

## Overview of Fires...

In 2005, there were 1,602,000 fires reported in the United States (down 3% from 2004). These fires caused 3,675 civilian deaths, 17,925 civilian injuries, 87 firefighter deaths, and \$10.7 billion in property damage.\*\*

Every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 60 seconds, and a residential fire occurs every 77 seconds. Nationwide in 2004, there was a civilian fire death every 135 minutes and a civilian injury every 30 minutes.\*\*

The most common causes for fires in homes from 1999-2002, starts with number one cooking equipment, followed by heating equipment, intentional causes, open flame, electrical distribution equipment, appliances and finally smoking material.

\*\*Source: National Fire Protection Association ([www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org))

## Residential Fires are Expensive and Deadly...

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 381,000 home structure<sup>1</sup> fires. These fires caused 13,300 civilian injuries, 3,030 civilian deaths, \$6.7 billion in direct damage.

- 82% of all civilian fire deaths resulted from home structure fires.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- Kitchens are the leading area of origin for home structure fires (34%) and civilian home fire injuries (33%).
- Only 6% of home fire deaths started in the living room, family room, or den; these fires caused 29% of home fire deaths.
- 12% of reported home fires started in the bedroom. These fires caused 26% of home fire deaths, 25% of home fire injuries, and 17% of the direct property damage.
- Smoking is the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.
- January was the peak month for home structure fires and home fire deaths.
- 74% of reported home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2005, 13 home fires killed five or more people. These 13 fires resulted in 80 deaths.

Source: National Fire Protection Association 2005

Please visit the NFPA's web site for additional specific "Safety Tips & Fact Sheets"

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=244&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Fact%20sheets%20and%20safety%20tips>

## **Arson Increases Slightly in 2005...**

Arson offenses, which are tracked separately from other property crime offenses, increased 6.8 percent nationwide.

Source: Crime in the United States 2005 Department of Justice — Federal Bureau of Investigation Release Date: September 2006