NFPA's Latest Estimates of

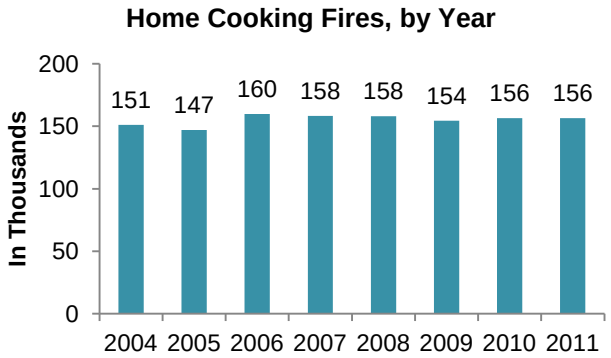
NFPA Fire Analysis & Research

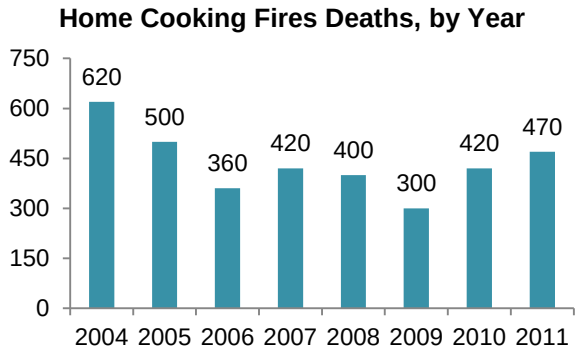
Home Cooking Fires - 2011

In 2011, cooking was involved in an estimated 156,300 home structure fires that were reported to U.S. fire departments. These fires caused:

- 470 deaths,
- 5,390 injuries, and
- $1.0 billion in direct property damage.

Cooking caused almost half (44%) of reported home fires, one of every five (19%) home fire deaths, two of every five (39%) home fire injuries, and 15% of the direct property damage from home fires in 2011.





More about Home Cooking Fires

NFPA's detailed analysis of reported home cooking fires through 2009 is available at Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment. Because of normal fluctuation from year to year, NFPA uses five-year annual averages in its detailed analyses.

Key findings

Cooking has been the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries since 1990. In 2011, it moved up to the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

- Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of cooking fires in 2006-2010. In half of the cooking fires that began with cooking materials (including food), cooking oil, fat, grease or similar substances were first ignited.

  Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, broiling or grilling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove.

  If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

- Three of every five (57%) reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves.

  *If a **small** grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. Leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.*

  In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Homes include one and two-family homes, apartments and other multi-family housing. Estimates were derived from the USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey. More information on how these estimates were calculated is available here (Latest Estimates on Major Fire Causes).