



U.S. Home Candle Fires Fact Sheet

In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 12,860 home¹ structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused an annual average of 136 civilian fire deaths; 1,040 civilian fire injuries; and \$471 million in direct property damage.

Overall, candles caused 3% of reported home fires, 5% of the home fire deaths, 8% of the home fire injuries, and 7% of the direct property damage in reported home fires during this period.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

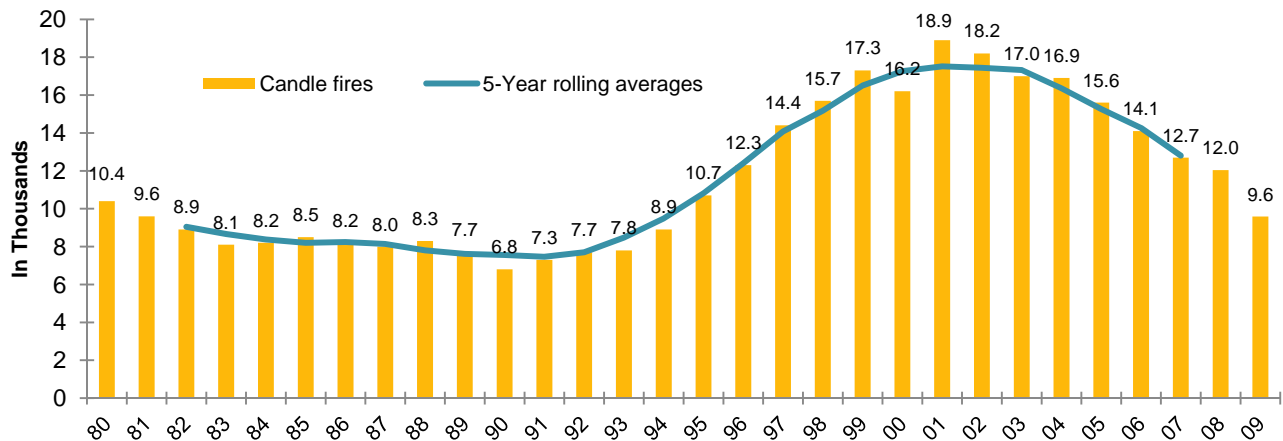
Details from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2005-2009:

- On average, 35 home candle fires were reported per day.
- More than half (55%) of all candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- In one-fifth (19%) of the fires, the candles were unattended or abandoned.
- More than one-third of home candle fires begin in the bedroom, although the candle industry found that only 13% of candle users burn candles in the bedroom most often.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
 - The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year’s Day, and Christmas Eve.

Candle Fire Trends

Home candle fires climbed through the 1990s but have been falling since the 2001 peak.

Home Candle Fires (in Thousands) by Year: 1980-2009



¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, manufactured homes, apartments and other multi-family homes..
 Source: *Home Candle Fires*, Marty Ahrens, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, December 2011

¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, manufactured homes, apartments and other multi-family homes..
Source: *Home Candle Fires*, Marty Ahrens, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, December 2011