



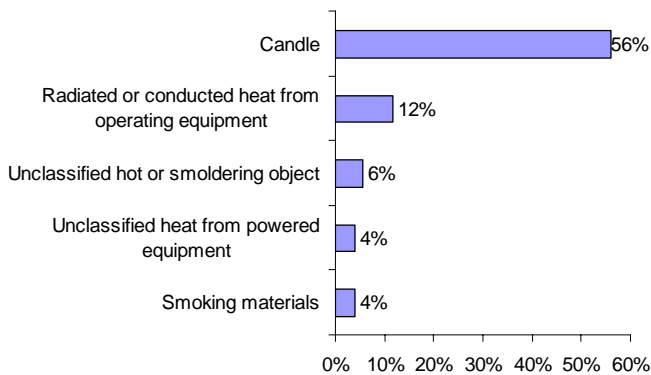
## Home Structure Fires Involving Decorations 2002-2005

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **1,150** home<sup>1</sup> structure fires that began with decorations in 2002-2005.

These fires caused an annual average of

- Three civilian fire deaths
- 56 civilian fire injuries
- \$24.8 million in direct property damage.

Home Structure Decoration Fires by Heat Source



Candles started 56% of home decoration structure fires.

One-quarter of the home decoration fires occurred in December.

The decoration was too close to heat source in one-half (52%) of the fires.

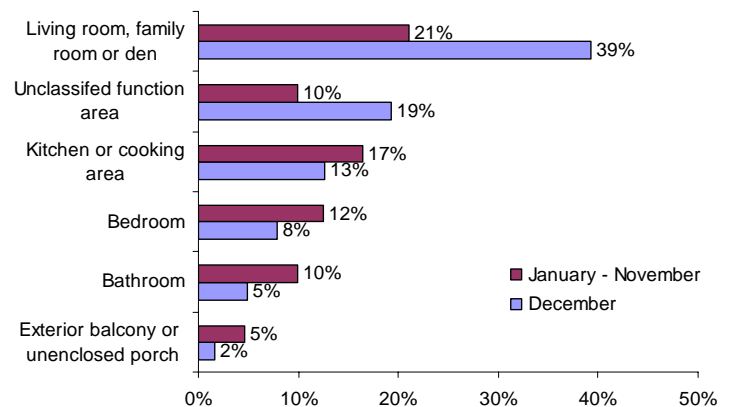
One-quarter (26%) started in the living room, family room or den.

In December, 39% of the home decoration structure fires started in the living room, family room or den, compared to 21% during the rest of the year.

Seventy-one percent of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to 51% in January-November.

Roughly 5,800 people per year were treated at hospital emergency rooms for falls associated with holiday decorations.<sup>2</sup>

Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Decoration Fires  
January - November vs. December



<sup>1</sup>Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, and rowhouses.

<sup>2</sup>J.A. Stevens and M Vajami. "Fall-Related Injuries During the Holiday Season -- United States, 2000--2003, *MMWR Weekly*, December 10, 2004, 53(48); 1127-1129, online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5348a1.htm>.