

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE BILL FILES - 1987 - 1988 8879

HB 332 thru HE 335 *Leg. Finance* 337

HB

332

**HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT**

(11)

Date referred: 2/15/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 2-25-88

The Finance Committee has considered HB 332

"An Act relating to the reporting of burn injuries."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with CS HB 332 (HESS)  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published 2-15-88
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

Adams Al Adams

Boyer Marv Boyer

Davis Mike Davis

Larson Ronald Larson

Swackhammer Ed Swackhammer

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Parnot Pat Parnot

Wallis Kay Wallis

Brown Kay Brown

Goll John Goll

Rieger Al Rieger

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Al Adams  
Chairman's signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An act relating to the reporting of burn injuries.  
Sponsor: Rep. Koponen  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Public Safety  
BRU: Fire Prevention  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		3.1	2.0	3.1	3.2	3.4
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attachment.

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton Phone: 465-4331  
Division: Fire Prevention Date: 1/15/88

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur Engle Date: 1-25-88  
Agency: Public Safety

Distribution (by preparer):

Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)

FISCAL NOTE  
HOUSE BILL 332

Assumptions:

An estimated 500 burn injuries will be reported each year.

A 5 percent inflation factor is used for subsequent years.

Personal Services. 100 hours per year, clerical and professional time for case management and data control.	\$0.0
Travel.	0.0
Contractual.	
Telephone toll charges to notify law enforcement agencies.	1.3
Printing & distribution of forms & instructions to physicians & law enforcement. (decrease 0.3 after first year)	1.0
Publication of periodic reports.	0.8
Supplies.	
Misc. office supplies, stationery, data storage media.	0.5
Equipment.	
Upgrade microcomputer hard drive/tape backup to increase data storage capacity. (one-time cost)	3.5
Total	\$7.1

Original sponsors: Koponen and Collins

1 IN THE HOUSE  
2  
3 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 332 (HESS)  
4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
5 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
6 A BILL  
7 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the reporting of certain in-  
8 juries."  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
10 \* Section 1. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:  
11 Sec. 08.64.337. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO REPORT CERTAIN  
12 INJURIES. (a) A health care professional who treats or attends to a  
13 person with an injury described in (b) of this section shall make  
14 certain that an oral report of the injury is made promptly to the  
15 Department of Public Safety, a local law enforcement agency, or  
16 a village public safety officer. The health care professional shall  
17 make certain that a written report of an injury described in (b)(1) or  
18 (2) of this section is submitted to the Department of Public Safety  
19 within three working days after the person is treated. The report  
20 shall be on a form provided by the department.  
21 (b) The following injuries shall be reported under (a) of this  
22 section:  
23 (1) second or third degree burns to five percent or more of  
24 a patient's body;  
25 (2) a burn to a patient's upper respiratory tract or  
26 laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air;  
27 (3) a bullet wound, powder burn, or other injury apparently  
28 caused by the discharge of a firearm;  
29 (4) an injury apparently caused by a knife, axe, or other  
sharp or pointed instrument, unless the injury was clearly accidental;

1           and

2                   (5) an injury that is likely to cause the death of the  
3 patient, unless the injury was clearly accidental.

4           (c) A person who, in good faith, makes a report under this  
5 section, or who participates in judicial proceedings related to a  
6 report under this section, is immune from any civil or criminal li-  
7 ability that might otherwise be incurred as a result of making such a  
8 report or participating in the judicial proceedings.

9           (d) In this section, "health care professional" includes an  
10 emergency medical technician, health aide, physician, nurse, para-  
11 medic, and physician's assistant, but does not include a practitioner  
12 of religious healing.

R 10 2/25/88  
Rec'd 3/9/88

STATE OF ALASKA  
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 332 (HESS) am  
PUBLISH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 3/2/88  
 Title: An act relating to the reporting of certain injuries.  
 Sponsor: House HESS  
 Requestor: Senate HESS  
 Agency Affected: Public Safety  
 BRU: Fire Prevention  
 Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
See attachment.

JMK/40  
2/12/88

Prepared by: Gordon F. Brunton *SEB.* Phone: 465-4331  
 Division: Fire Prevention Date: 3/2/88

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 3-2-88  
 Agency: Public Safety

Distribution (by preparer):  
 Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)

RECEIVED  
MAR 8 1988

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

FISCAL NOTE

CSHB 332 (HESS) am

Assumptions:

An estimated 250 burn injuries will be reported each year.

A five percent inflation factor is used for subsequent years.

Personal Services. 100 hours per year, clerical and professional time for case management and data control, for burn injuries.	\$0.0
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Travel.	0.0
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Contractual.	
Printing & distribution of burn injury reporting forms to health care professionals (decrease 0.3 after first year)	1.0

Publication of periodic reports.	0.8
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Supplies. Miscellaneous office supplies stationery, data storage media.	0.5
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Equipment. Upgrade microcomputer hard drive/tape backup to increase data storage capacity (one-time cost).	3.5
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Total	<u>\$5.8</u>
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FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL 332

Assumptions:

An estimated 500 burn injuries will be reported each year.

A 5 percent inflation factor is used for subsequent years.

Personal Services. 100 hours per year, clerical and professional time for case management and data control.	\$0.0
Travel.	0.0
Contractual.	
Telephone toll charges to notify law enforcement agencies.	1.3
Printing & distribution of forms & instructions to physicians & law enforcement. (decrease 0.3 after first year)	1.0
Publication of periodic reports.	0.8
Supplies.	
Misc. office supplies, stationery, data storage media.	0.5
Equipment.	
Upgrade microcomputer hard drive/tape backup to increase data storage capacity. (one-time cost)	3.5
Total	\$7.1

BILL NO:

DATE:

TITLE: HB 332

CONTACT: January 14, 1988

An act relating to the reporting of burn injuries.

Gordon Brunton  
465-4331

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY

POSTED PER

AS 08.64 would be amended to add a new section requiring physicians to report cases of burn injuries (more than 5 percent of the body with second or third degree burns, or burns to the upper respiratory tract or laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air) to the division of fire prevention within 72 hours after treatment. If the physician believes that the victim will die before the division receives the report, the physician must orally notify the Alaska State Troopers or a local law enforcement agency.

This bill would provide another tool to assist in the apprehension of arsonists and would give the Division a better understanding of burn injuries to assist in their prevention.

We suggest the addition of a penalty provision for wilfull failure to report.

The Department of Public Safety Supports passage with the suggested amendment of HB 332.

*Bayle A. Houtaki*  
for Arthur English  
Commissioner

Rep. Gruenberg states that he would still like to see a resolution from the committee regarding labeling of irradiated foods.

Rep. Ellis asks Rep. Koponen to give an overview of HB 332, relating to the reporting of burn injuries.

Rep. Koponen states that HB 332 is modeled after arson legislation enacted several years ago in New York State and Massachusetts. Rep. Koponen quotes the Alaska State Fire Marshall's press release of 12/31/87 noting Alaskan arson costs of "conservatively over 7 million dollars" in 1986. The bill would require reporting of all burns of over five percent of the body with second or third degree burns or burns to the upper respiratory tract or laryngeal edema due to inhalation of super-heated air. Rep. Koponen continues that by requiring doctors to report serious burns to the Department of Public Safety, it will assist the Department in detecting arson. Rep. Koponen notes the New York law carries a class A misdemeanor clause. HB 332 lacks a penalty clause at this time. Rep. Koponen adds that it has been mentioned in the past few days, within the context of this legislation, that gunshot and stab wounds be added. Rep. Koponen states that the Department of Public Safety will be making comments on a possible amendment regarding gunshot and stab wounds.

Rep. Ellis asks if committee members have any questions for the bill sponsor. Hearing none, Rep. Ellis asks Gayle Horetski to come forward to testify.

Gayle Horetski, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, states that the Department supports the passage of HB 332 as it would provide another tool to assist in the apprehension of arsonists and would give the Division of Fire Prevention better statistics on burn injuries. Ms. Horetski requests that the committee consider an amendment which would add a penalty provision for willful failure to report a burn injury.

Rep. Ellis asks if committee members have any questions for Ms. Horetski. Hearing none, Rep. Ellis recognizes Rep. Gruenberg.

Rep. Gruenberg states that the committee needs to look at the definition of "burn". Rep. Gruenberg asks if the committee would consider changing the word "physician" throughout HB 332 to "any practitioner of the healing arts" as it is phrased in SB 96 from the 1985 Legislative Session.

Rep. Ellis asks Mike Lockwood to testify via the teleconference network.



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Public Safety*

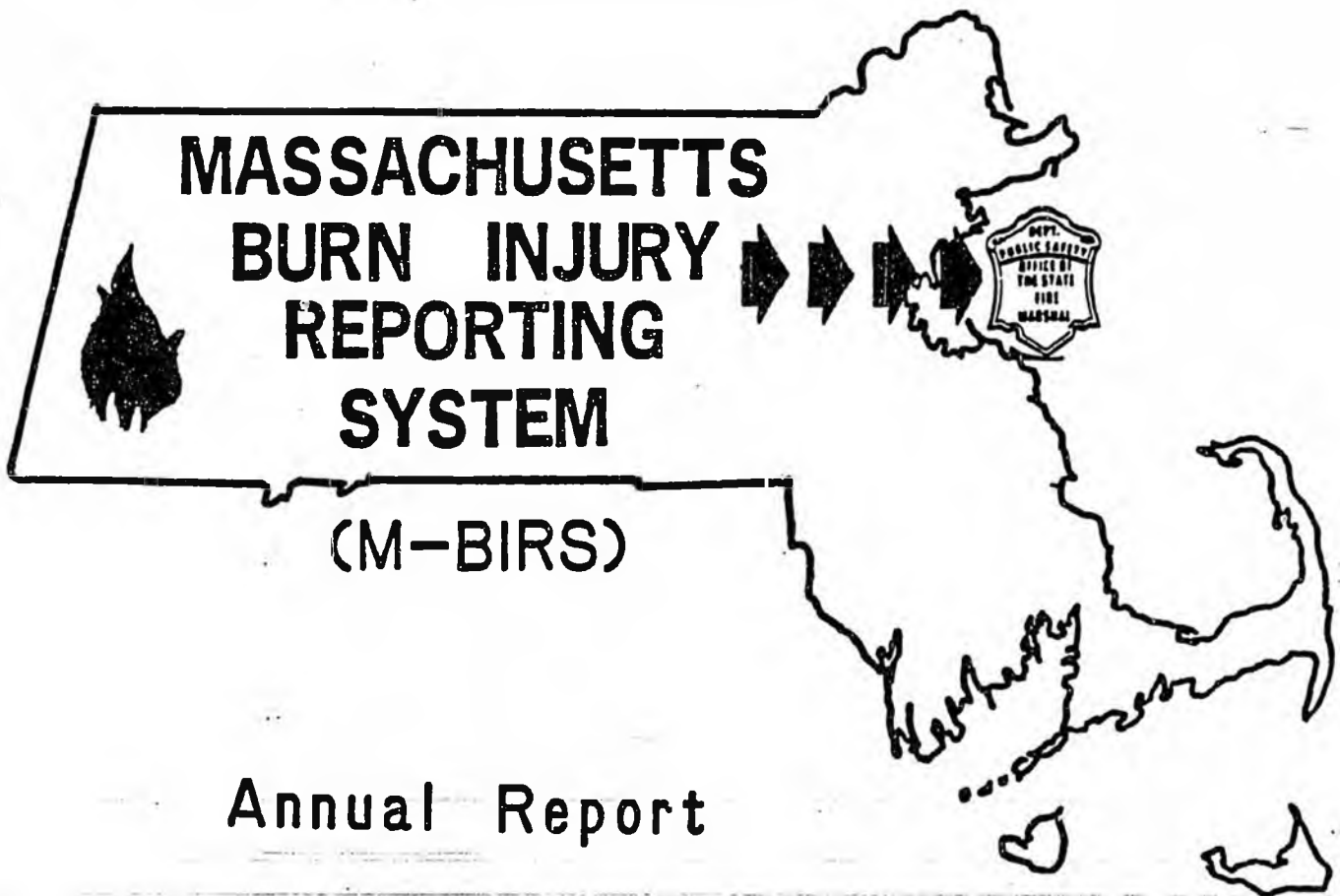


**Michael S. Dukakis**  
*Governor*

**Frank J. Trabucco**  
*Commissioner*

**Charles V. Barry**  
*Secretary*

**Joseph A. O'Keefe**  
*State Fire Marshal*



**Annual Report**

**1985**



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Department of Public Safety*

JOSEPH A. O'KEEFE, PE  
State Fire Marshal

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
1010 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

(617) 566-4500

MAY 5 1986

### THE MASSACHUSETTS BURN INJURY REPORTING SYSTEM (M-BIRS)

The Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System was implemented on June 1, 1984 in accordance with Chapter 112, Section 12A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Under the provisions of the law, the treatment of all burns of 5% or more of a person's body surface area must be reported immediately to the Commissioner of Public Safety by the attending physician and/or the treatment facility.

M-BIRS was established primarily as an additional tool in the war against arson by establishing an early warning system for the detection of arsonists who may burn themselves accidentally in the course of their crime, as is not uncommon.

The M-BIRS system is the first such mandatory burn reporting mechanism in the nation. Many other states are now considering instituting a similar system and the State of New York has established their burn reporting system patterned closely after the M-BIRS.

1985, the first full year of operation for M-BIRS, saw the reporting of more than 600 serious burns, some of them under highly suspicious circumstances and presently under investigation.

The M-BIRS has had the anticipated ancillary benefits of establishing an automated burn data base for use in developing effective burn prevention programs in the Commonwealth.

With the continued cooperation of local fire, police and health organizations, M-BIRS will reach its optimum effectiveness in the fight against arson and the protection of our citizens from fire and burns.

*Joseph A. O'Keefe*  
Joseph A. O'Keefe  
State Fire Marshal

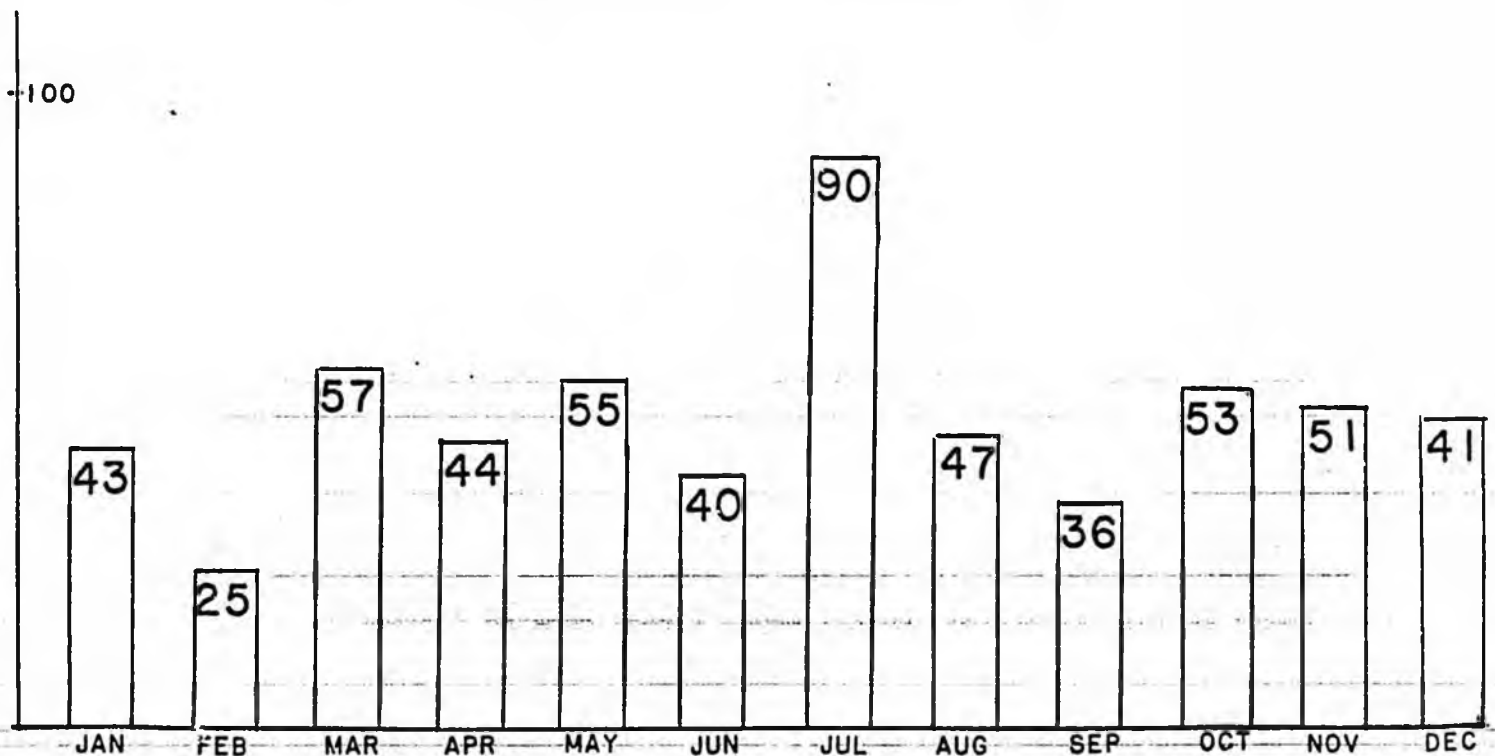
## MASSACHUSETTS BURN INJURY REPORTING SYSTEM

In 1985, the first full year of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), 589 burn reports were received from 94 Massachusetts hospitals and health clinics (see Table 1.). Burn injuries of 5% or more of the body surface area must be reported to the Commissioner of Public Safety immediately through a 24-hour toll free hotline by the initial attending physician or medical facility. Then, the burn must be reported on a card and mailed to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

An average of 49 burns were reported monthly, ranging from 25 in February (the low) to 90 in July (the high). Based on the average, twice as many serious burns occur in July than can be expected in other months. This is consistent with analysis of burn reports submitted in 1984. (The Burn Registry was implemented on June 1, 1984.) July was also the "worst" months for burns in 1985. Graph A. below shows the reported burns by month.

Graph A.

### INCIDENCE OF BURNS BY MONTH (Total-589)



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

### CAUSES BY MONTH

For every month except July, the number 1 ranked cause of burns is hot liquid scalds. These scalds are due to knocked over cups of coffee, too hot tub water, and cooking accidents.

For the winter months, November, December, January, February and March, house fires are the number 2 ranked cause of burns.

In May through October, radiator explosions and hot car parts are a leading cause of burns, becoming number 1 in July.

For all months of the year, cooking accidents are a leading and consistent cause of burns. They rank number 2, 3, or 4 depending on the season.

From May through October, gasoline is a leading cause of burns.

It is interesting to note that the top five ranked causes of burns: scalds, house fires, cooking accidents, gasoline and hot car parts/radiator explosions, are consistent. They change places in the ranking and reorder themselves based on seasonal fluctuations. ( See Table 2.).

### AFFECTED AGE GROUPS

Adults ( aged 21-64) comprise over half, 52% of the total burns reported; children 10 and under account for 22% of burn victims and teenagers represent 18%. (See Graph B.).

### CAUSES

The leading causes of burn injuries in Massachusetts during 1985 were: hot liquid scalds; electrical burns; house fires; cooking accidents;

Table 2.

LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS REPORTED IN EACH MONTHJANUARY-41

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	10
House Fires	7
Cooking	6
Gasoline	3
Smoking Materials	2
Electrical	2
Hot Car Parts	2
All others	19

MAY-55

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	13
Hot Car Part	6
Gasoline	5
Cooking/BBQ	5
Electrical	4
House Fire	3
Chemical	2
All others	17

FEBRUARY-25

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	10
House Fires	4
Smoking Materials	2
Grease	2
All Others	7

JUNE-40

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	8
Cooking/BBQ	4
Fireworks	4
Hot Car Part	3
Sunburn	3
Chemical	3
All Others	15

MARCH-57

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	19
House Fires	17
Cooking	4
Smoking Materials	2
Gasoline	2
All others	13

JULY-90

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Hot Car Parts	15
Fireworks	14
Hot Liquid Scalds	11
Smoking Materials	5
Cooking/BBQ	3
Sunburn	3
Boat Fires	2
All others	37

APRIL-44

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	13
Cooking	5
House Fires	4
Explosion	3
Motor Vehicle Accident	3
Chemical	3
Electrical	2
All Others	11

AUGUST

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Hot Liquid Scalds	13
Gasoline	6
Hot Car Parts	5
Appliances	3
Electrical	3
All others	17

Table 2. (cont'd)

SEPTEMBER-36

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Hot Liquid Scalds	12
Gasoline	7
House Fires	2
Chemical	2
Smoking Materials	2
All others	11

NOVEMBER-51

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scalds	20
Chemical	4
House Fires	4
All others	21

OCTOBER-53

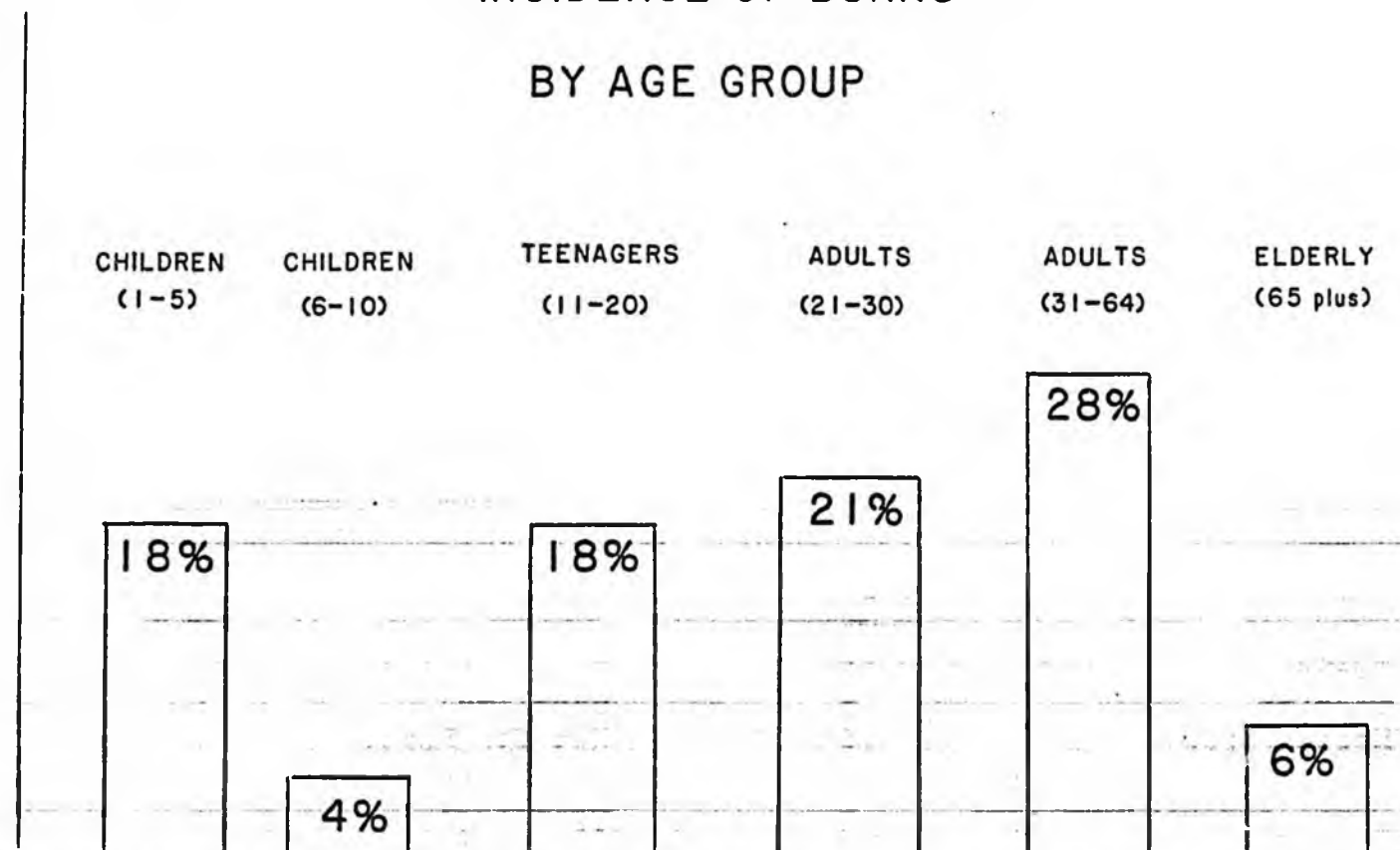
<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scalds	18
Gasoline	9
Smoking Materials	4
Hot Car Parts	4
House Fires	2
All others	16

DECEMBER-41

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scalds	14
House Fires	4
Cooking	3
Electrical	2
Woodstoves	2
All others	16

Graph B.

INCIDENCE OF BURNS  
BY AGE GROUP

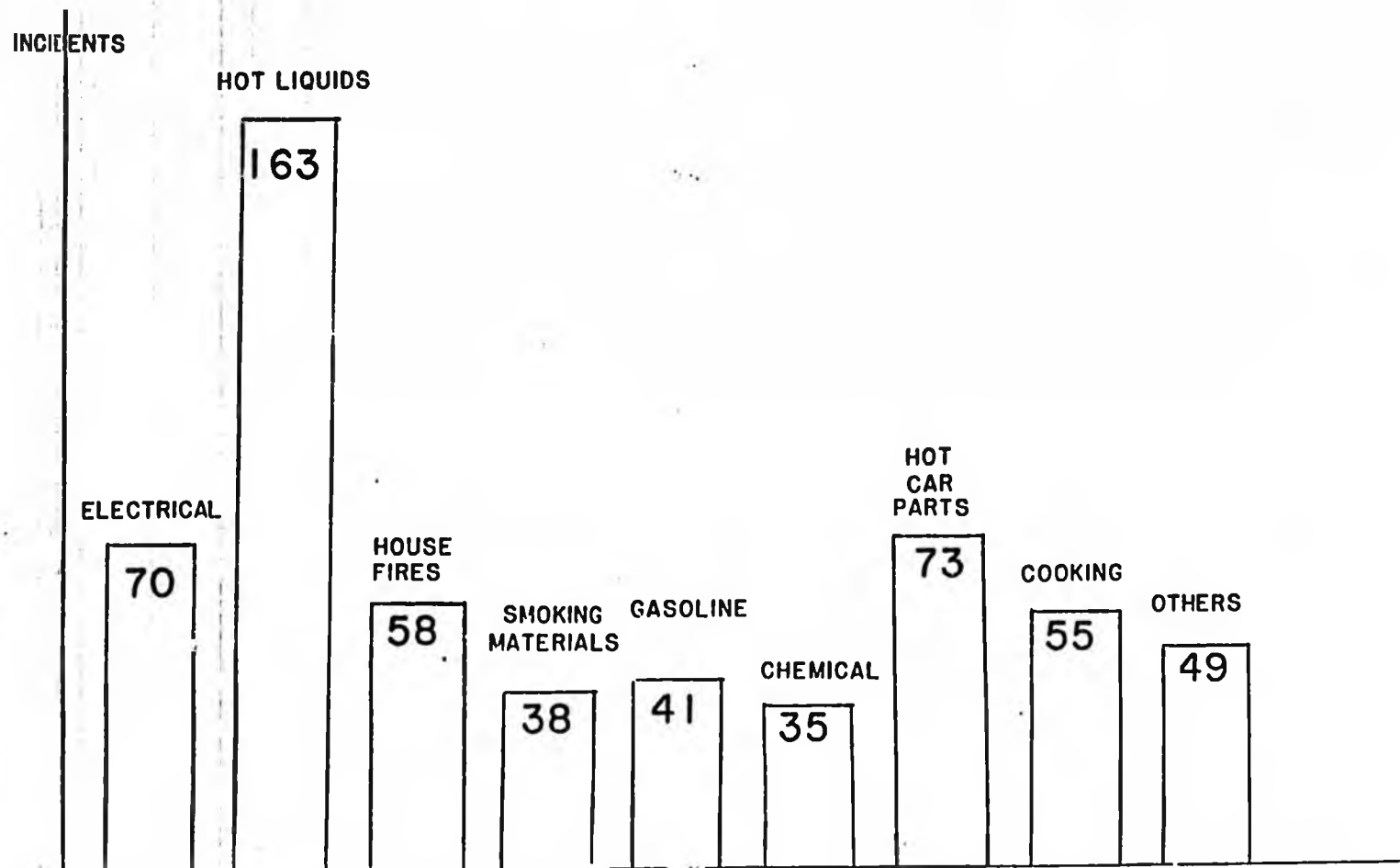


SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

Graph C.

# LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS

Total Population



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

hot car parts and radiator explosions; fireworks; and steam scalds. This is based on total burns.

#### CAUSES BY AGE GROUP

Children 5 and under accounted for 18% of all reported burns. 82 of the 106 burns for this age group, or 77% were caused by hot liquid scalds from coffee, tea, boiling water, and excessively hot bath water. 6% were received in house fires.

The 6-10 year old age group counted 29 victims; 50% of these burns were caused by hot liquid scalds and 16% occurred in house fires.

111 victims were teenagers 11-20 years old. 14% were caused by radiator explosions and hot car parts. 14% of these burns occurred while using gasoline. An additional 14% were due to fireworks. 12% of burns in this age group were cooking accidents.

21-30 year olds are the largest group of burn victims representing 21% of the total. The leading causes of burns for this age group were: car radiator explosions/hot car parts (16%); chemical burns (15%); hot liquid scalds (13%); cooking accidents (12%); and misuse of smoking materials (7%).

72 victims were 31-40 years old. 18% of these burns were caused by hot car parts and radiator explosions; 13% occurred in house fires; 9% happened while working with gasoline.

9% of the reported burn victims were aged 41-50. Nearly one-quarter of these burns were from hot car parts and radiator explosions. Hot liquid scalds caused 18%. 12% of these burns occurred in house fires. 9% of the burns were the result of the misuse of smoking materials.

6% of 1985's burn injuries involved 51-64 year olds. Hot liquid spills and house fires each caused 15% of these burns. 11% were due to the misuse of smoking materials.

Table 3.

## TABLE OF CAUSES OF BURNS BY AGE GROUP

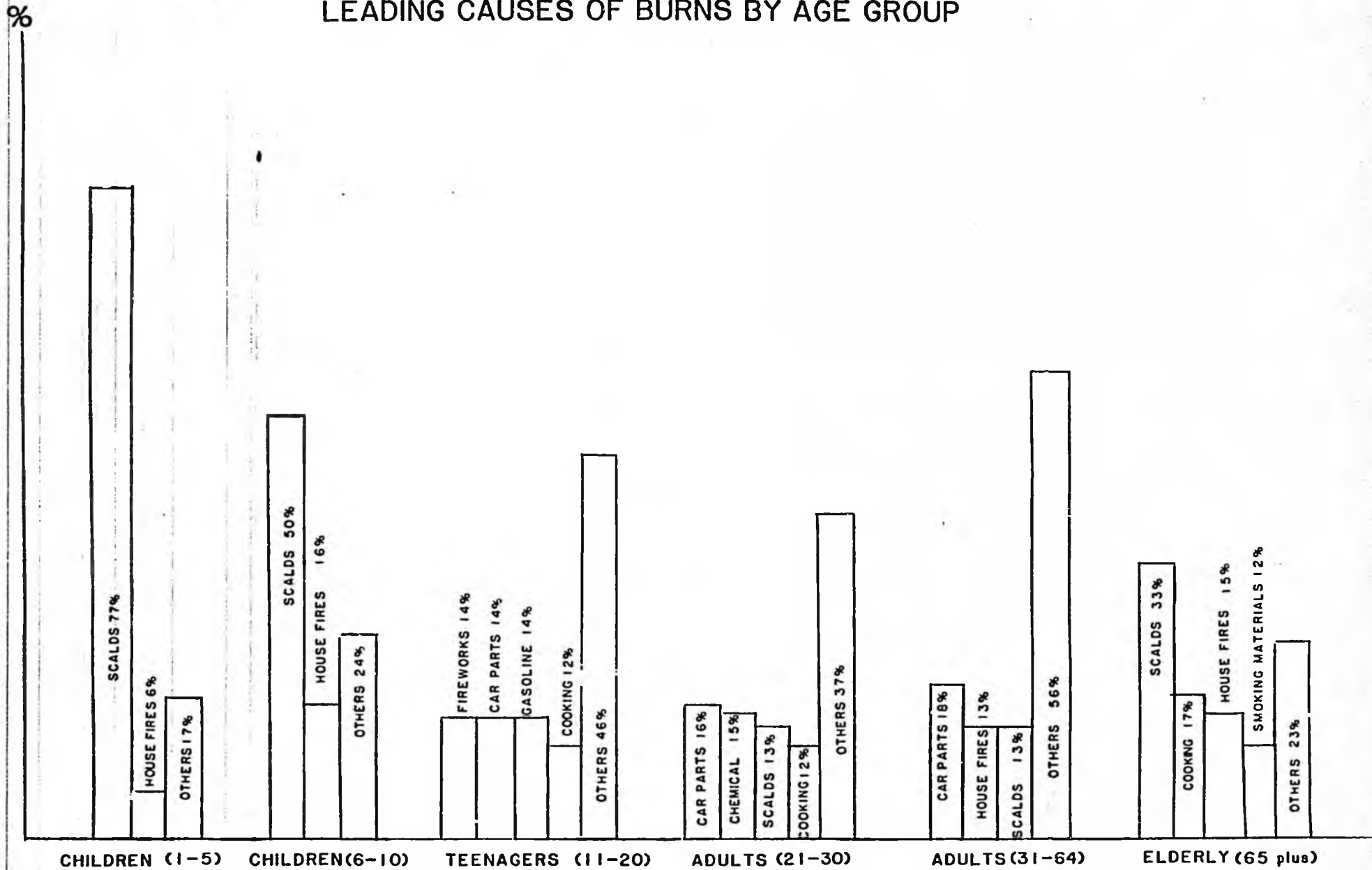
CAUSES	AGE									ROW TOTAL
	0-5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-64	65+	UNK	
Hot Liquid Scalds	84	13	12	18	7	10	7	13	2	166
House Fires	7	4	3	13	10	7	7	6		57
Radiator Explosion/ Hot Car Parts	1	0	16	20	11	9	5	1	1	63
Car Fires	0	0	3	4	3	2	0	0		12
Gasoline	0	3	15	8	7	6	2	1		42
Cooking Accidents	5	0	13	16	3	7	4	7		55
Fireworks	1	2	15	1	4	0	0	1		24
Smoking Materials	2	3	3	9	4	5	5	5		36
Chemicals	3	0	7	14	3	1	2	0		30
Steam	2	3	2	3	2	2	0	1		15
Electricity	0	0	4	10	5	2	3	1		25
Clothing On Fire	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2		6
Brush/Bon Fire	2	0	4	4	1	2	0	1		14
Gunpowder	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	0		8
Sunburn	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0		6
Boat Fires	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0		4
Appliances	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	1		8
Portable Heaters	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0		4
Furnaces	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0		6
Bombs	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Self-Immolation	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0		4
Plane Crashes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Undetermined									1	1
Column Total	111	29	111	129	67	58	40	40	4	589
Column % of Total*	18%	4%	18%	21%	11%	9%	6%	6%		100%

\* Percentages are rounded off and may not appear to total 100%.

SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

Graph D.

# LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS BY AGE GROUP



SOURCE: 1985 report by the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

Table 4.

LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS BY AGE GROUP

AGE 0-5 Total = 111

Hot Liquid Scalds-84  
House Fires-7

AGE 6-10 Total = 29

Hot Liquid Scalds-13  
House Fires-4

AGE 11-20 Total = 111

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosion-16  
Gasoline-15  
Fireworks-15  
Cooking-13

AGE 21-30 Total = 129

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-20  
Chemicals-14  
Hot Liquid Scalds-18  
Cooking-16  
Smoking Materials-9

AGE 31-40 Total = 67

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-11  
House Fires-10  
Hot Liquid Scalds-7  
Gasoline-7

AGE 41-50 Total = 58

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-19  
Hot Liquid Scalds-10  
House Fires-7  
Cooking-7  
Smoking Materials-5

AGE 51-64 Total = 40

Hot Liquid Scalds-7  
House Fires-7  
Smoking Materials-5  
Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-5

AGE 65 and over Total = 40

Hot Liquid Scalds-13  
Cooking-7  
House Fires-6  
Smoking Materials-5

The elderly, people aged 65 and over, accounted for 6% of total burn victims. Hot liquid scalds caused one-third (33%) of these burns. Cooking accidents caused 17% of the elderly's burns. 15% occurred as the result of house fires; and 125 were due to the misuse of smoking materials.

Graph D. shows the leading causes of burns for each age group. Table 3. shows the total number of burns by cause and age group. Table 4. shows only the leading causes of burns by age group.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Burn victims during 1985 came from 180 different Massachusetts cities and towns and from every county. People came from all the large population centers and from many rural communities. (See Table 5.) Massachusetts hospitals also treated and reported the burn injuries of 30 people who live outside of Massachusetts. Graph E. depicts the number of burn victims by their county of residence.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The preceding analysis of Massachusetts burns in 1985 shows the extent to which fire prevention and burn prevention overlap. It is our hope that fire prevention agencies, public health officials, the medical community, educators, and community groups can together use this information to form a "road map" for burn prevention strategies.

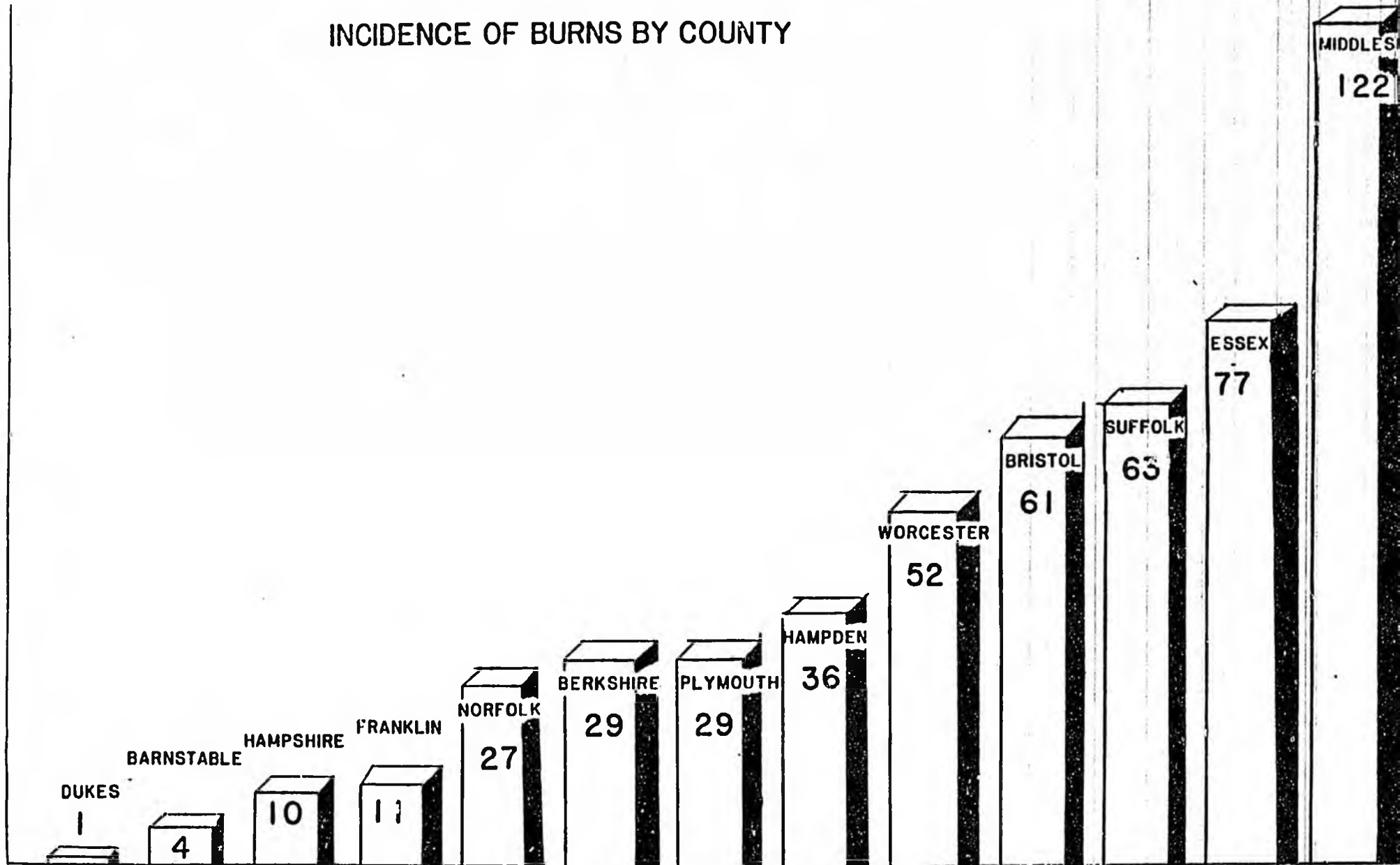
It is abundantly clear that the public needs greater education on preventing scalds to young children in the home; on how to react to cooking accidents which get out of control; the dangers inherent in car radiators and hot car parts; the dangers in using fireworks and gasoline; and the message about the careless use and disposal of smoking materials cannot be reiterated enough.

Some of these messages should be communicated all year long, and some should be targeted to the season when they most frequently occur.

The audience for burn prevention messages is also quite clear. Parents should be the target for messages about keeping pot handles from hanging over the edge of the stove; for testing bath water and for not letting children bathe unattended; for keeping cups of coffee and tea far from the reach of curious hands. Teenagers need education on not touching car radiators while hot and under pressure; about proper auto mechanics and the proper use of gasoline; the dangers of fireworks; and how to react to cooking accidents. All age groups need to learn the incredible importance of installing and maintaining smoke detectors and of practicing home exit drills, since house fires are a leading cause of burns and deaths across all age groups.

Graph E.

### INCIDENCE OF BURNS BY COUNTY



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

# Burn Injury Telephone Report

Please Print

FOR OFPC USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED		TIME RECEIVED		CONTROL #	
1) VICTIM'S NAME (Last, First, M.I.)			2) SEX <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE		3) DATE OF BIRTH
4) VICTIM'S ADDRESS (Number, Street)					APT. #
CITY, TOWN, POST OFFICE		STATE	ZIP CODE	4a) VICTIM'S TELEPHONE NUMBER ( ) -	
5) ADDRESS WHERE BURN OCCURRED (Number, Street)					
CITY, TOWN, POST OFFICE		COUNTY		STATE	ZIP CODE
6) DATE OF INJURY		7) TIME OF INJURY HRS.		8) PERCENT BURNED %	9) DEGREE(S) OF BURN(S) <input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> Inhalation burn
10) AREA(S) OF BODY INJURED			11) INJURY SEVERITY (Place appropriate number in box)		
1 <input type="checkbox"/> FACE, HEAD      6 <input type="checkbox"/> LEG 2 <input type="checkbox"/> NECK, SHOULDER      7 <input type="checkbox"/> FOOT 3 <input type="checkbox"/> CHEST, ABDOMEN      8 <input type="checkbox"/> ARM 4 <input type="checkbox"/> BACK, BUTTOCKS      9 <input type="checkbox"/> HAND 5 <input type="checkbox"/> GROIN, GENITALS      10 <input type="checkbox"/> INTERNAL (Including trachea and larynx)			1 MODERATE (treated and released) 2 SERIOUS (hospitalized) 3 LIFE THREATENING (death is imminent and/or probable) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 DEAD ON ARRIVAL		
12) APPARENT CAUSE OF BURN INJURY (Place appropriate number in box)					
1 CHEMICAL — Contact or exposure to reactive, caustic, corrosive or irritating substance 2 CONTACT W/ HOT OBJECT — Woodstove, stovepipe, furnace, iron, steampipe, exhaust pipe, etc. 3 COOKING — Stove, oven, hotplate, barbecue, hot grease 4 ELECTRICAL — Electrocuttion, electrical equipment and flashburns 5 EXPLOSIVE — Gun powder, TNT, dynamite 6 FIREWORKS — Sparklers, firecrackers, rockets, smoke bombs, etc. 7 FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS — Ignition of flammable/combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, jet fuel, lighter fluid, etc. 8 GAS/VAPOR EXPLOSION — Ignition of flammable gases or the explosion of flammable liquid vapors 9 HOT LIQUID — Hot water, coffee, tea, hot food, hot tar, melted plastic, etc. 10 OTHER OPEN FLAME — Welding, matches, lighter, torch, etc. 11 OUTSIDE FIRES — Grass and brush, forest, bonfires, dump, trash and refuse fires, etc. 12 RADIATION — Burns caused by contact or exposure to any radioactive materials 13 STEAM — Caused by escaping steam from radiators, boilers, pipes, etc. 14 STRUCTURE FIRE — Any uncontained burning within a structure, including smoking accidents, trash fires, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> 15 SUNBURN — Exposure to ultraviolet light, including sun lamps 16 VEHICLE FIRE — Car, truck, plane, boat, tractor, lawnmower, etc., carburetor and engine fires, etc.					
13) REPORTING FACILITY					
14) ADDRESS OF REPORTING FACILITY (Number, Street)					
CITY, TOWN, POST OFFICE				STATE	ZIP CODE
15) NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN (Last, First, M.I.)					
16) PERSON REPORTING				TITLE	

## RENOTIFICATION

DATE		TIME	
AGENCY			
PERSON RECEIVING REPORT			TITLE
TELEPHONE OPERATOR			CHECK IF ADDITIONAL NOTES ARE ON BACK ...

FOR OFPC USE ONLY

DATE WHEN REPORT FORM IS RECEIVED		DATE WHEN DATA IS FILED		P F I #	
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Postage  
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by  
Addressee



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If Mailed in the  
United States

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 40 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801



**OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
5700 E. TUDOR ROAD  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-9987



Original sponsors: Koponen and Collins

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 332 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the reporting of certain in-  
7 juries."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 08.64.337. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO REPORT CERTAIN

11 INJURIES. (a) A health care professional who treats or attends to a

12 person with an injury described in (b) of this section shall make

13 certain that an oral report of the injury is made promptly to the

14 Department of Public Safety, a local law enforcement agency, or

15 a village public safety officer. The health care professional shall

16 make certain that a written report of an injury described in (b)(1) or

17 (2) of this section is submitted to the Department of Public Safety

18 within three working days after the person is treated. The report

19 shall be on a form provided by the department.

20 (b) The following injuries shall be reported under (a) of this

21 section:

22 (1) second or third degree burns to five percent or more of

23 a patient's body;

24 (2) a burn to a patient's upper respiratory tract or

25 laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air;

26 (3) a bullet wound, powder burn, or other injury apparently

27 caused by the discharge of a firearm;

28 (4) an injury apparently caused by a knife, axe, or other

29 sharp or pointed instrument, unless the injury was clearly accidental;

1 and

2 (5) an injury that is likely to cause the death of the  
3 patient, unless the injury was clearly accidental.

4 (c) A person who, in good faith, makes a report under this  
5 section, or who participates in judicial proceedings related to a  
6 report under this section, is immune from any civil or criminal li-  
7 ability that might otherwise be incurred as a result of making such a  
8 report or participating in the judicial proceedings.

9 (d) In this section, "health care professional" includes an  
10 emergency medical technician, health aide, physician, nurse, para-  
11 medic, and physician's assistant, but does not include a practitioner  
12 of religious healing.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY KOPONEN

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the reporting of burn injuries."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 \* Section 1. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9           Sec. 08.64.337. PHYSICIANS TO REPORT BURN INJURIES.   (a)   A  
10 physician who treats or attends to a person with a burn injury shall  
11 report the injury to the Department of Public Safety, division of fire  
12 prevention, on a form provided by the department. The report shall be  
13 submitted within 72 hours after the person is treated. If, in the  
14 physician's opinion, the person is likely to die before the department  
15 receives a written report, the physician shall make certain that the  
16 Alaska State Troopers or a local law enforcement agency is given  
17 prompt oral notice that the person is being treated for a burn injury  
18 and that the person may die soon.

19           (b) In this section, "burn injury" means

20                   (1) second or third degree burns to five percent or more of  
21 a patient's body; or

22                   (2) a burn to a patient's upper respiratory tract or laryn-  
23 geal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air.

C S H B

3 3 2

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER

4/30/88

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE

5/7/88

Mr. President:

Finance

Committee considered

CSHB 332 (HESS) am

relating to the reporting of certain injuries

and recommended

[ ] replace with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ ) [ ] same title  
[ ] or adopt \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ ) [ ] new title

[ ] attached amendment(s) and

[x] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendation

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] letter of intent adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Committee [ ] attached or [ ] adopted fiscal note(s)

[ ] new [ ] updated or [ ] previous

[ ] zero [x] fiscal impact

5.8 DPS

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*

Chairman signature and recommendation

[ ] Committee Backup attached

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 3/2/88  
Title: An act relating to the reporting of certain injuries.  
Sponsor: House HESS  
Requestor: Senate HESS

Agency Affected: Public Safety  
L&U: Fire Prevention  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3

CAPITAL	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
		0	0	0	0	0

REVENUE	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
		0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
See attachment.

*Jvk*  
*2/12/88*

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton *SEB.* Phone: 465-4331  
Division: Fire Prevention Date: 3-2-88

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] *Don. Comm.* Date: 3-2-88  
Agency: Public Safety

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
  - Legislative Sponsor
  - Requestor
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Impacted Agency(ies)

FISCAL NOTE

CSHB 332 (HESS) am

Assumptions:

An estimated 250 burn injuries will be reported each year.

A five percent inflation factor is used for subsequent years.

Personal Services. 100 hours per year, clerical and professional time for case management and data control, for burn injuries. 30.0

Travel. 0.0

Contractual.  
Printing & distribution of burn injury reporting forms to health care professionals (decrease 0.3 after first year) 1.0

Publication of periodic reports. 0.8

Supplies. Miscellaneous office supplies stationery, data storage media. 0.5

Equipment. Upgrade microcomputer hard drive/tape backup to increase data storage capacity (one-time cost). 3.5

Total 55.8

Original sponsors: Koponen and Collins

1 IN THE HOUSE  
2  
3 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 332 (HESS) am  
4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
5 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
6 A BILL  
7 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the reporting of certain in-  
8 juries."  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
10 \* Section 1. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:  
11 Sec. 08.64.337. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO REPORT CERTAIN  
12 INJURIES. (a) A health care professional who initially treats or  
13 attends to a person with an injury described in (b) of this section  
14 shall make certain that an oral report of the injury is made promptly  
15 to the Department of Public Safety, a local law enforcement agency, or  
16 a village public safety officer. The health care professional shall  
17 make certain that a written report of an injury described in (b)(1) or  
18 (2) of this section is submitted to the Department of Public Safety  
19 within three working days after the person is treated. The report  
20 shall be on a form provided by the department.  
21 (b) The following injuries shall be reported under (a) of this  
22 section:  
23 (1) second or third degree burns to five percent or more of  
24 a patient's body;  
25 (2) a burn to a patient's upper respiratory tract or  
26 laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air;  
27 (3) a bullet wound, powder burn, or other injury apparently  
28 caused by the discharge of a firearm;  
29 (4) an injury apparently caused by a knife, axe, or other  
sharp or pointed instrument, unless the injury was clearly accidental;

1 and

2 (5) an injury that is likely to cause the death of the  
3 patient, unless the injury was clearly accidental.

4 (c) A person who, in good faith, makes a report under this  
5 section, or who participates in judicial proceedings related to a  
6 report under this section, is immune from any civil or criminal li-  
7 ability that might otherwise be incurred as a result of making such a  
8 report or participating in the judicial proceedings.

9 (d) In this section, "health care professional" includes an  
10 emergency medical technician, health aide, physician, nurse, para-  
11 medic, and physician's assistant, but does not include a practitioner  
12 of religious healing.

STATE OF ALASKA  
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 332  
PUBLISH DATE: HOUSE 2/15/88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An act relating to the reporting of burn injuries.  
Sponsor: Rep. Koponen  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Public Safety  
BRU: Fire Prevention  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.4
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
---------	--	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
---------	--	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attachment.

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton  
Division: Fire Prevention

Phone: 465-4331  
Date: 1/15/88

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur Engle  
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 1-25-88

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL  
3200 PROVIDENCE DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196004  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-0004  
PHONE: (907) 562-2211



SISTERS OF  
PROVIDENCE

SERVING IN THE WEST SINCE 1884

April 26, 1988

Honorable Niilo Koponen  
Alaska State House  
P. O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

I believe HB332 is in the best interest of the residents of Alaska and visitors to our State.

As a Registered Nurse for ten years and a Thermal Care Nurse for six years, I have cared for hundreds of individuals with thermal injuries. Some of these injuries have stemmed from questionable (maybe criminal) activities.

Accurate reporting of injuries and their causes or circumstances should be documented and available for investigation to agencies sensitive to this issue.

I would include at the end of line 25 - "or toxic products (poisonous gases) of combustion".

Sincerely,

Scott Sullivan, R.N.  
Thermal Unit  
Asst. Unit Manager

# **CORRECTION**

**THIS DOCUMENT  
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED  
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

STATE OF ALASKA  
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 332  
PUBLISH DATE: HOUSE 2/15/88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An act relating to the reporting of burn injuries.  
Sponsor: Rep. Koponen  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Public Safety  
BRU: Fire Prevention  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.4
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
---------	--	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
---------	--	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attachment.

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton  
Division: Fire Prevention

Phone: 465-4331  
Date: 1/15/88

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]  
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 1-25-88

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Officer of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

## FISCAL NOTE

## CS HOUSE BILL 332

## Assumptions:

An estimated 500 burn injuries will be reported each year.

A 5 percent inflation factor is used for subsequent years.

Personal Services. 100 hours per year, clerical and professional time for case management and data control.	\$0.0
Travel.	0.0
Contractual.	
Telephone toll charges to notify law enforcement agencies.	1.3
Printing & distribution of forms & instructions to physicians & law enforcement. (decrease 0.3 after first year)	1.0
Publication of periodic reports.	0.8
Supplies.	
Misc. office supplies, stationery, data storage media.	0.5
Equipment.	
Upgrade microcomputer hard drive/tape backup to increase data storage capacity. (one-time cost)	3.5
Total	\$7.1

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL  
3200 PROVIDENCE DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196604  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6604  
PHONE: (907) 562-2211



SISTERS OF  
PROVIDENCE

SERVING IN THE WEST SINCE 1886

April 26, 1988

Honorable Niilo Koponen  
Alaska State House  
P. O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

I believe HB332 is in the best interest of the residents of Alaska and visitors to our State.

As a Registered Nurse for ten years and a Thermal Care Nurse for six years, I have cared for hundreds of individuals with thermal injuries. Some of these injuries have stemmed from questionable (maybe criminal) activities.

Accurate reporting of injuries and their causes or circumstances should be documented and available for investigation to agencies sensitive to this issue.

I would include at the end of line 25 - "or toxic products (poisonous gases) of combustion".

Sincerely,

Scott Sullivan, R.N.  
Thermal Unit  
Asst. Unit Manager

BILL NO:

DATE:

TITLE: HB 332

CONTACT: January 14, 1988

An act relating to the reporting of burn injuries.

Gordon Brunton  
465-4331

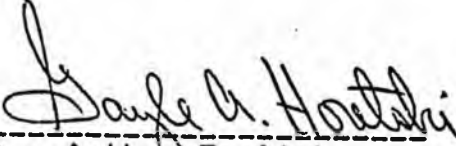
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

AS 08.64 would be amended to add a new section requiring physicians to report cases of burn injuries (more than 5 percent of the body with second or third degree burns, or burns to the upper respiratory tract or laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air) to the division of fire prevention within 72 hours after treatment. If the physician believes that the victim will die before the division receives the report, the physician must orally notify the Alaska State Troopers or a local law enforcement agency.

This bill would provide another tool to assist in the apprehension of arsonists and would give the Division a better understanding of burn injuries to assist in their prevention.

We suggest the addition of a penalty provision for wilfull failure to report.

The Department of Public Safety Supports passage with the suggested amendment of HB 332.

  
for Arthur English  
Commissioner

POSTER



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Public Safety*



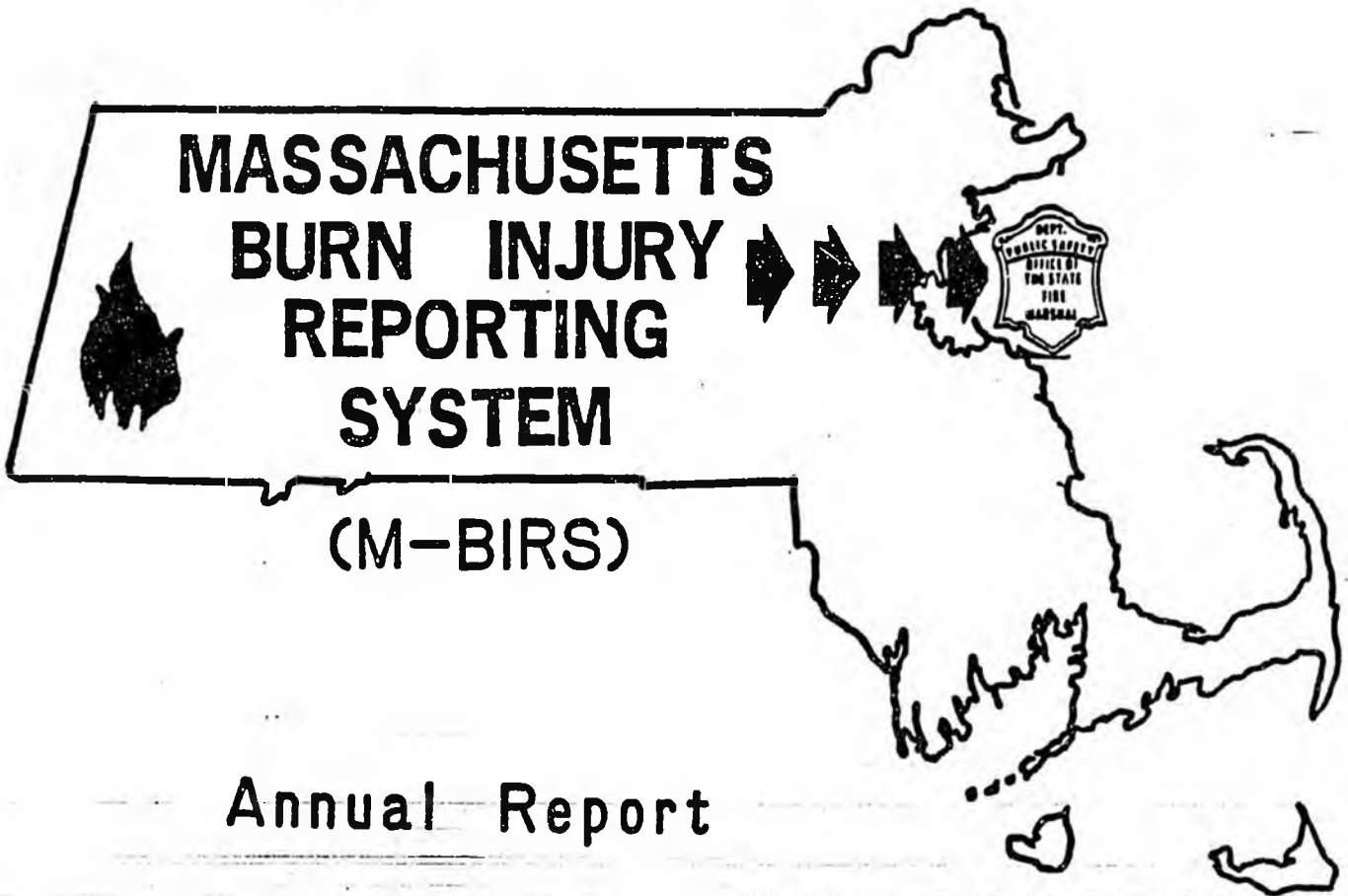
HB 332

**Michael S. Dukakis**  
*Governor*

**Frank J. Trabucco**  
*Commissioner*

**Charles V. Barry**  
*Secretary*

**Joseph A. O'Keefe**  
*State Fire Marshal*



**Annual Report**

**1985**



JOSEPH A. O'KEEFE, PE  
State Fire Marshal

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Public Safety*

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
1010 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

(617) 566-4500

MAY 5 1985

THE MASSACHUSETTS BURN INJURY REPORTING SYSTEM (M-BIRS)

The Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System was implemented on June 1, 1984 in accordance with Chapter 112, Section 12A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Under the provisions of the law, the treatment of all burns of 5% or more of a person's body surface area must be reported immediately to the Commissioner of Public Safety by the attending physician and/or the treatment facility.

M-BIRS was established primarily as an additional tool in the war against arson by establishing an early warning system for the detection of arsonists who may burn themselves accidentally in the course of their crime, as is not uncommon.

The M-BIRS system is the first such mandatory burn reporting mechanism in the nation. Many other states are now considering instituting a similar system and the State of New York has established their burn reporting system patterned closely after the M-BIRS.

1985, the first full year of operation for M-BIRS, saw the reporting of more than 600 serious burns, some of them under highly suspicious circumstances and presently under investigation.

The M-BIRS has had the anticipated ancillary benefits of establishing an automated burn data base for use in developing effective burn prevention programs in the Commonwealth.

With the continued cooperation of local fire, police and health organizations, M-BIRS will reach its optimum effectiveness in the fight against arson and the protection of our citizens from fire and burns.

*Joseph A. O'Keefe*  
Joseph A. O'Keefe  
State Fire Marshal

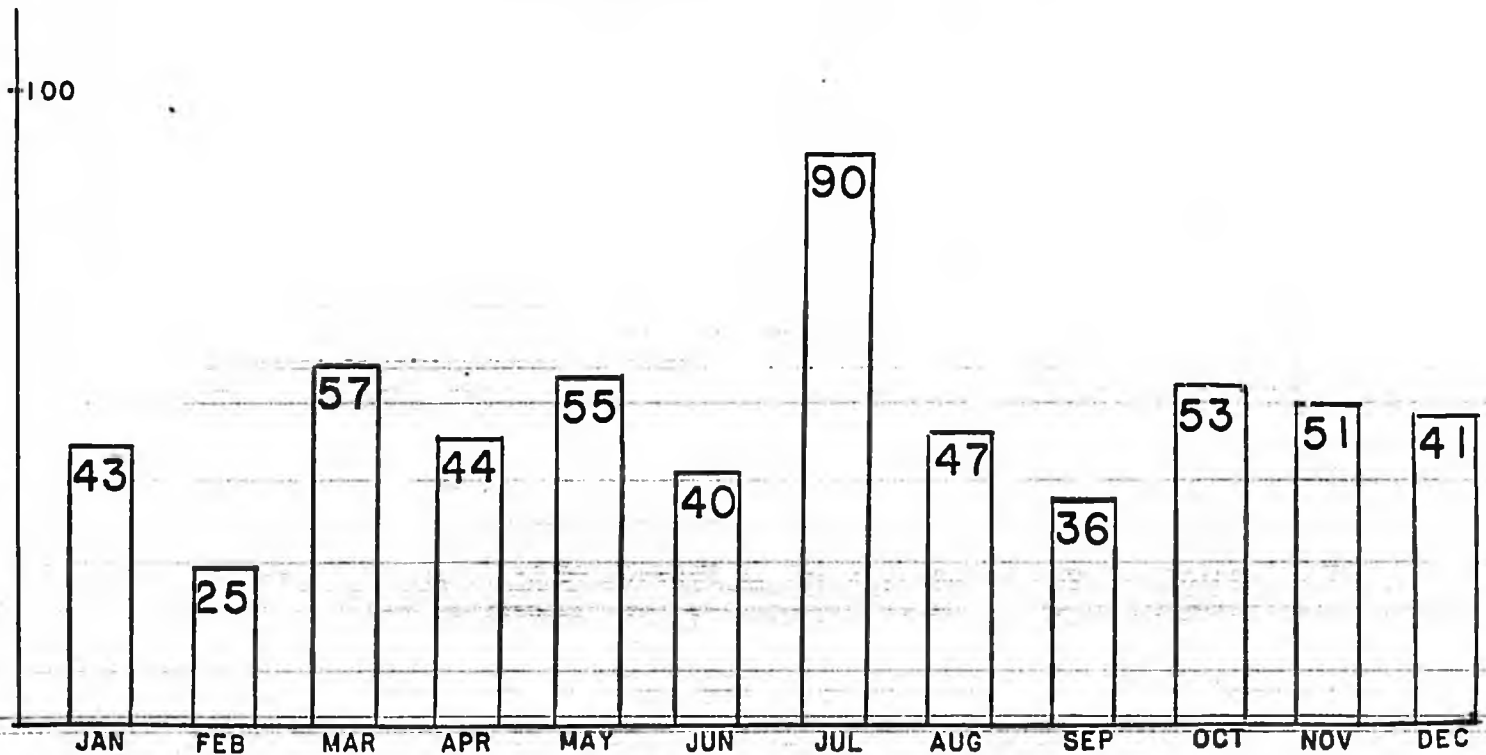
MASSACHUSETTS BURN INJURY REPORTING SYSTEM

In 1985, the first full year of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), 589 burn reports were received from 94 Massachusetts hospitals and health clinics (see Table 1.). Burn injuries of 5% or more of the body surface area must be reported to the Commissioner of Public Safety immediately through a 24-hour toll free hotline by the initial attending physician or medical facility. Then, the burn must be reported on a card and mailed to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

An average of 49 burns were reported monthly, ranging from 25 in February (the low) to 90 in July (the high). Based on the average, twice as many serious burns occur in July than can be expected in other months. This is consistent with analysis of burn reports submitted in 1984. (The Burn Registry was implemented on June 1, 1984.) July was also the "worst" months for burns in 1985. Graph A. below shows the reported burns by month.

Graph A.

INCIDENCE OF BURNS BY MONTH  
(Total-589)



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

### CAUSES BY MONTH

For every month except July, the number 1 ranked cause of burns is hot liquid scalds. These scalds are due to knocked over cups of coffee, too hot tub water, and cooking accidents.

For the winter months, November, December, January, February and March, house fires are the number 2 ranked cause of burns.

In May through October, radiator explosions and hot car parts are a leading cause of burns, becoming number 1 in July.

For all months of the year, cooking accidents are a leading and consistent cause of burns. They rank number 2, 3, or 4 depending on the season.

From May through October, gasoline is a leading cause of burns.

It is interesting to note that the top five ranked causes of burns: scalds, house fires, cooking accidents, gasoline and hot car parts/radiator explosions, are consistent. They change places in the ranking and reorder themselves based on seasonal fluctuations. ( See Table 2.).

### AFFECTED AGE GROUPS

Adults ( aged 21-64) comprise over half, 52% of the total burns reported; children 10 and under account for 22% of burn victims and teenagers represent 18%. (See Graph B.).

### CAUSES

The leading causes of burn injuries in Massachusetts during 1985 were: hot liquid scalds; electrical burns; house fires; cooking accidents;

Table 2.

LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS REPORTED IN EACH MONTHJANUARY-41

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	10
House Fires	7
Cooking	6
Gasoline	3
Smoking Materials	2
Electrical	2
Hot Car Parts	2
All others	19

MAY-55

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	13
Hot Car Part	6
Gasoline	5
Cooking/BBQ	5
Electrical	4
House Fire	3
Chemical	2
All others	17

FEBRUARY-25

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	10
House Fires	4
Smoking Materials	2
Grease	2
All Others	7

JUNE-40

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	8
Cooking/BBQ	4
Fireworks	4
Hot Car Part	3
Sunburn	3
Chemical	3
All Others	15

MARCH-57

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	19
House Fires	17
Cooking	4
Smoking Materials	2
Gasoline	2
All others	13

JULY-90

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Hot Car Parts	15
Fireworks	14
Hot Liquid Scalds	11
Smoking Materials	5
Cooking/BBQ	3
Sunburn	3
Boat Fires	2
All others	37

APRIL-44

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scald	13
Cooking	5
House Fires	4
Explosion	3
Motor Vehicle Accident	3
Chemical	3
Electrical	2
All Others	11

AUGUST

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Hot Liquid Scalds	13
Gasoline	6
Hot Car Parts	5
Appliances	3
Electrical	3
All others	17

Table 2. (cont'd)

SEPTEMBER-36

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Hot Liquid Scalds	12
Gasoline	7
House Fires	2
Chemical	2
Smoking Materials	2
All others	11

NOVEMBER-51

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scalds	20
Chemical	4
House Fires	4
All others	21

OCTOBER-53

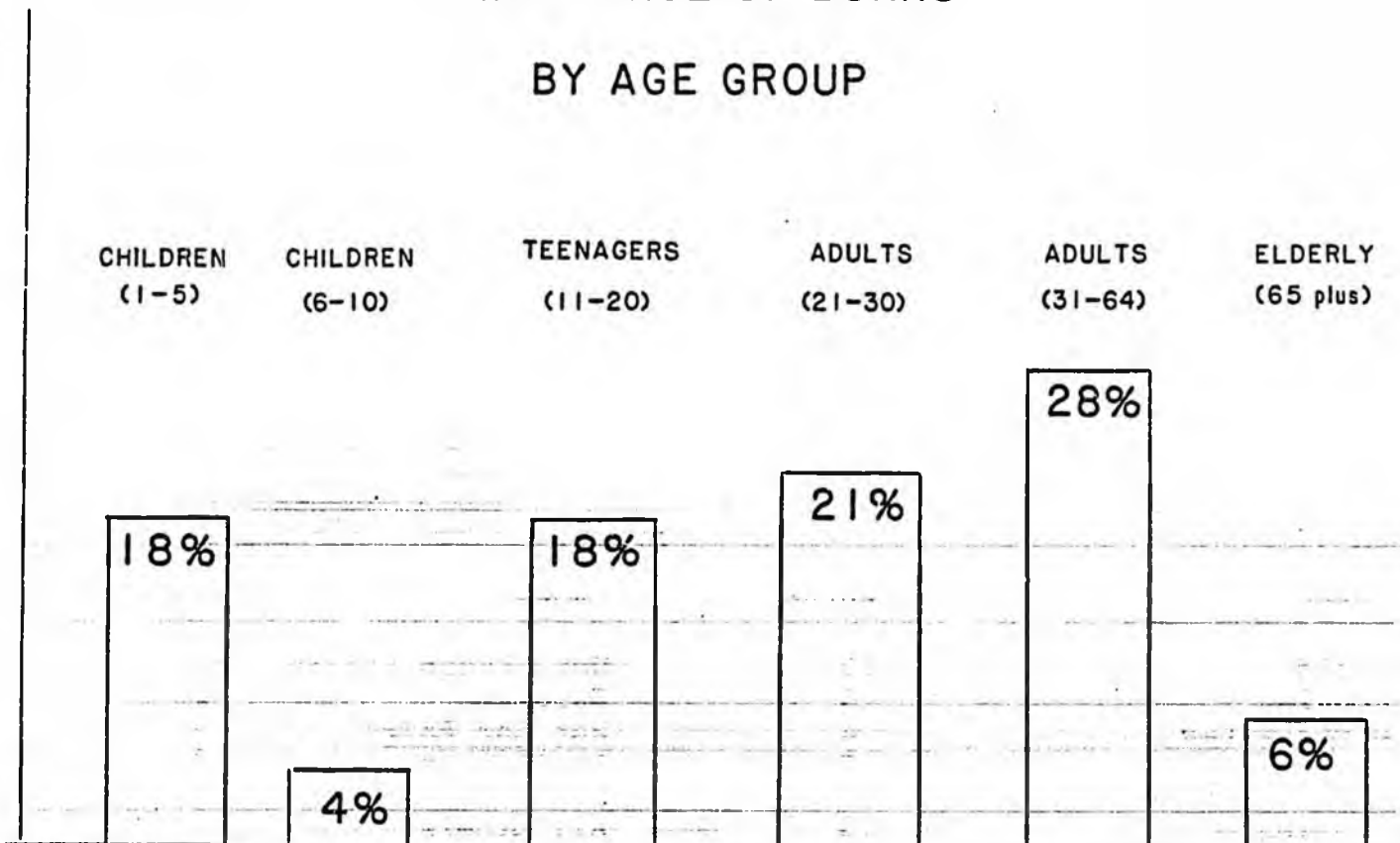
<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scalds	18
Gasoline	9
Smoking Materials	4
Hot Car Parts	4
House Fires	2
All others	16

DECEMBER-41

<u>Cause</u>	<u># Burns</u>
Scalds	14
House Fires	4
Cooking	3
Electrical	2
Woodstoves	2
All others	16

Graph B.

INCIDENCE OF BURNS  
BY AGE GROUP

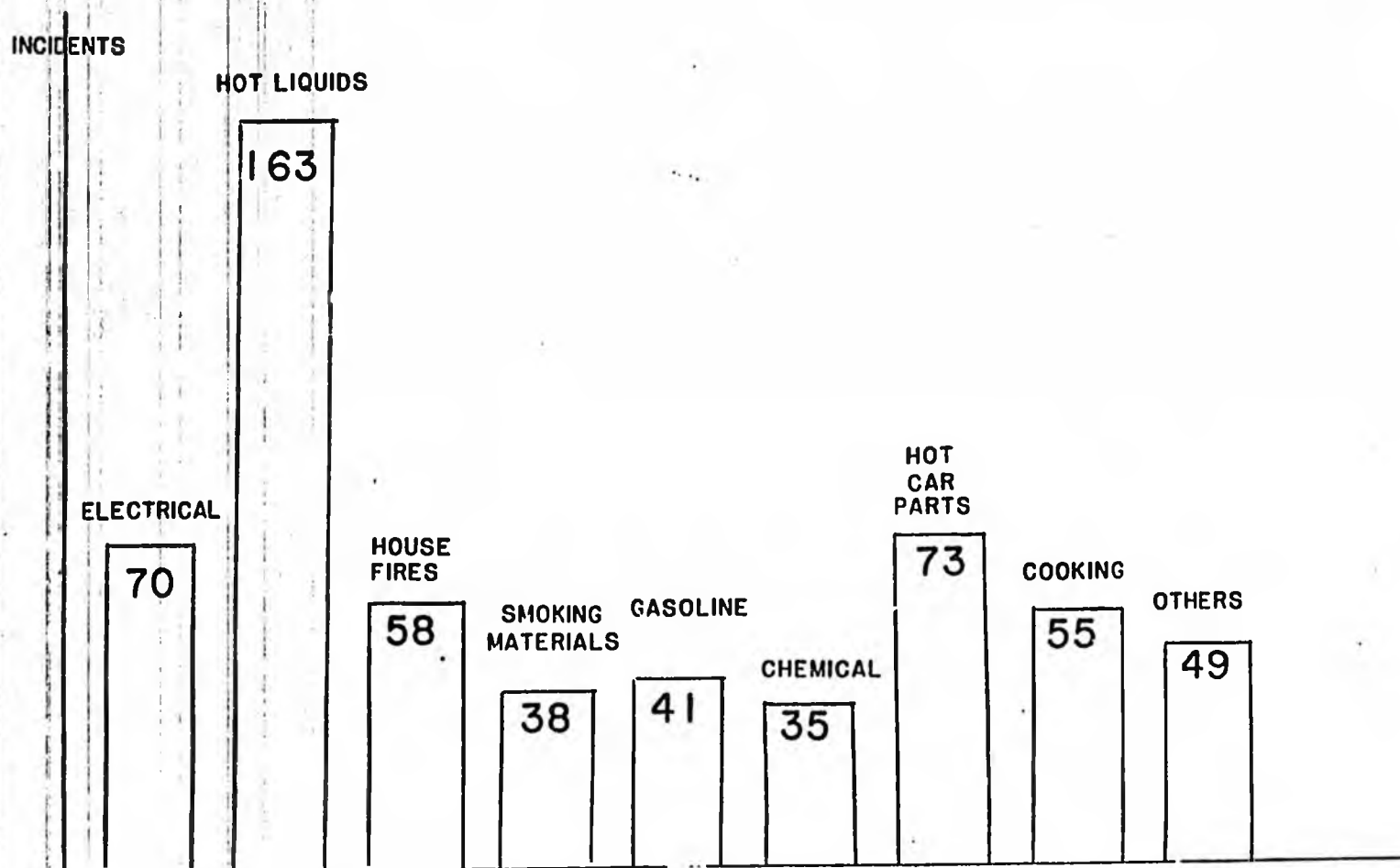


SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

Graph C.

# LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS

Total Population



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

hot car parts and radiator explosions; fireworks; and steam scalds. This is based on total burns.

#### CAUSES BY AGE GROUP

Children 5 and under accounted for 18% of all reported burns. 82 of the 106 burns for this age group, or 77% were caused by hot liquid scalds from coffee, tea, boiling water, and excessively hot bath water. 6% were received in house fires.

The 6-10 year old age group counted 29 victims; 50% of these burns were caused by hot liquid scalds and 16% occurred in house fires.

111 victims were teenagers 11-20 years old. 14% were caused by radiator explosions and hot car parts. 14% of these burns occurred while using gasoline. An additional 14% were due to fireworks. 12% of burns in this age group were cooking accidents.

21-30 year olds are the largest group of burn victims representing 21% of the total. The leading causes of burns for this age group were: car radiator explosions/hot car parts (16%); chemical burns (15%); hot liquid scalds (13%); cooking accidents (12%); and misuse of smoking materials (7%).

72 victims were 31-40 years old. 18% of these burns were caused by hot car parts and radiator explosions; 13% occurred in house fires; 9% happened while working with gasoline.

9% of the reported burn victims were aged 41-50. Nearly one-quarter of these burns were from hot car parts and radiator explosions. Hot liquid scalds caused 18%. 12% of these burns occurred in house fires. 9% of the burns were the result of the misuse of smoking materials.

6% of 1985's burn injuries involved 51-64 year olds. Hot liquid spills and house fires each caused 15% of these burns. 11% were due to the misuse of smoking materials.

Table 3.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF BURNS BY AGE GROUP

CAUSES	AGE									ROW TOTAL
	0-5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-64	65+	UNK.	
Hot Liquid Scalds	84	13	12	18	7	10	7	13	2	166
House Fires	7	4	3	13	10	7	7	6		57
Radiator Explosion/ Hot Car Parts	1	0	16	20	11	9	5	1	1	63
Car Fires	0	0	3	4	3	2	0	0		12
Gasoline	0	3	15	8	7	6	2	1		42
Cooking Accidents	5	0	13	16	3	7	4	7		55
Fireworks	1	2	15	1	4	0	0	1		24
Smoking Materials	2	3	3	9	4	5	5	5		36
Chemicals	3	0	7	14	3	1	2	0		30
Steam	2	3	2	3	2	2	0	1		15
Electricity	0	0	4	10	5	2	3	1		25
Clothing On Fire	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2		6
Brush/Bon Fire	2	0	4	4	1	2	0	1		14
Gunpowder	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	0		8
Sunburn	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0		6
Boat Fires	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0		4
Appliances	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	1		8
Portable Heaters	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0		4
Furnaces	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0		6
Bombs	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Self-Immolation	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0		4
Plane Crashes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Undetermined									1	1
Column Total	111	29	111	129	67	58	40	40	4	589
Column % of Total*	16%	4%	18%	21%	11%	9%	6%	6%		100%

\* Percentages are rounded off and may not appear to total 100%.

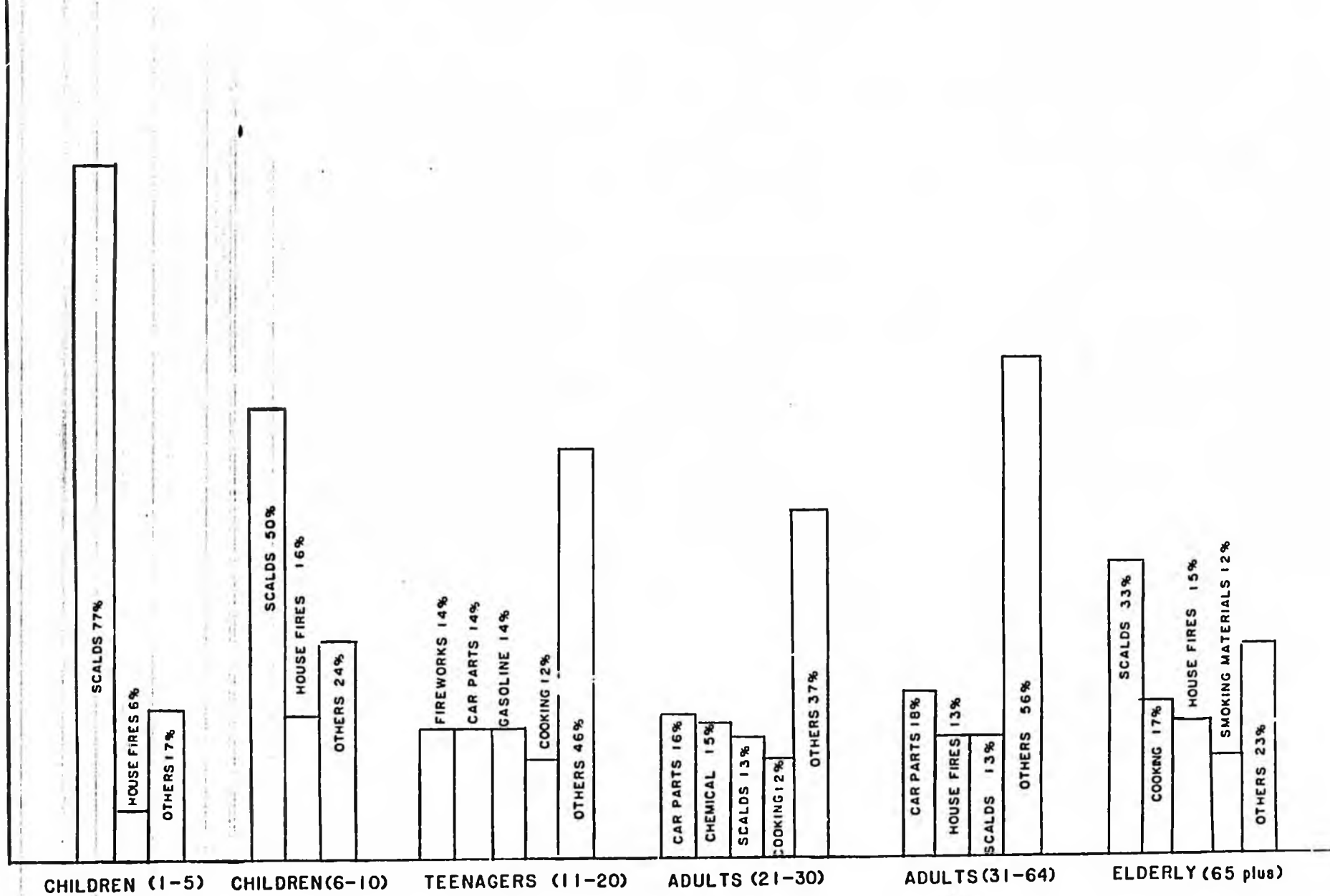
SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

Graph D.

# LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS BY AGE GROUP

%

-8-



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

Table 4.

LEADING CAUSES OF BURNS BY AGE GROUP

AGE 0-5 Total = 111

Hot Liquid Scalds-84  
House Fires-7

AGE 6-10 Total = 29

Hot Liquid Scalds-13  
House Fires-4

AGE 11-20 Total = 111

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosion-16  
Gasoline-15  
Fireworks-15  
Cooking-13

AGE 21-30 Total = 129

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-20  
Chemicals-14  
Hot Liquid Scalds-18  
Cooking-16  
Smoking Materials-9

AGE 31-40 Total = 67

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-11  
House Fires-10  
Hot Liquid Scalds-7  
Gasoline-7

AGE 41-50 Total = 58

Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-19  
Hot Liquid Scalds-10  
House Fires-7  
Cooking-7  
Smoking Materials-5

AGE 51-64 Total = 40

Hot Liquid Scalds-7  
House Fires-7  
Smoking Materials-5  
Hot Car Parts/  
Radiator Explosions-5

AGE 65 and over Total = 40

Hot Liquid Scalds-13  
Cooking-7  
House Fires-6  
Smoking Materials-5

The elderly, people aged 65 and over, accounted for 6% of total burn victims. Hot liquid scalds caused one-third (33%) of these burns. Cooking accidents caused 17% of the elderly's burns. 15% occurred as the result of house fires; and 125 were due to the misuse of smoking materials.

Graph D. shows the leading causes of burns for each age group. Table 3. shows the total number of burns by cause and age group. Table 4. shows only the leading causes of burns by age group.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Burn victims during 1985 came from 180 different Massachusetts cities and towns and from every county. People came from all the large population centers and from many rural communities. (See Table 5.) Massachusetts hospitals also treated and reported the burn injuries of 30 people who live outside of Massachusetts. Graph E. depicts the number of burn victims by their county of residence.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The preceding analysis of Massachusetts burns in 1985 shows the extent to which fire prevention and burn prevention overlap. It is our hope that fire prevention agencies, public health officials, the medical community, educators, and community groups can together use this information to form a "road map" for burn prevention strategies.

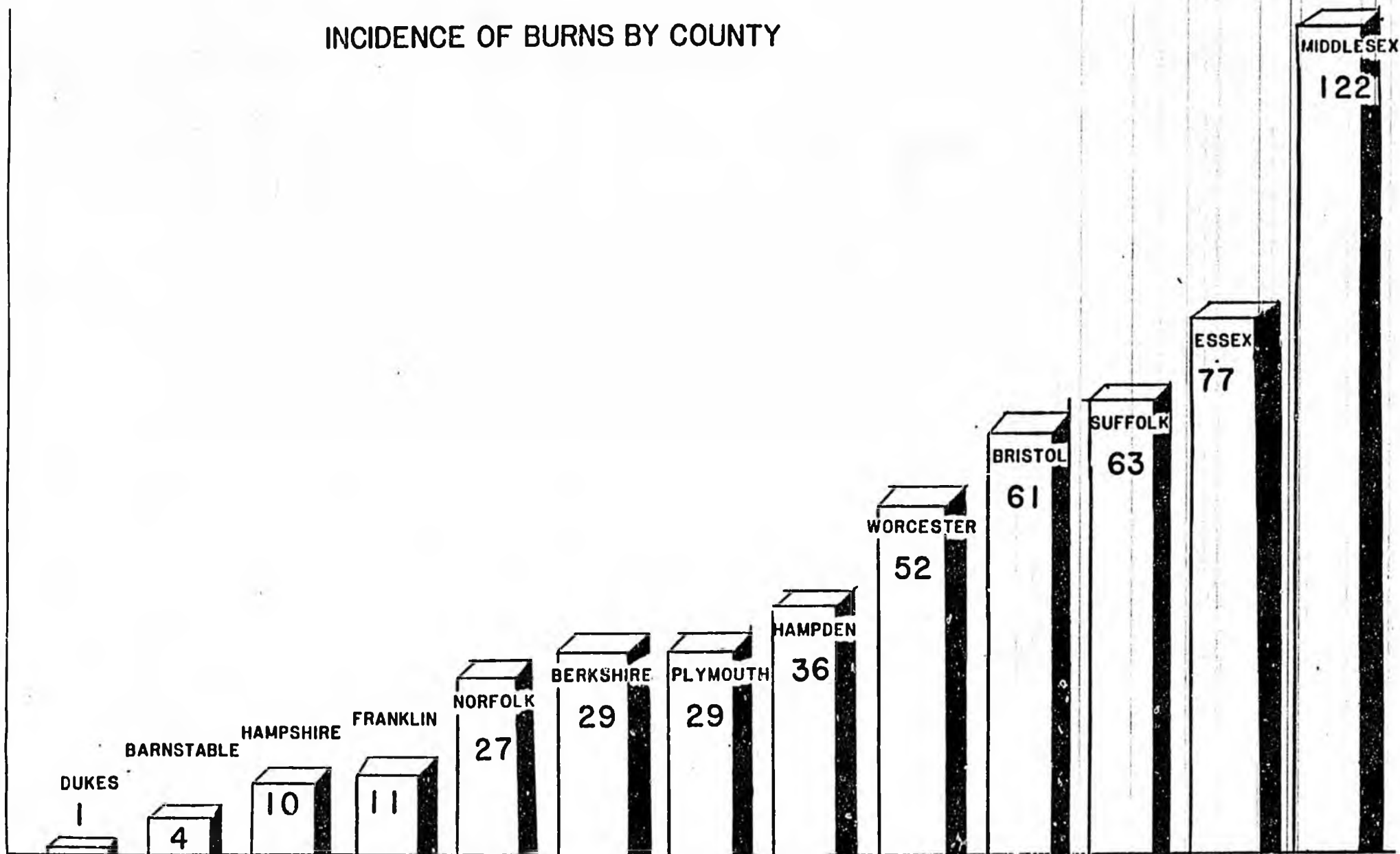
It is abundantly clear that the public needs greater education on preventing scalds—to young children in the home; on how to react to cooking accidents which get out of control; the dangers inherent in car radiators and hot car parts; the dangers in using fireworks and gasoline; and the message about the careless use and disposal of smoking materials cannot be reiterated enough.

Some of these messages should be communicated all year long, and some should be targeted to the season when they most frequently occur.

The audience for burn prevention messages is also quite clear. Parents should be the target for messages about keeping pot handles from hanging over the edge of the stove; for testing bath water and for not letting children bathe unattended; for keeping cups of coffee and tea far from the reach of curious hands. Teenagers need education on not touching car radiators while hot and under pressure; about proper auto mechanics and the proper use of gasoline; the dangers of fireworks; and how to react to cooking accidents. All age groups need to learn the incredible importance of installing and maintaining smoke detectors and of practicing home exit drills, since house fires are a leading cause of burns and deaths across all age groups.

Graph E.

### INCIDENCE OF BURNS BY COUNTY



SOURCE: 1985 reports to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS).

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

revd 4/28

FURTHER

FINANCE

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

4/28/88  
Mr. President:

JUDICIARY Committee considered CSHB 332 (HESS) am

relating to the reporting of certain injuries

and recommended

replace with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ )  same title  
 or adopt \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ )  new title

attached amendment(s) and

(whole)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

letter of intent adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Committee  attached or  adopted fiscal note(s)  
 new  updated or  previous  
 zero  fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup attached

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

revd 4/28

FURTHER

FINANCE

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

4/28/88  
Mr. President:

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(whole)

do pass

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no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

letter of intent adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Committee  attached or  adopted fiscal note(s)  
 new  updated or  previous  
 zero  fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] De p...  
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup attached

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

Judiciary  
FURTHER Finance

2/29/88

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 4/28/88

Mr. President:

HESS Committee considered CSHB 332 (HESS) am

relating to the reporting of certain injuries

and recommended

replace with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ )  same title  
 or adopt \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ )  new title

attached amendment(s) and

*Wish*

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

letter of intent adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Committee  attached or  adopted fiscal note(s)

new  updated or  previous

zero  fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Joe Josephson  
Tommy  
Mad Jones  
Victor  
   
   
 

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paul Fink (Do Pass)  
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup attached

H B

3 3 5

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date referred: 1/29/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 4-27-88

The Finance Committee has considered HB 335

"An Act amending notice requirements relating to the municipal assistance program; and providing for an effective date."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with CS HB 335 (C&RA)  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published 1/29/88
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

*Al Adams*  
*Pat Fauchot*  
*Ron Larson*  
*Mark Baylin*  
*Steve Brown*  
*John Frank*  
*Ray Wallis*  
*Jay Brown*  
*Al Adams*  
*Mike Dan*

**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*Al Adams*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Al Adams*

Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA  
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 335 (C&RA)  
PUBLISH DATE: HOUSE 1/29/88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: "An act amending notice requirements  
..municipal assistance..effective date"  
Sponsor: Representative Taylor  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Community & Regional Affairs  
BRU: Municipal Assistance  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Jim Plasman, Deputy Director Phone: 465-4750  
Division: Municipal & Regional Assistance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Commissioner: Ronald Henderson for David Hoffman Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: Community & Regional Affairs

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Original sponsor: Taylor

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 335 (C&RA)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act amending notice requirements relating to the  
7 municipal assistance program; and providing for an  
8 effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 \* Section 1. AS 29.60.370(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) The intent of (a) of this section is that a municipality  
12 that levies property taxes reduce those levies in reasonable propor-  
13 tion to the amount of increased state aid received by the municipal-  
14 ity. [THE GOVERNING BODY OF EACH MUNICIPALITY SHALL FURNISH A NOTICE  
15 WITH EACH TAX STATEMENT DESCRIBING ITS USE OF THIS STATE AID.]

16 \* Sec. 2. AS 29.60.370 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (c) The governing body of each municipality that levies and  
18 collects property taxes shall furnish a notice describing use of the  
19 state aid provided under (a) of this section. Notice shall be pro-  
20 vided

21 (1) by furnishing a copy of the notice with each tax state-  
22 ment mailed for the fiscal year for which aid is received; or

23 (2) by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation in  
24 the municipality a copy of the notice once each week for three succes-  
25 sive weeks, with the first publication to occur not later than 45 days  
26 after the final adoption of the municipality's budget.

27 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TTB 335  
STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

- P.O. BOX B  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2100  
PHONE: (907) 465-4700
- 849 E. 36TH AVENUE, SUITE 400  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508-4302  
PHONE: (907) 563-1073

January 21, 1988

POSITION PAPER

JAN 22 1987

RE: House Bill 335

SPONSOR: Representative Taylor

## Program Effects of Bill

Under existing law, municipalities which levy a property tax must furnish a notice of the use of increased state aid received under the Municipal Assistance Program by including a statement of how the aid was used with each tax statement. This bill would allow such notice to be given alternatively by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. This amendment would not have a fiscal effect on the program.

## Comments

The Department supports the bill, with one minor proposed change to make it consistent with the coverage of the existing requirement, as described below. The required notice was not a significant issue in the past because the requirement is not made a condition of receipt of municipal assistance entitlements. However, with the adoption of the state single audit regulations, failure to comply with the municipal assistance notice requirement gave rise to an audit finding of non-compliance for a municipality if it failed to meet the requirement.

The requirement in its present form has caused problems because it does not give the option of publication in a local newspaper, which is allowed for the revenue sharing taxpayer notice. Strict compliance with the municipal assistance requirement of furnishing the notice with the tax statements has created hardship for municipalities in the following ways:

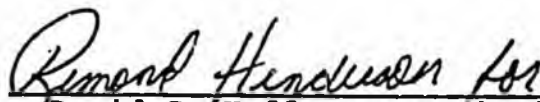
- inability to determine the amounts to be reported in time to include it with the tax statement;

House Bill 335  
January 21, 1988  
Page Two

- confusion over what the tax notice should include;
- confusion between the municipal assistance and revenue sharing requirements;
- hardship from interruption of automated tax statement procedures to include municipal assistance notice by hand; and
- difficulty in reporting by a city within a borough, where the city levies a separate tax, but the tax administration (including distribution of tax statements) and collection is by the borough.

The proposed bill, which would allow giving notice through publication in a local newspaper, in the manner of the revenue sharing taxpayer notice requirements at AS 29.45.020(b), would alleviate these problems and still serve the objective of the law of giving notice to residents of the direct benefits of the state assistance that they have received.

It should be noted that the department has interpreted this requirement to apply only to those municipalities which levy a property tax, as those are the only ones which distribute a tax statement. The department suggests that the language in the bill clarify this point by adding language which would make this requirement applicable to municipalities that levy a property tax. To extend the requirement to all municipalities would greatly expand the coverage of the requirement with potential hardship to smaller municipalities which do not have ready access to a newspaper of general circulation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David G. Hoffman, Commissioner

(4) 115 333



ADOPTED AUGUST 1972

# CITY of WRANGELL, ALASKA

INCORPORATED JUNE 15, 1903

BOX 531, 99929 (907) 874-2381

July 29, 1987

David G. Hoffman, Commissioner  
Dept. of Community & Regional Affairs  
P. O. Box B  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2100

RE: Municipal Assistance Program

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

We are in receipt of your letter dated July 20, 1987, transmitting final payment for the FY 87 Municipal Assistance Program.

The City of Wrangell has not furnished a notice with tax statements describing the use of increased state aid. Wrangell is a home rule municipality located outside any organized Borough and AS 29.60.030<sup>310</sup>(b) is not applicalbe per AS 29.10.200. The City will, as an act of good faith, publish a notice to taxpayers regarding use of the funds.

At the time the State began the Revenue Sharing Program, a similar notice was required to be mailed with tax statements. This requirement was later amended by the Legislature to allow the notice to be mailed with tax statements or to be published. Because so many taxing jurisdictions prepare tax statements by computer that are sealed in mailers, we would like to suggest an amendment that would allow the option for the notice to be published by all taxing jurisdictions. Such an amendment would greatly reduce the time and cost of the present requirement.

Sincerely,

Joyce Rasler  
City Manager

cc: Senator Lloyd Jones  
Rep. Robin Taylor  
Rep. John Sund  
Petersburg City Manager  
Cordoya City Manager  
City Attorney Stahl

(5) HB 335



ADOPTED AUGUST 1972

# CITY of WRANGELL, ALASKA

INCORPORATED JUNE 15, 1903

BOX 531, 99929 (907) 874-2381

January 21, 1988

Representative Robin Taylor  
House of Representatives  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: House Bill No. 335  
Municipal Assistance Program Notice

Dear Representative Taylor:

The City of Wrangell supports House Bill No. 335, which would amend the notice requirements on the Municipal Assistance Program.

We believe the requirement that notice of the use of the funds be mailed with tax statements is time consuming and costly to taxing jurisdictions. Our tax statements are prepared by computer and come from the computer sealed in the mailing envelope. In addition, even renters are affected by tax levies and State funding and should receive notice. This can easily be done by publishing notice. This amendment would allow the local governing body the option of mailing or publishing the notice as is now allowed for State Revenue Sharing (Sec. AS 29.45.020).

We urge approval of this amendment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce Rasler".

Joyce Rasler  
City Manager

JR:fv

cc: Representative John Sund


Alaska  
MUNICIPAL  
League

⑦ HB 335

TELEPHONE  
(907) 586-1325

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 301  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

TO: Representative Henry Springer, Chair  
Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

FROM: Scott A. Burgess, Executive Director 

DATE: January 27, 1988

SUBJECT: HB 335 - Taxpayer Notice

On behalf of its 135 member municipalities, the Alaska Municipal League supports HB 335 allowing the options of individual notice or newspaper notice to taxpayers regarding municipal assistance program payments. This legislation will provide consistency within the Statute (Title 29) and substantial savings of time and money for the municipalities and the taxpayers while meeting the intent of adequate notice.

Amending AS 29.60.370 as proposed by HB 335 will bring it into conformance with AS 29.45.020. Taxpayer Notice (a). Publication in a "newspaper of general circulation" may be much more efficient than individual notices for some municipalities who choose that option and, therefore, less expensive. An added benefit of the newspaper notice is informing non-taxpayers the cost of government and the amount of state assistance.

I do not know if the inconsistency between the two sections is intentional or a result of the fact that municipal assistance use to be addressed in Title 43 under the Department of Revenue before it was brought under the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and Title 29 under the "Title 29 Rewrite" legislation in 1985. The subject section does deal with "Increased Assistance" but that does not seem to be critical to not allowing the option, and, unfortunately, municipal assistance has not increased in several years! Adequate notice, consistency and some cost savings would be achieved with the passage of HB 335.

Again, the Alaska Municipal League supports HB 335 and the taxpayer notice options it would allow or clarify.

HB 335

TES  
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Outside Borough  
SLA 1985.)  
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.47.500)  
29.45.670)  
.45.710)  
roperty Tax.  
on  
Independent investigation  
Violations  
Reevaluation  
Assessment roll  
Assessment notice  
Corrections  
Appeal  
Board of equalization  
Hearing  
Supplementary assessment  
Tax adjustments on property  
ed by a natural disaster  
Tax levy and rate  
Rates of penalty and interest

inified municipality may  
awide functions;  
unctions limited to the  
for functions limited  
levy a property tax sub  
s city may levy a prop  
on personal property, th  
as provided in this

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT § 29.45.020

references. — 71 Am. Jur. 64 C.J.S., Municipal Corporations,  
and Local Taxation, § 201 et § 1978 et seq.; 84 C.J.S., Taxation, § 57 et  
— 4 Am. Jur. 2d, State and Local Tax- seq.  
772  
§ 29.45.020. Taxpayer notice. (a) If a municipality levies and  
collects property taxes, the governing body shall provide the following  
notice

"NOTICE TO TAXPAYER

For the current fiscal year the (city)(borough) has been allocated the  
amount of state aid for school and municipal purposes  
the applicable financial assistance Acts:

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSIS-	
TANCE (AS 14.17)	\$
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CON-	
STRUCTION DEBT (AS 14.11.100)	\$
MUNICIPAL TAX RESOURCE EQUALIZATION AS-	
SISTANCE (AS 29.60.010 — 29.60.080)	\$
STATE AID FOR MISCELLANEOUS MUNICIPAL	
SERVICES (AS 29.60.100 — 29.60.180)	\$
TOTAL AID	\$

The millage equivalent of this state aid, based on the dollar value of  
a mill in the municipality during the current assessment year and  
for the preceding assessment year, is:

MILLAGE EQUIVALENT		
	PREVIOUS YEAR	THIS YEAR
PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE	....MILLS	....MILLS
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT	....MILLS	....MILLS
MUNICIPAL TAX RESOURCE EQUALIZATION ASSISTANCE	....MILLS	....MILLS
STATE AID FOR MISCELLANEOUS MUNICIPAL SERVICES	....MILLS	....MILLS
TOTAL MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	....MILLS	....MILLS"

shall be provided  
(1) by furnishing a copy of the notice with tax statements mailed for  
the fiscal year for which aid is received; or  
(2) by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation in the mu-  
nicipality a copy of the notice once each week for a period of three  
successive weeks, with publication to occur not later than 45 days  
after the final adoption of the municipality's budget.

Title 31  
Oil and Gas

Title 32  
Partnership

Partnership, Finance,  
and Insurance

Title 30  
Navigation, Harbors  
and Shipping

(b) Compliance with the provisions of this section is a prerequisite to receipt of municipal tax resource equalization assistance under AS 29.60.010 — 29.60.080 and state aid for miscellaneous municipal services under AS 29.60.100 — 29.60.180. The department shall withhold annual allocations under those sections until municipal officials demonstrate that the requirements of this section have been met. (AS 29.45.030, 74 SLA 1985)

**Sec. 29.45.030. Required exemptions.** (a) The following property is exempt from general taxation:

(1) municipal, state, or federally owned property, except that a private leasehold, contract, or other interest in the property is taxable to the extent of the interest;

(2) household furniture and personal effects of members of a household;

(3) property used exclusively for nonprofit religious, charitable, cemetery, hospital, or educational purposes;

(4) property of a nonbusiness organization composed entirely of persons with 90 days or more of active service in the armed forces of the United States whose conditions of service and separation were not dishonorable, or the property of an auxiliary of that organization;

(5) money on deposit;

(6) the real property of certain residents of the state to the extent and subject to the conditions provided in (e) of this section;

(7) real property or an interest in real property that is exempt from taxation under 43 U.S.C. 1620(d), as amended.

(b) In (a) of this section, "property used exclusively for religious purposes" includes the following property owned by a religious organization:

(1) the residence of a bishop, pastor, priest, rabbi, minister, or member of a religious order of a recognized religious organization;

(2) a structure, its furniture, and its fixtures used solely for religious worship, charitable purposes, religious administrative offices, religious education, or a nonprofit hospital;

(3) lots required by local ordinance for parking near a structure defined in (2) of this subsection.

(c) Property described in (a)(3) or (4) of this section from which income is derived is exempt only if that income is solely from the property by nonprofit religious, charitable, hospital, or educational groups. If used by nonprofit educational groups, the property is exempt only if used exclusively for classroom space.

(d) Laws exempting certain property from execution under the Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure (AS 09) do not exempt the property from taxes levied and collected by municipalities.

(1) The real property owned and used as a permanent place of abode by a person who is (1) a disabled veteran; (2) a disabled veteran's widow or widower of a person who is a disabled veteran; or (3) a person who is a disabled veteran under (1) or (2) of this subsection. The exemption shall be for up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of the property, in a case of hardship, provided the assessed value in actuality is not more than \$150,000. Only one exemption may be claimed, and if two or more persons are eligible for the exemption on the same property, the parties shall decide who shall receive the benefit of the exemption. The exemption shall be determined under this subsection without a hearing to the parties, though a hearing may be requested primarily for the purpose of determining the assessed value of the property. (AS 29.45.030, 74 SLA 1985)

An exemption may not be granted unless a written application for the exemption is filed with the assessor for use by local assessment purposes no later than January 15 of the assessment year, or not later than March 31, if the exemption is sought. The governing body may waive during the assessment year the application for exemption. The assessor may accept the application as if it were filed for each assessment year. If an application is filed with the assessor, the assessor shall comply with the provisions of AS 29.45.030, or a date provided in the ordinance, of the assessment year. The application for exemption and the application for exemption shall be filed with the assessor and the application for exemption shall be filed with the assessor. If the claimant has already received an exemption, the property exempted shall be required to provide proof in the form and amount of an exemption. The assessor shall require a disabled veteran to provide evidence of the exemption. The assessor shall require proof under this section. The state shall reimburse the municipality for property tax revenues lost. However, reimbursement shall be limited to the extent of the amount granted by the municipality. The amount would have been paid if the exemption had been granted.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY TAYLOR

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 335

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act amending notice requirements relating to the  
municipal assistance program; and providing for an  
effective date."

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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\* Section 1. AS 29.60.370(b) is amended to read:

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(b) The intent of (a) of this section is that a municipality

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that levies property taxes reduce those levies in reasonable propor-

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tion to the amount of increased state aid received by the municipal-

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ity. [THE GOVERNING BODY OF EACH MUNICIPALITY SHALL FURNISH A NOTICE

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WITH EACH TAX STATEMENT DESCRIBING ITS USE OF THIS STATE AID.]

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\* Sec. 2. AS 29.60.370 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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(c) The governing body of each municipality shall furnish a

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notice describing use of the state aid provided under (a) of this

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section. Notice shall be provided

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(1) by furnishing a copy of the notice with each tax state-  
ment mailed for the fiscal year for which aid is received; or

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(2) by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation in

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the municipality a copy of the notice once each week for three succes-

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sive weeks, with the first publication to occur not later than 45 days

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after the final adoption of the municipality's budget.

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\* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).