

Residential Building Fire Causes

Fire Estimate Summaries present basic data on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each Fire Estimate Summary addresses the size of the specific fire or fire-related issue and highlights important trends in the data.

Note: Fire Estimate Summaries are based on the USFA's national estimates methodology. The USFA is committed to providing the best and most current information on the United States fire problem and, as a result, continually examines its data and methodology. Because of this commitment, changes to data collection strategies and estimate methodologies occur, causing estimates to change slightly over time. Previous estimates on specific issues (or similar issues) may have been a result of different methodologies or data definitions used and may not be directly comparable to current estimates.

National estimates for the major causes of fires in residential buildings for 2009, the most recent year data are available, are:

1. Cooking: 164,900 fires
2. Heating: 50,200 fires

Overall trends in the leading fire causes for the 5-year-period of 2005 to 2009 show:

- Cooking as the leading cause of residential building fires for the 5-year-period.
- A 3% increase in residential cooking fires.
- A 6% decrease in residential heating fires.

Leading Causes of Residential Building Fires (2005-2009)

