

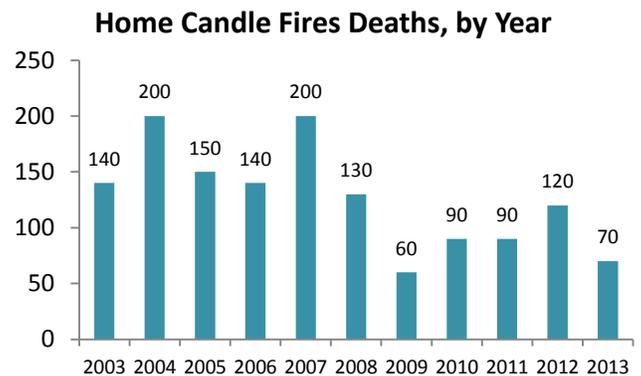
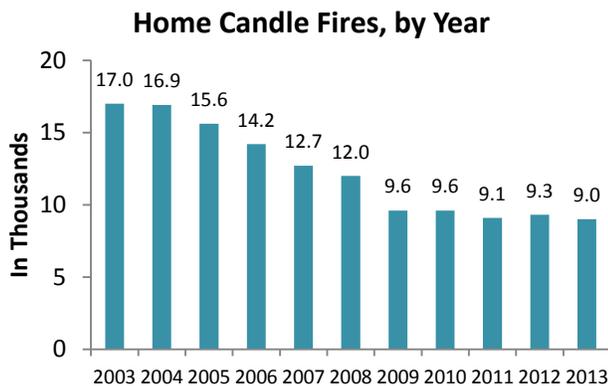


# NFPA's Latest Estimates of *Home Candle Fires - 2013*

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 9,000 home structure fires that were started by candles in 2013. These fires caused

- 70 deaths,
- 840 injuries and
- \$284 million in direct property damage.

In 2013, candles caused 2% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 4% of the direct property damage from home fires.



## ***More about Home Candle Fires***

NFPA's detailed analysis of reported home candle fires through 2011 is available at <http://www.nfpa.org/candles>. Because of normal fluctuation from year to year, NFPA uses five-year annual averages in its detailed analyses.

### **Key findings**

Candle fires fell steadily from 1980 through 1990. As candle sales increased through the 1990s, so home did candle fires. They peaked in 2001 at 18,900 fires and have been generally falling, despite a small increase from 2011 to 2012.

- More than half (56%) of the home candle fires in 2007-2011 started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.

*Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.*

- In almost one-fifth (18%) of the fires, the candles were unattended or abandoned.

*Never leave a burning candle unattended. Blow out candles when you leave a room.*

- The top three days for home candle fires in 2007-2011 were Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve. Eleven percent of candle fires in December began with decorations, compared to 4% the rest of the year.

*If candles are part of your holiday decorating, be sure to keep them away from greens, paper, and other decorations that could catch fire.*