

THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF FIRE PREVENTION

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Abstract – Practitioner’s Talk

In this study, we focus on resources and activities related to disaster prevention, from an overall risk mitigation perspective; prevention helps to limit the number of fires in residential buildings and reduce the loss of human life and injuries to citizens and responders. Part 1 of this study focuses on what fire prevention can preserve, even in advance of the occurrence of disasters in buildings. Part 2 measures the economic and social impact of prevention activities, which can reduce the number of deaths and increase the number of evacuees in a residential building fire. An exploratory section was added; it constitutes a complement to the calculation of the economic benefits related to the fire services’ activities. This additional calculation is the result of research and discussions with subject matter experts. This section highlights other possible methodologies that can be used to calculate the added value of the fire services’ prevention and response activities. This study therefore radically changes the paradigm of fire prevention as a whole. The results suggest that investing in pre-disaster prevention creates a net positive benefit in reducing the number of fires, deaths and injuries, and this, despite the increase in built heritage and population over time.

Keywords: Economic benefit of prevention, Community risk reduction, Social benefit of fire prevention, Reduction of losses of human life, Preservation of building heritage value

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