

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Sector Highlight: Fire and Rescue Services

Fire and Rescue Services is one of the five disciplines that comprise the Emergency Services Sector. Fire and Rescue Services include any organization in the U.S. consisting of personnel and equipment with the purpose of protecting the public from the dangers of fire. There are approximately 27,198 fire departments registered with the U.S. Fire Administration and 50,700 fire stations located throughout the United States. Fire and Rescue Services support other critical infrastructure sectors by responding to fire and other emergency related events.

Criminal activity

Criminals may use fire as a means to commit crime, inflict damage, or attempt to destroy evidence of other criminal activity. From 2017 to 2019, intentional fires accounted for an estimated 10% of reported fatal fires in residential buildings in the United States. Fire and Rescue Services are tasked with extinguishing fires and may also be tasked with fire investigations and determining the cause of the fire.

1. **Arson-** Arson is the willful malicious use, or attempted use, of fire to damage a home, building, transportation, or property. In 2019 arson accounted for approximately 25% of fires in the United States. While some criminal actors may target businesses or homes to harm inhabitants or destroy property, many homes and businesses have mitigation tactics such as having and practicing fire safety plans, detection systems, sprinklers or suppression systems, and fire extinguishers.

[Man Arrested For Setting Fire To Occupied Home](#)

[Arson Suspect Burns Himself While Setting Boat Business on Fire, Volusia Deputies Say](#)
[Man Charged with Arson in Connection to Oregon Wildfire](#)

2. **Improvised Incendiary Devices (IIDs)-** IIDs are homemade devices made from chemical mixtures and flammable liquids that are meant to cause fire on impact. IIDs have been used to destroy property, harm others, and as a means of distraction while committing other illegal activities.

[Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Having Molotov Cocktails at DCF Office](#)

[Police: Firebomb Causes Minor Damage at Eastside Business](#)

[Suspected Arsonist Arrested in Oklahoma City After Allegedly Throwing Molotov Cocktails at Home](#)



Florida Fusion Center
 (800) 342-0820

FLBusinessSafe@FDLE.state.fl.us

Author: FL8642, Approval: FL8600, HSEC: 2, 6, FSIN:2.6.1, 2.7.2 FFC:2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 6.4

Other Threats and Hazards

Fire and Rescue Services are charged with responding to environmental fire incidents and face many physical and logistical challenges when combatting wildfires. From 2011 to 2020 Fire and Rescue Services responded to an average of 62,000 wildfires across the United States. Weather, tough terrain, and resource constraints can create challenges for fire fighters and rescuers.

1. **Wildfires-** Lightning, downed or damaged powerlines, and intentional or unintentional manmade incidents can cause wildfires. Natural disasters can also provide fuel for wildfires. Trees uprooted or damaged due to severe storms can slow response efforts while also helping to fuel and spread wildfires. Drought conditions can also create hazardous circumstances for fires to spread rapidly while also potentially reducing the availability of resources to fight the fires.

[Trees Blown Down by Hurricane Michael Spark Wildfire Concerns in The Big Bend Drought Conditions Continue to Heighten Wildfire Concerns](#)

2. **Unmanned Arial Vehicles (UAVs)-** While Fire and Rescue Services may utilize UAVs to assist with firefighting or rescue services, unauthorized use of UAVs around fire or rescue operation areas can be harmful to fire and rescue personnel. UAVs within the vicinity of Fire and Rescue Services aircraft can pose a hazard and disrupt operations. The Federal Aviation Administration may implement temporary flight restrictions around the wildfire area which limit the operation and use of UAVs within these areas to agencies involved in firefighting operations.

[Unauthorized Drones Interrupt Efforts to Fight California Wildfire Drone Interference into Quarter Fire Under Investigation](#)

Resources

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides multiple resources relating to the [Emergency Services Sector](#).

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has information on current wildfire conditions and fire safety on their [website](#).

The U.S. Fire Administration offers multiple [resources and information](#) on mitigation efforts for fire safety.

The Federal Aviation Administration offers information about UAV use around fires in their [Drones and Wildfires Digital Toolkit](#).

“If You See Something, Say Something®” –Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the FDLE website using the [Florida’s See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#) or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911.



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