



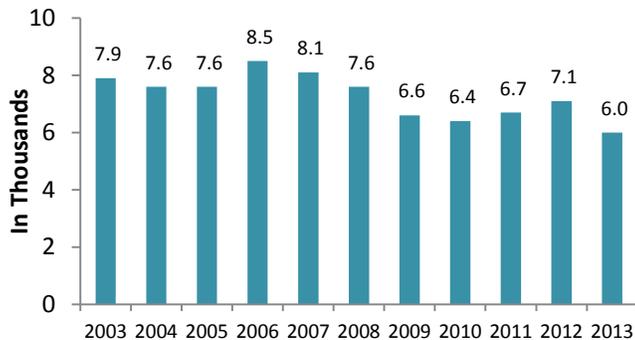
# NFPA's Latest Estimates of *Home Fires Started by Playing - 2013*

In 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 6,000 home structure fires that were started by someone, usually a child, playing with fire. These fires caused

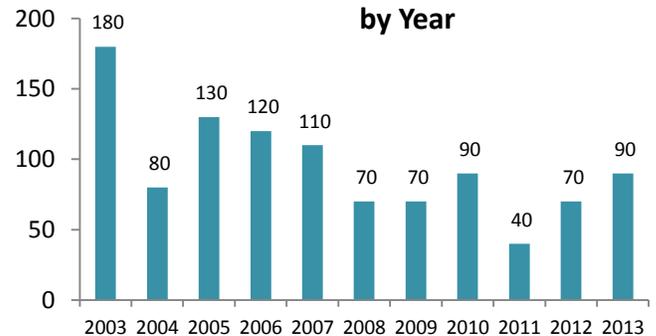
- 90 civilian deaths,
- 580 civilian injuries and
- \$139 million in direct property damage per year.

Playing with a heat source was a factor in 2% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 5% of home fire injuries, and 2% of the direct property damage from home fires.

**Playing Home Structure Fires, by Year**



**Playing Home Structure Fire Deaths, by Year**



## ***More about Child Playing Home Structure Fires***

NFPA's detailed analysis of reported children playing fires through 2011 is available at [www.nfpa.org/majorcauses](http://www.nfpa.org/majorcauses). Because of normal fluctuation from year to year, NFPA uses five-year annual averages in its detailed analyses.

### **Key findings**

- These fires are more common during the month of July and during the afternoon to early evening hours. Lighters were the heat source in half (52%) of home structure fires caused by playing, and matches were the heat source in almost one-fifth (18%).

*Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.*

*Teach young children and school-age children to tell an adult if they see matches or lighters.*

- Based on fires with age cited as a factor, three out of five home structure fires caused by playing were started by someone between the ages of 3 and 7.

*If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unduly fascinated with fire, get help.*

*Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts.*