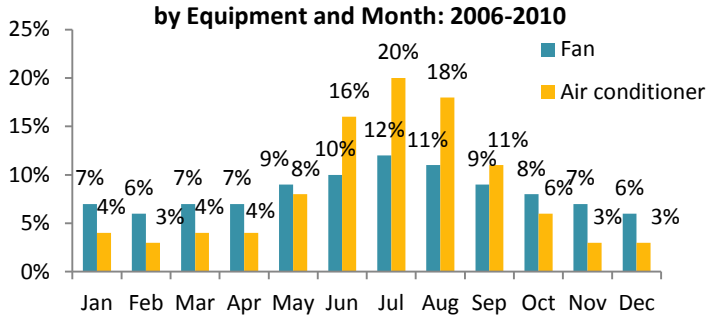
Home Fires Involving Air Conditioning, Fans or Related Equipment Fact Sheet

In 2006-2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **7,200** home[1] structure fires per year that involved air conditioning, fans or related equipment. These fires caused an annual average of 20 civilian fire deaths, 249 civilian fire injuries, and $160 million in direct property damage.

Home Fires Involving Air Conditioning, Fans or Related Equipment by Equipment and Month: 2006-2010



55% of the home air conditioning fires and 33% of the fan fires occurred during the summer months of June, July and August. Ventilation fans in the kitchen and bathroom are used all year.

Electrical and mechanical factors were the leading causes of home air conditioning, fan or related equipment fires.

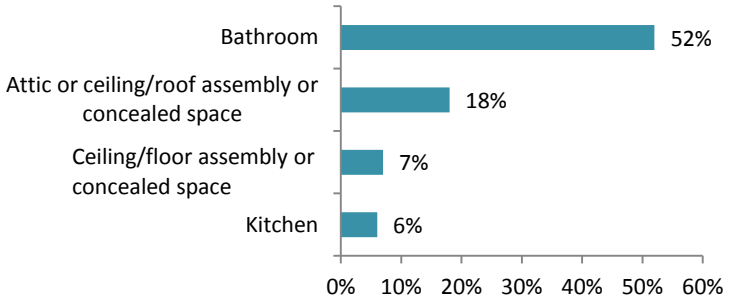
In 2010, air conditioning, fans or related equipment were involved in 2% of reported home structure fires and associated civilian injuries, 1% of associated civilian deaths, and 3% of associated property damage.

Fans

Fans in 2006-2010 were involved in an average of 3,880 home fires per year, resulting in an average of

- 13 civilian deaths,
- 130 civilian injuries, and
- $77 million in direct property damage.

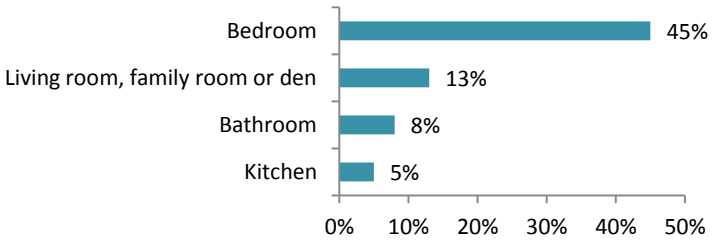
Home Stationary or Installed Fan Fires by Area of Origin: 2006-2010



Portable fans were involved in one-quarter (23%) of the fan fires, 82% of the fan deaths, and 47% of the fan injuries.

Half (52%) of the stationary fan fires started in the bathroom, while nearly half (45%) of the portable fan fires started in the bedroom.

Home Portable Fan Fires by Area of Origin 2006-2010



Air Conditioners

Air conditioning was involved in an average of 2,480 home fires per year in 2006-2010, with an average of

- 6 civilian deaths,
- 92 civilian injuries, and
- $55 million in direct property damage.

25% of home central or room air conditioning fires started in the bedroom, 12% started in a duct, and 11% began in the living room, family room or den.

[1]Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

Source: Air Conditioning and Related Equipment, John R. Hall, Jr., October 2012
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