



BURN & FIRE STATISTICS

OCCURRENCE, CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES

- The leading cause of residential fire-related death and injury among children ages nine and under is carelessness.³
- The most common causes of product-related thermal burn injuries among children ages 14 and under are hair curlers, curling irons, room heaters, ovens and ranges, irons, gasoline, and fireworks³.
- Most scald burns to children, especially small children between the ages of six months and two years, are caused by hot foods or liquids spilled in the kitchen, or other areas where food is prepared and served.³
- The leading cause of home fires and related injuries is home-cooking equipment. However, most fire-related deaths are from residential fires ignited by smoking materials such as cigarettes.³
- Cooking is the primary cause of residential fires.²
- Smoking is the leading cause of fire-related deaths.²
- In 2008, fire departments responded to 403,000 home fires in the United States, which claimed the lives of 2,755 people (not including firefighters) and injured another 13,560, not including firefighters.⁵
- On average in the United States in 2008, someone died in a fire about every 158 minutes, and someone was injured every 31 minutes.⁵

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FIRE SAFETY & INJURY PREVENTION



INJURY & DEATH RATES

- The majority of children ages four and younger, who are hospitalized for burn-related injuries, suffer from scald burns (65%) or contact burns (20%).³
- Fires kill about 500 children ages 14 and under each year.³
- Hot tap water scald burns cause more deaths and hospitalizations than any other hot liquid burns.³
- The majority of fire-related deaths (70%) are caused by smoke inhalation of the toxic gases produced by fires. Actual flames and burns account for about 30 percent of fire-related deaths and injuries.³
- The majority of fires that kill or injure children are residential fires.³
- In 2007, over 98,000 children ages 14 and under were treated for burn injuries in hospital emergency rooms.³

GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK

- Children 4 and under.⁴
- Older adults ages 65 and older.⁴
- African Americans and Native Americans.⁴
- The poorest Americans.¹
- Persons living in rural areas.¹
- Persons living in manufactured homes or substandard housing.⁸

Center for Disease Control: Fire Prevention & Death from Residential Fires

www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Fire-Prevention/index.htm

National Fire Protection Association:

www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=15&URL=Research

National Safe Kids Campaign:

www.safekids.org

LOCATION & TIME (on average)

- Residential fires and related deaths occur more often during cold-weather months, December through February, due to portable or area heating equipment.¹
- Deadly residential fires are most likely to start in a living or sleeping area.¹
- Most child play related home fires begin in a bedroom or living room where children are left unattended. The majority of these fires are started by children playing with matches or lighters.¹

RISK FACTORS

- Approximately 4 out of 10 home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms.³
- Most residential fires occur during the winter months.⁵
- Alcohol use contributes to an estimated 40% of residential fire deaths.⁶

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