

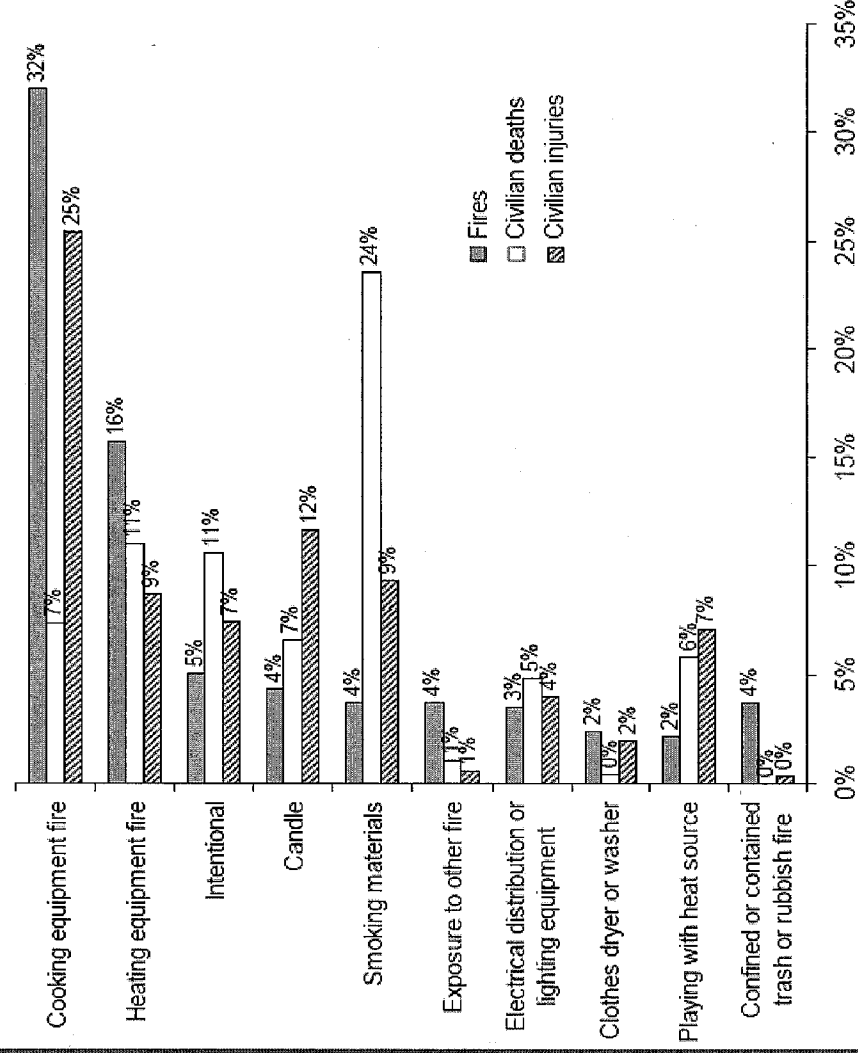
Leading Causes of Fire

- Smoking materials remain the leading cause of home fire deaths & property damage.

- Only 4% of reported home structure fires were started by smoking materials, but these fires caused 700 or 24% of the home fire deaths.

- Intentionally set fires accounted for 19,000 reported home structure fires and 310 civilian fire deaths.

Leading Causes of Home Structure Fires
2000-2004 Annual Averages



New Homes are Safer

- Mandating fire sprinklers does not target homes where fire deaths are occurring.
- New technology and modern building codes make today's new homes safer
- Code provisions and technological innovations provide safety
 - fire blocking
 - draft stopping
 - emergency escape and rescue openings
 - electrical circuit breakers
 - outlet spacing and capacity
 - fire walls and fire separation
 - Adequate heating systems and energy efficient homes
 - interconnected hardwired smoke detection systems
- Versus older homes with antiquated or nonfunctioning smoke detectors.
 - Must be reached through education and public outreach
 - Very few fire deaths occur in homes with working smoke alarms
 - Smoke alarm technology continues to improve

Smoke Alarms Work

- US Fire Administration and National Fire Protection Association data continue to affirm that the majority of home fire fatalities occur when there are no operational smoke alarms.
- Installing and maintaining smoke alarms is the most practical, cost effective and proven way to reduce home fire fatalities in the U.S.

TOPICAL FIRE RESEARCH SERIES

Investigation of Fatal Residential Structure Fires with Operational Smoke Alarms

Findings:

- Smoke alarms save lives and property, yet fires in homes despite smoke alarms that occurred during a fire.
- In one in three apartment fires in which a fatality occurred, a smoke alarm was working.
- Smoking by the sleeping victim 32 percent of fatal fires in residences with working smoke alarms. Smoking was the cause of nearly half (46 percent) of all fatal apartment fires with working smoke alarms.
- The victim was asleep 32 percent of fatal residential fires with a working smoke alarm.

Fire Characteristics
 From 2001 through 2004, there was an estimated average of 402,500 fires in residential structures. The fires caused an average of 1,100 fatalities, 18,143 injuries, and \$1.5 billion in property loss. From the reports regarding the problem, the service, and the death of fires in 1990, when a national fire protection survey was conducted, smoke alarms have become a standard feature in new homes. By 2004, they were found in the majority of U.S. households.

Smoke alarms play a vital role in the early detection of fires, giving occupants additional time to escape from a home with a dangerous situation. No matter what type of fire, residential structure fires with working smoke alarms were reported with 432 fatalities resulting from three fires. An earlier report, "Smoke Alarm Performance in Residential Structure Fires," (GA-1, June 15) stated that the overall performance of smoke alarms in residential structure fires was good. The report also noted that the majority of fatalities where working smoke alarms, and addresses the need for fire and deaths are caused by the failure of smoke alarms. The report also noted that the majority of fatalities where working smoke alarms were reported, the majority of fatalities were caused by the failure of smoke alarms. The report also noted that the majority of fatalities where working smoke alarms were reported, the majority of fatalities were caused by the failure of smoke alarms.

Figure 1. Fatal Residential Structure Fires (2001-2004) (percent)

Fire Type	Fatal Residential Structure Fires	Fatal Residential Structure Fires
	Dead	Operational
1 and 2 family	68.3	81.3
Apartment	31.7	14.2
		39.8



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