

# Fire Losses Skyrocket

"Fire losses have skyrocketed this year, and there really is no excuse for it as most of these losses stem from pure carelessness," Wally Dawson, State Fire Marshal, said today.

Dawson pointed out that 16 million in damages have accrued to date as against \$8 million for the entire year of 1971.

"The biggest jump we had in past years was from \$2 million to \$5 million in losses in 1962 and 1963," the Fire Marshal said. "This year the loss rate has doubled and we haven't even reached the six months mark," Dawson added.

The Fire Marshal said the death rate was also considerably higher than last year.

"Twenty-one people have been killed in fires so far as against fourteen last year. A total of thirty-three people were killed in 1971, 54 percent of whom were children, ten years old or younger. This loss is irreplaceable in terms of human suffering," said Dawson.

The Fire Marshal revealed that the highest rate of loss occurred as the result of carelessness in respect to electrical appliances and wiring, and overheating of oil and gas furnaces.