. It is a measure that is frequently asked for and used.

THE RULES

- In National Fire Incident Reporting (NFIRS), the fire department with primary command of an incident involving a fire (Incident Type Codes 100's) is responsible for recording property dollar loss and contents dollar loss. Reporting losses are required.
- The loss is a rough estimate of the total loss to the property and contents, in terms of replacement cost in like kind and quantity. The estimate of the fire loss includes contents damaged by fire, smoke, water, and overhaul.
- Pre-incident value is an estimate of the replacement cost of the property and contents.
- **\$0 fire loss means no reportable loss to the property or contents. It does not mean unknown.**
- Change the initial dollar estimates when additional information becomes available.

FIREFIGHTERS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE INSURANCE ADJUSTORS.

The fire dollar loss and property/contents values recorded are NOT official insurance estimates but internal fire department estimates based on observation, experience, training, and professional judgment.

PROPERTY SAVED

Capturing pre-incident values allow the fire service to estimate property value saved. It is an effective measure when explaining the value of fire alarm systems, fire suppression systems, fire education programs, and fire department effectiveness. Without these resources, the possibility of more injuries, deaths, and greater loss to property exist. Subtracting property and contents losses from the pre-incident values of the property and contents give a measure of property and contents saved.

Estimating Fire Dollar Loss and Property Value, continued

HELP IS AVAILABLE.

There are many sources available in estimating fire dollar loss and property/content values:

- Vehicle Fires – visit Kelly Blue Book, www.kbb.com.
- Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Property - visit Saylor Publications, www.saylor.com.
- Residential 1-to-2 family dwellings – visit www.zillow.com Real Estate values.
- Local realtors

The above information extracted from VFDP Fighting Fire with Facts Newsletter, March 2009