



U.S. Home Candle Fires Fact Sheet

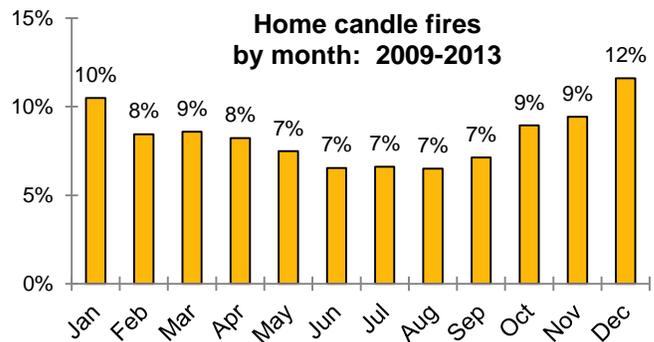
In 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 9,300 home¹ structure fires that were started by candles per year. These fires caused an annual average of 86 civilian fire deaths, 827 civilian fire injuries, and \$374 million in direct property damage.

Overall, candles caused 3% of reported home fires, 3% of the home fire deaths, 6% of the home fire injuries, and 5% of the direct property damage in reported home fires during this period.

On average, 25 home candle fires were reported per day.

Candle fires are more common around the winter holidays

- Candle fires peak in December (12%). January ranked second with 10% of home candle fires.
- The top four days for home candle fires were New Year's Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve.



Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

Almost three of every five (58%) candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.

In almost one-fifth (18%) of the fires, the candles were unattended or abandoned.

Sleep was a factor in 11% of the fires and 30% of the candle fire deaths.

More than one-third (36%) of home candle fires began in the bedroom, although the National Candle Association found that only 13% of candle users burn candles in the bedroom most often.

Although bedrooms are still the most common area of origin in December, the pattern is somewhat different when candles become part of holiday decorating and celebrations.

- One of every five (20%) December candle fires started in the living room, family room or den; 8% started in the dining room.
- Twelve percent of December candle fires started in the kitchen, compared to 8% the rest of the year.

Home candle fires by leading areas of origin and time of year: 2009-2013

