

## Home Fires that Began with Upholstered Furniture

In 2002-2005, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 7,630 home structure fires per year in which upholstered furniture was the first item ignited. These fires caused an annual average of 600 civilian fire deaths, 920 civilian fire injuries, and \$309 million in direct property damage.

On average, one of every 13 upholstered furniture fires resulted in death.

Overall, fires beginning with upholstered furniture accounted for 2% of reported home fires but 21% of home fire deaths.

### Major Causes of Upholstered Furniture Fires

Smoking materials remain the leading cause of upholstered furniture fires and losses.

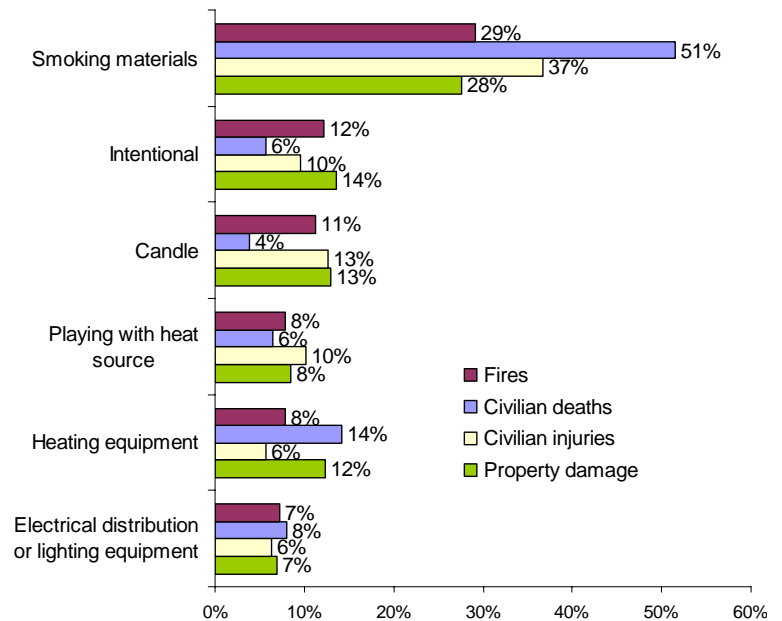
- One of every seven upholstered furniture fires started by smoking materials resulted in death.

Together, candles, matches and lighters were involved in 22% of the fires and 12% of the deaths.

- On average, one of every 23 such fires resulted in death.

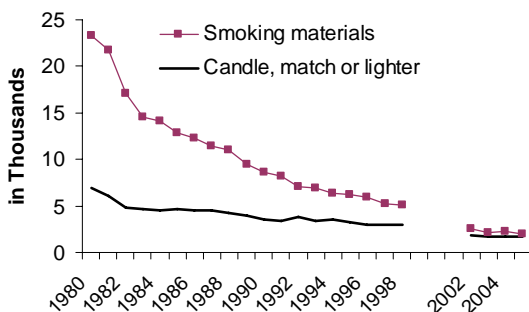
Portable and fixed space heaters were involved in 6% of the upholstered furniture fires and 12% of the associated deaths.

Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in 14% of the home upholstered furniture fires and deaths. These failures were in all types of electrical appliances, not just electrical distribution or lighting equipment.



Upholstered furniture fires started by smoking materials and associated deaths fell sharply since 1980. The decline in upholstered furniture fires started by candles, matches or lighters was not as sharp. No clear trend was seen for upholstered furniture deaths from candles, matches and lighters.

**Home Upholstered Furniture Fires Started by Smoking Materials vs. Candles, Matches and Lighters, by Year**



**Civilian Deaths from Home Upholstered Furniture Fires Started by Smoking Materials vs. Candles, Matches and Lighters, by Year**

