

NFPA Large Loss Fire Reports: 1998 – 2000

Large loss fire = a fire which resulted in \$5 million or more in damage

Automatic Suppression System Performance in Large Loss Fires	1998	1999	2000
<i>(Source: NFPA Journal)</i>			
I. Structures where sprinklers were present	18	17	17
A. Sprinklers systems operated	9	13	9
1. Fires controlled by deployed systems	5	4	2
2. Ineffective deployments	4	6	1
3. Systems failed to operate properly		2	
4. System operated, performance failure unknown		1	
5. Fire spread from unprotected area			4
6. Explosion damaged system			1
7. System damaged by building collapse			1
B. Sprinkler systems failed to operate	6	3	6
C. Sprinkler system present – performance unknown	3	1	2

A + B + C = total of systems shown at “I”

In these large loss fires, 5 out of 18 automatic suppression systems operated to control the fire in 1998 (28%), while in 1999, 4 out of 17 systems present did the job (24%), and in 2000, 2 out of 17 performed properly in controlling or extinguishing the fire (12%). It should also be remembered that all of these fires were large loss fires, even those in which the automatic suppression system operated properly.