

Reducing Fire Risk and Fire Fatalities

New York, NY
New Orleans, LA

Station #6

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| The Bottom Line | New Orleans and New York optimized their use of internal and external data to increase the effectiveness of inspection and prevention programs to save lives and property. |
| Problem | Cities can't inspect every building or give every house a smoke detector. How can cities create interventions that prevent fires and reduce fire damage and fatalities? |
| Leadership | Mayoral leadership and direction in both cities was crucial and it created willingness among departments to share data and collaborate with each other. |
| Staffing | New York: Five analysts with computer science and statistics skills. New Orleans: One summer intern. |
| Data | Building-reconnaissance data from all departments that interact with buildings, American Community Survey data, American Housing Survey data, local Fire Department data |
| Technology | Staff in both cities used Excel and R to get projects started. To maintain a sustainable analytics program, cities need to procure and use enterprise software that connect resource allocation to intelligence. |
| Methodology | New York used the Department of Buildings and other departments to collect data about fire risk in buildings that the Fire Department doesn't inspect a created a strike team of inspectors to target the highest risk buildings for inspection. The database of high-risk buildings is updated in real time as new information is collected. |
| Results | New Orleans shifted from a passive to active smoke detector distribution program. FDNO combined federal and local data to find the highest-risk populations and actively promote detectors to them. New York: Reduction in catastrophic structural fires. In 2015, a 17% reduction in fire fatalities. New Orleans: Prevention of civilian casualties through smoke detectors. |
| Replication | It's crucial to embrace jurisdictional, regulatory, and cultural factors while relying on citywide data. These projects need to meet the departments where they are in terms of goals and capacities. |
| Learn More | City of New York Fire Department City of New Orleans Fire Department . |