

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 82: 1913 (PROPERTY LOSS STATISTICS)

By Richard Schulte

Included in the appendix of "Official Record of the First American National Fire Prevention Convention" is a report issued by the Philadelphia Fire Marshal dated January 1, 1914. Part of the Fire Marshal's report includes a section on per capita fire losses in various American and European cities in 1907. The following is an excerpt of this section of the Fire Marshal's report:

“ . . . Compared with foreign city averages it is obvious at once how much can be saved in Philadelphia. The following table, based upon the latest available data gathered up to 1907, shows the average annual per capita fire loss for the United States at large and the principal cities of the United States and Europe:

CITY	AVERAGE PER CAPITA FIRE LOSS (ANNUAL)
United States.	\$3.00
Cleveland.	1.18
Washington.	1.19
Baltimore.	1.29
Chicago.	1.43
Philadelphia.	1.65
New York.	2.60
Boston.	5.15
Berlin.25
Bremen.38
Paris.47
London.50
St. Petersburg.	1.42

The total fire loss for Philadelphia for 1911 was \$2,100,000, making a per capita loss of \$1.45.

Source: "Official Record of the First American National Fire Prevention Convention", Powell Evans, Editor, page 407, 1914.

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