

MAJOR CAUSES OF 1994 THROUGH 1998 HOME STRUCTURE FIRES
Unknown Cause Fires Allocated Proportionally
National Estimates, Annual Averages

Major Cause	Fires		Civilian Deaths		Civilian Injuries		Direct Property Damage (in Millions)	
Cooking equipment	91,700	(22.6%)	327	(9.3%)	4,607	(25.5%)	\$394.8	(9.0%)
	#1		#5		#1		#5	
Heating equipment	59,100	(14.5%)	468	(13.4%)	1,592	(8.8%)	\$550.6	(12.6%)
	#2		#3		#5		#3	
Incendiary or suspicious	49,000	(12.1%)	568	(16.2%)	1,923	(10.6%)	\$803.2	(18.3%)
	#3		#2		#4		#1	
Other equipment	42,800	(10.5%)	264	(7.6%)	1,554	(8.6%)	\$509.8	(11.6%)
	#4		#7		#6		#4	
Electrical distribution	38,400	(9.4%)	352	(10.1%)	1,343	(7.4%)	\$614.2	(14.0%)
	#5		#4		#7		#2	
Appliance, tool or air conditioning	29,400	(7.2%)	133	(3.8%)	962	(5.3%)	\$253.4	(5.8%)
	#6		#9		#9		#6	
Smoking materials	21,200	(5.2%)	798	(22.8%)	1,983	(11.0%)	\$252.0	(5.7%)
	#7		#1		#3		#7	
Open flame, ember or torch	19,700	(4.8%)	112	(3.2%)	706	(3.9%)	\$214.2	(4.9%)
	#8		#10		#10		#10	
Child playing	18,200	(4.5%)	289	(8.3%)	2,056	(11.4%)	\$239.6	(5.5%)
	#9		#6		#2		#8	
Exposure (to other hostile fire)	15,500	(3.8%)	33	(0.9%)	164	(0.9%)	\$224.1	(5.1%)
	#10		#11		#11		#9	
Other heat source	13,000	(3.2%)	142	(4.1%)	1,078	(6.0%)	\$165.9	(3.8%)
	#11		#8		#8		#11	
Natural causes	8,400	(2.1%)	13	(0.4%)	124	(0.7%)	\$162.6	(3.7%)
	#12		#12		#12		#12	
Total	406,400	(100.0%)	3,498	(100.0%)	18,092	(100.0%)	\$4,384.3	(100.0%)

Major cause classes are based on a hierarchy developed by the U.S. Fire Administration. Fires are expressed to the nearest hundred, deaths and injuries to the nearest ten, and property damage to the nearest hundred thousand dollars. Totals under "Total" may not equal sums because of rounding errors.

Each entry shows the estimated number, percent share of total in parenthesis, and rank among the twelve major cause groups below. Percentages are calculated on the actual estimates, so two figures with the same rounded-off estimates may have different percentages. Fires in which the cause was unknown have been allocated proportionally among fires of known causes. "Homes" include one- and two-family homes, manufactured housing and apartments. The values in this table represent the sum of the data for a) fires in one- and two-family dwellings and manufactured housing, and b) fires in apartments.

Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA survey.
Updated 2/01