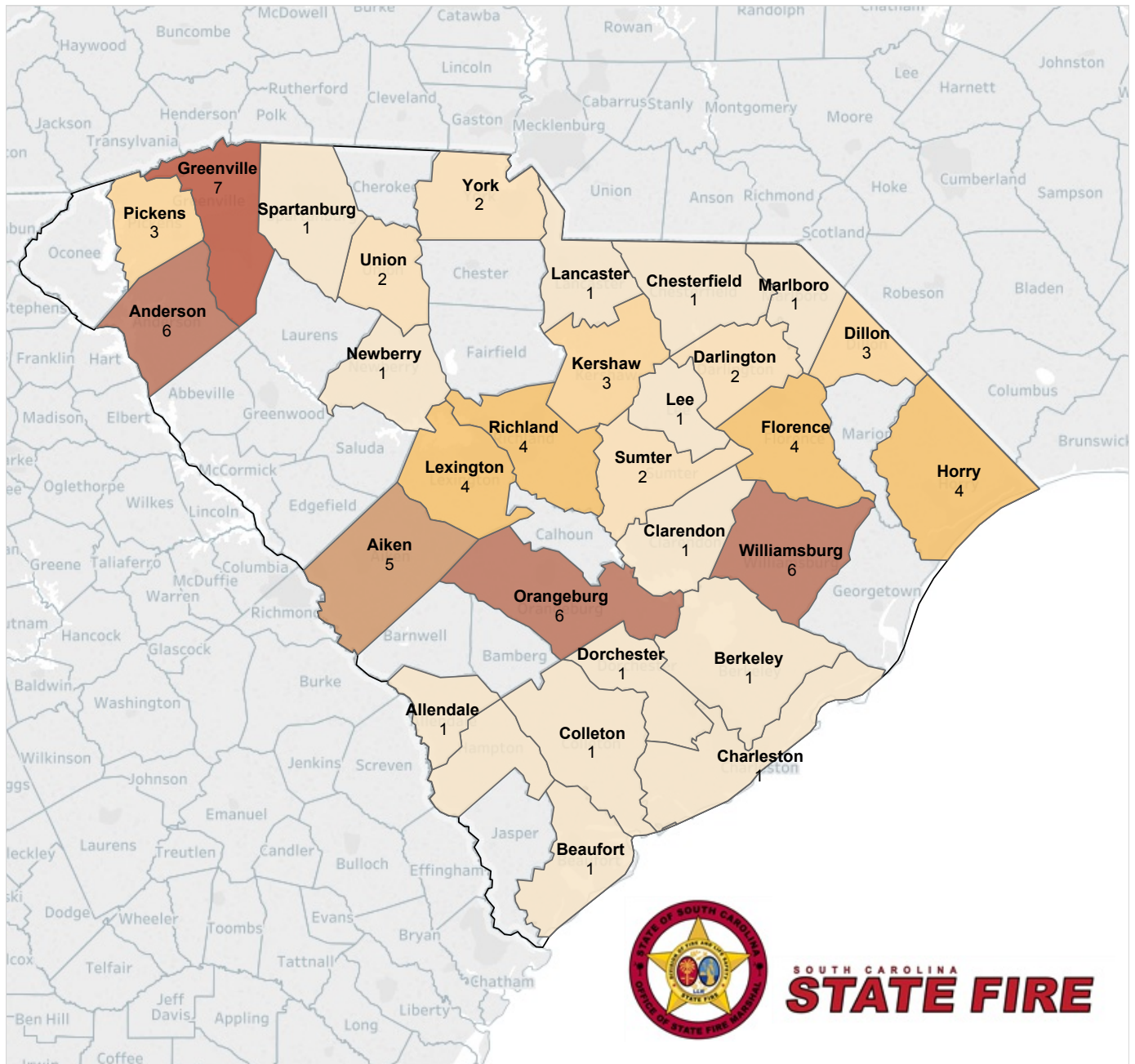


# 2016 Fire Fatality Summary Report

South Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal  
Community Loss Education and Response (CLEAR) Team



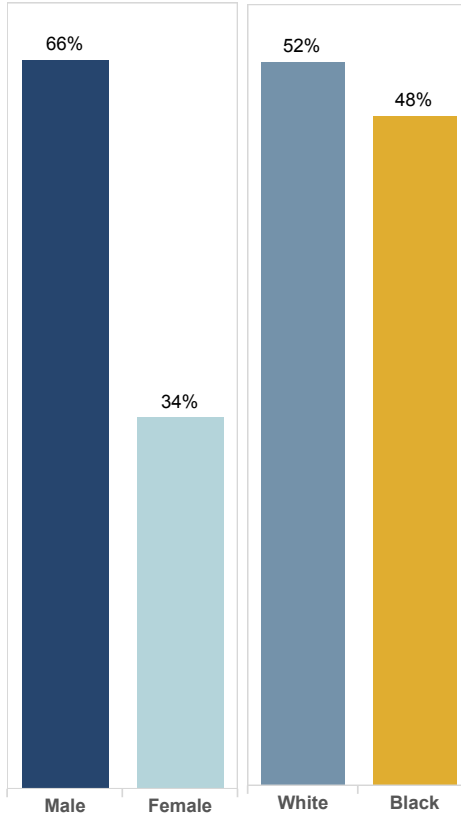
These report findings are made possible by the research efforts of the CLEAR Team. In some cases, the percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. If you would like more information or outreach ideas based on the findings, please call SC State Fire (803) 896-9895.

This report version was updated on August 24, 2017.

# 2016 Fire Fatality Victim Profile

In 2016, there were 77 deaths in 69 incidents. The victims of fatal fires were reported in 30 of 46 counties, with the most incidents happening in Anderson, Greenville, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg counties. Victims were mostly male, and 71 percent were older than the age of 50. Black victims and White victims were reported in nearly equal numbers. Most incidents had one victim, although no incidents this year had more than two victims. Victims were found in residences, specifically single family dwellings and mobile homes.

**Gender of Victims**   **Race of Victims**



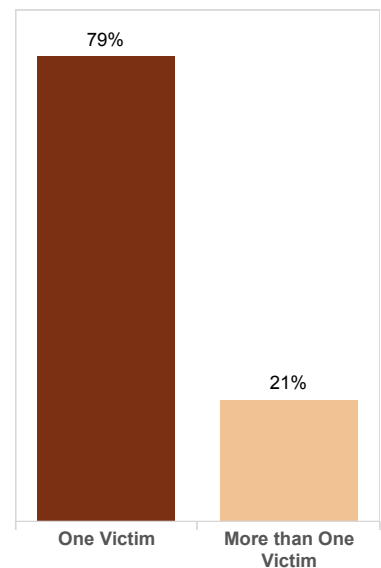
**Incidents and Victims per County**

County	Incidents	Victims
Aiken	4	5
Allendale	1	1
Anderson	6	6
Beaufort	1	1
Berkeley	1	1
Charleston	1	1
Chesterfield	1	1
Clarendon	1	1
Colleton	1	1
Darlington	2	2
Dillon	2	3
Dorchester	1	1
Florence	3	4
Greenville	6	7
Hampton	1	1
Horry	4	4
Kershaw	2	3
Lancaster	1	1
Lee	1	1
Lexington	4	4
Marlboro	1	1
Newberry	1	1
Orangeburg	5	6
Pickens	2	3
Richland	4	4
Spartanburg	1	1
Sumter	2	2
Union	2	2
Williamsburg	5	6
York	2	2

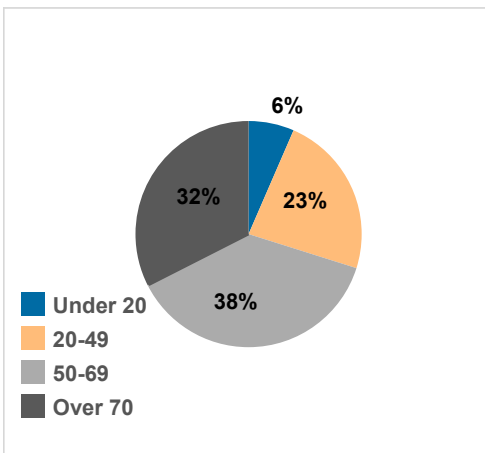
**Where are Incidents Happening?**

Single Family Dwelling	59%
Mobile Home	32%
Vehicle	6%
Storage Structure	1%
Recreational Vehicle	1%
Duplex	1%
Commercial (Hotel)	1%

**Percent of Fatal Incidents Involving More than One Fatality**

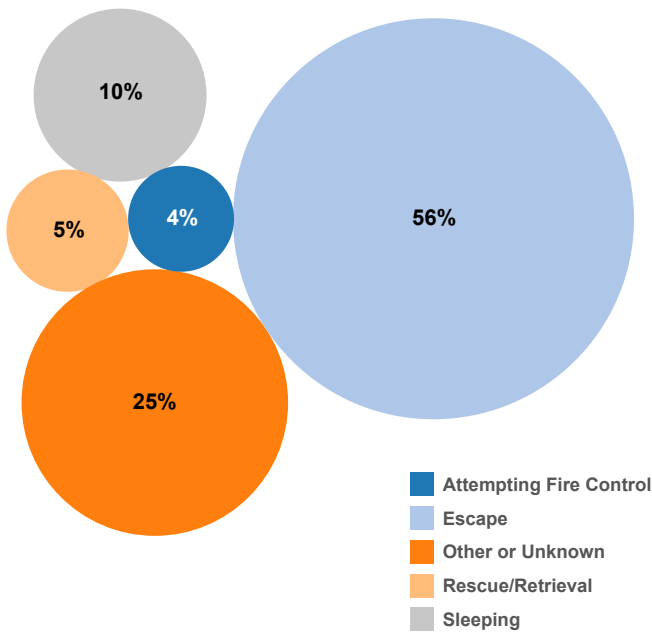


**Age of Victims**



# 2016 Fire Fatality Victim Profile

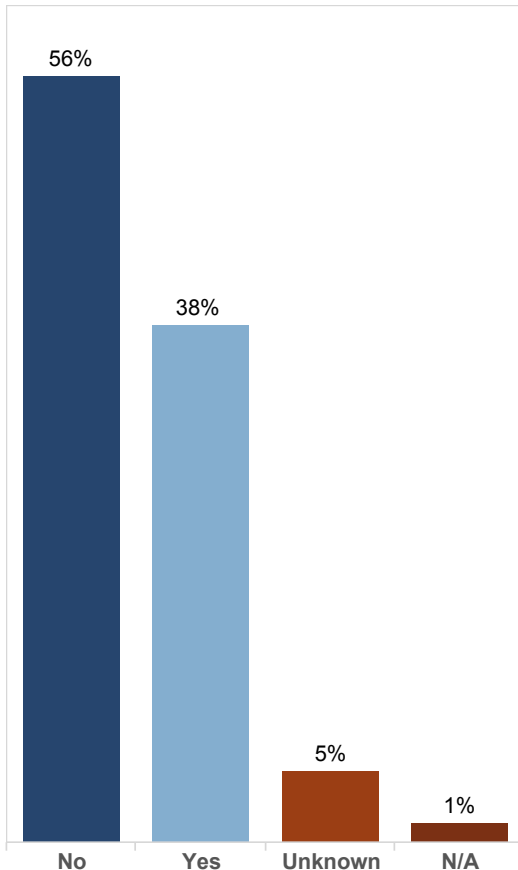
Activity at the Time of Injury



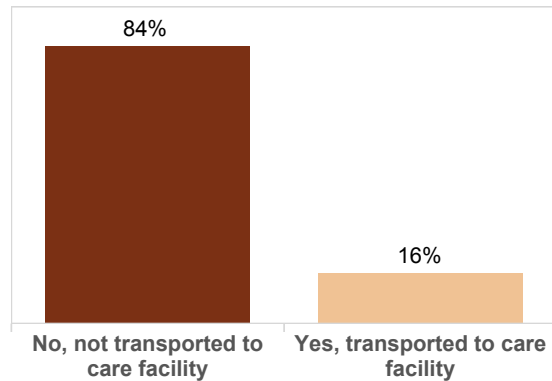
Victims were generally found to be attempting escape when they were injured. In most cases, the victim was pronounced deceased at the fire scene. In 43 cases (38%), citizens attempted to rescue victims. Prior to fire department arrival, unsafe conditions did not allow for citizens to assist the victim in escaping.

Research into these cases showed 88 percent of victims had some factor that increased their risk of perishing in a fire, such as reduced awareness of the fire or inability to escape from the fire. The most common factors affecting awareness were smoking, being affected by alcohol, and a mobile disability.

Did a Citizen Attempt a Rescue of the Victim?



Was the Victim Transported to the Hospital?



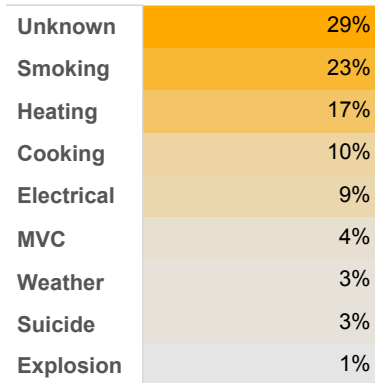
How Many Victims were Affected by

Smoking	30%
Alcohol	32%
Drug Use	13%
Cognitive Disability or Dementia	8%
Mental Illness	8%
A Mobile Disability	26%
Other Medical Issues	16%

# 2016 Fatal Incidents Profile

When cause could be determined, fatal incidents were most likely caused by improperly discarded smoking materials or malfunctioning or improperly-used space heaters. Heater-related deaths were more prevalent during cold weather days. Cooking and weather-related incidents happened in temperatures greater than 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Incidents occurred on all days of the week, with an above average amount on Friday and Saturday. Fatal incidents generally occurred during overnight hours, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., and in December and January.

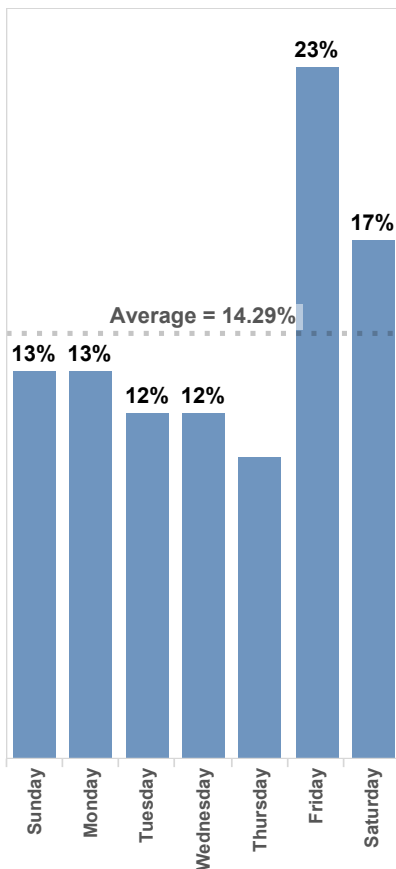
What was the most probable cause of fatal incidents?



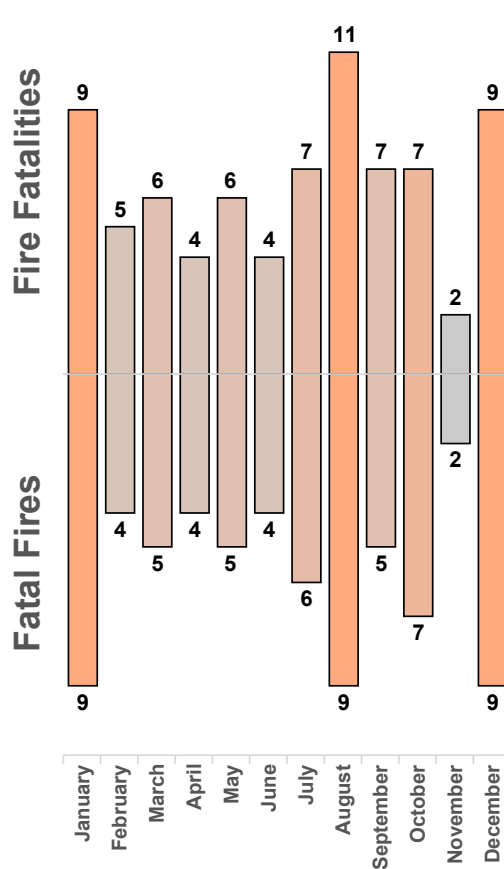
What is the relationship between weather temperature and fatal incidents?

Weather Temperature	Cooking	Electrical	Explosion	Heating	MVC	Smoking	Suicide	Unknown	Weather
Very Cold (Below 32 F)				1				1	
Cold (32-50 F)		2		12		4		4	
Mild (50-70 F)	5	1	1			8	1	8	
Warm (70-80 F)	2	1			3	3		6	2
Hot (Over 80 F)	2	2			1	2	1	3	1

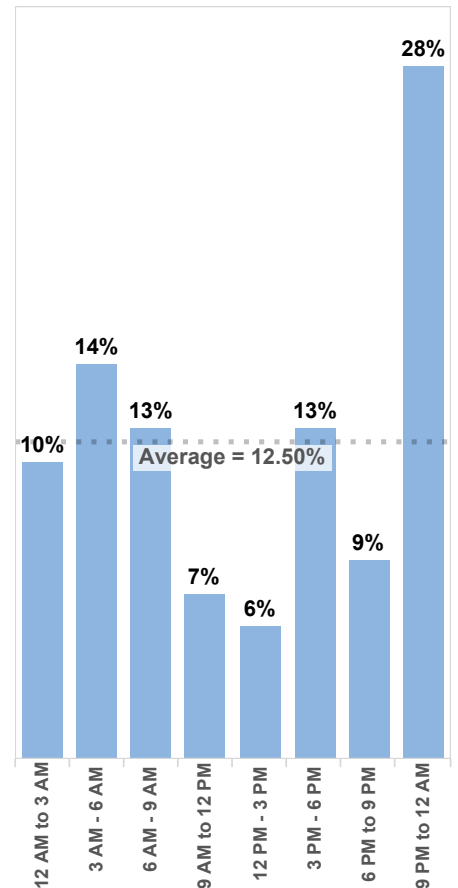
Which day of the week did fatal incidents occur?



Which month did fatal incidents occur?



Which time did fatal incidents occur?

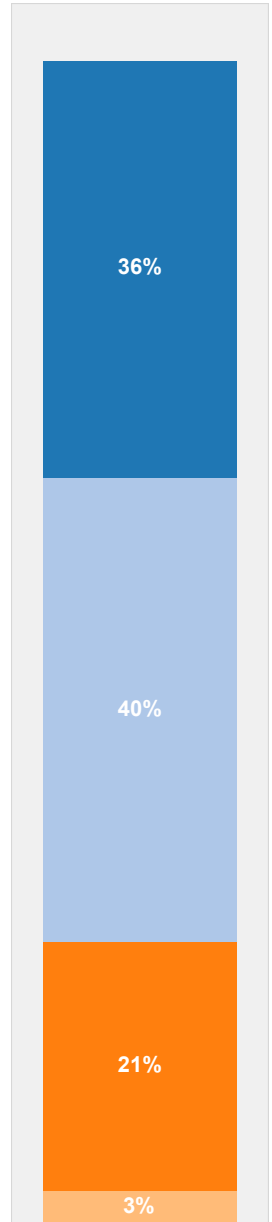


# 2016 Homes with Fatal Incidents Profile

How close to an egress were victims found in homes?



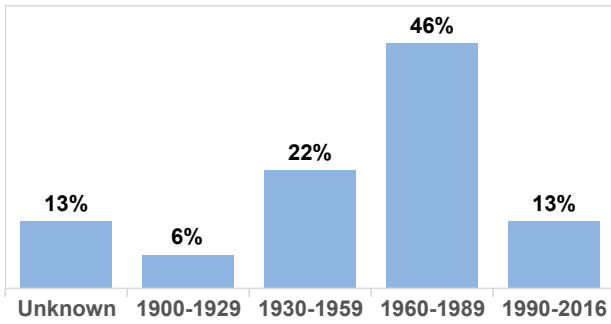
How did the fire department find the victim in homes?



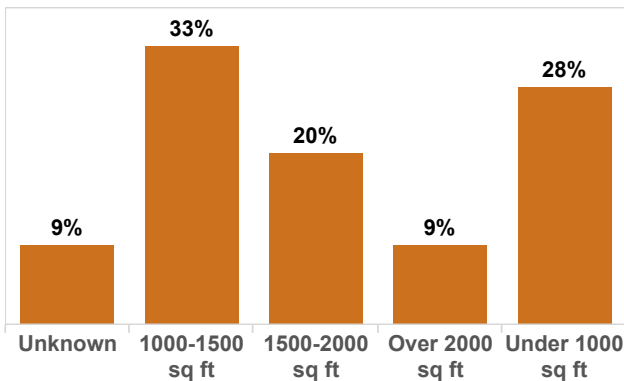
Fire Department Search and Rescue

- Conditions not suitable for search
- Search conducted, victim not removed
- Search conducted, victim removed
- Victim removed prior to FD arrival

How old are homes?

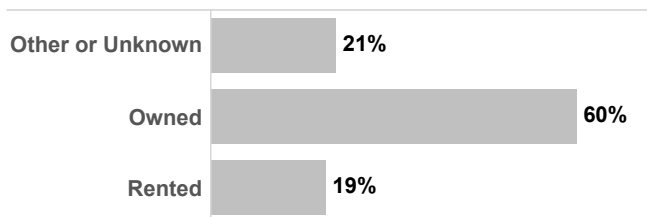


How large are homes?

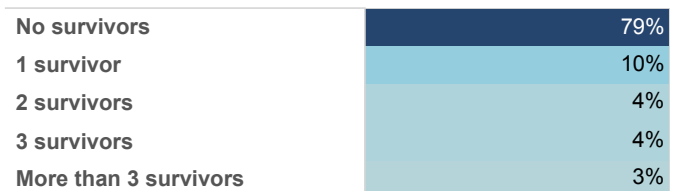


*Nine out of 10 fatal fires occur in residences. These homes, which are mostly owned, tend to be 30-50 years old, with most smaller than 1500 square feet. When a victim is found inside the home, he/she is found within 10 feet of an exit. Because of conditions, firefighters are often unable to search for the victim. If a house fire occurs it is unlikely that there are survivors, often due to conditions which prevent rescue by firefighters.*

Were homes rented or owned?



Did any fatal incidents in homes have survivors?



# 2016 Detailed Fatality Information

## January

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
01/02/16	Greenville	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	51	Female	White
01/04/16	Orangeburg	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	45	Male	White
01/08/16	Richland	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	76	Female	Black
01/10/16	Darlington	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	30	Male	Black
01/19/16	Pickens	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	81	Female	White
01/19/16	Colleton	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	76	Male	Black
01/20/16	York	Single Family Dwelling	Electrical	71	Male	White
01/20/16	Union	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	65	Male	Black
01/23/16	Williamsburg	Mobile Home	Heating	42	Male	Black

## February

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
02/07/16	Horry	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	77	Male	White
02/19/16	Spartanburg	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	69	Male	White
02/20/16	Florence	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	64	Female	Black
				84	Male	Black
02/28/16	Anderson	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	5	Female	White

## March

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
03/01/16	Horry	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	38	Female	White
03/12/16	Greenville	Commercial (Hotel)	Smoking	49	Male	White
03/19/16	Lexington	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	54	Female	White
03/20/16	Williamsburg	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	66	Female	White
				67	Male	White
03/22/16	Aiken	Duplex	Smoking	76	Female	White

## April

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
04/03/16	Berkeley	Recreational Vehicle	Explosion	51	Male	White
04/04/16	York	Mobile Home	Electrical	48	Male	White
04/08/16	Beaufort	Storage Structure	Suicide	71	Male	Black
04/29/16	Horry	Mobile Home	Smoking	40	Male	White

## May

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
05/05/16	Anderson	Single Family Dwelling	Cooking	48	Male	White
05/13/16	Hampton	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	86	Female	Black
05/22/16	Sumter	Mobile Home	Electrical	52	Male	Black
05/24/16	Greenville	Single Family Dwelling	Cooking	10	Male	Black
				11	Female	Black
05/28/16	Newberry	Mobile Home	Unknown	48	Male	White

## June

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
06/10/16	Dorchester	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	68	Male	Black
06/18/16	Williamsburg	Mobile Home	Cooking	66	Female	Black
06/22/16	Lexington	Vehicle	MVC	35	Male	White
06/22/16	Aiken	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	69	Male	Black

## July

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
07/05/16	Florence	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	92	Female	White
07/05/16	Richland	Single Family Dwelling	Electrical	38	Female	White
07/16/16	Orangeburg	Single Family Dwelling	Weather	1	Male	Black
				77	Female	Black
07/27/16	Greenville	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	90	Male	Black
07/28/16	Clarendon	Single Family Dwelling	Cooking	65	Female	Black
07/28/16	Orangeburg	Single Family Dwelling	Cooking	40	Female	White

## August

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
08/05/16	Lexington	Single Family Dwelling	Suicide	61	Male	White
08/05/16	Aiken	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	83	Female	White
08/08/16	Marlboro	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	44	Male	White
08/08/16	Anderson	Single Family Dwelling	Electrical	91	Male	Black
08/15/16	Greenville	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	78	Male	Black
08/19/16	Orangeburg	Vehicle	MVC	48	Male	White
08/22/16	Dillon	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	60	Male	Black
				69	Male	Black
08/26/16	Pickens	Mobile Home	Smoking	70	Female	White
				83	Female	White
08/26/16	Lancaster	Single Family Dwelling	Weather	54	Female	White

## September

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
09/01/16	Chesterfield	Mobile Home	Unknown	36	Male	White
09/02/16	Florence	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	50	Male	Black
09/16/16	Aiken	Mobile Home	Cooking	85	Female	Black
				86	Male	Black
09/24/16	Kershaw	Vehicle	MVC	27	Male	Black
				46	Male	Black
09/24/16	Orangeburg	Mobile Home	Smoking	40	Male	Black

## October

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
10/02/16	Charleston	Mobile Home	Cooking	71	Male	Black
10/08/16	Anderson	Single Family Dwelling	Electrical	75	Male	White
10/12/16	Anderson	Mobile Home	Smoking	62	Female	White
10/12/16	Williamsburg	Mobile Home	Smoking	69	Male	Black
10/13/16	Lee	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	75	Male	White
10/28/16	Sumter	Mobile Home	Smoking	80	Male	Black
10/30/16	Lexington	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	63	Female	White

## November

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
11/09/16	Anderson	Single Family Dwelling	Smoking	71	Female	White
11/28/16	Horry	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	51	Male	White

## December

Date of Incident	County	Occupancy	Most Probable Cause of Fire	Age	Gender	Race
12/02/16	Williamsburg	Mobile Home	Heating	61	Male	Black
12/06/16	Kershaw	Mobile Home	Unknown	60	Male	White
12/09/16	Allendale	Mobile Home	Unknown	60	Male	Black
12/10/16	Richland	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	51	Male	Black
12/11/16	Union	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	65	Male	White
12/12/16	Darlington	Mobile Home	Smoking	60	Female	White
12/12/16	Dillon	Single Family Dwelling	Unknown	55	Male	White
12/15/16	Greenville	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	3	Male	Black
12/22/16	Richland	Single Family Dwelling	Heating	84	Male	Black