

NFPA's Latest Estimates of



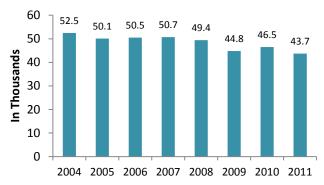
Electrical Failures in Home Fires - 2011

In 2011, electrical failures or malfunctions* were factors in an estimated 43,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments. These fires caused:

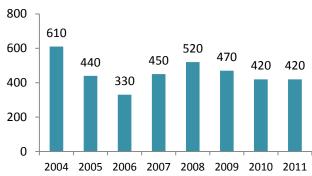
- 430 deaths,
- 1,620 injuries, and
- \$1.5 billion in direct property damage.

Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in 12% of reported home fires, 18% of home fire deaths, 12% of home fire injuries, and 22% of direct property damage from home fires in 2011.

Home Electrical Failure Fires, by Year



Home Electrical Failure Deaths, by Year



More about Electrical Failure in Home Fires

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

Key findings

Any type of equipment that uses electrical power can have an electrical failure or malfunction.

- In half (49%) of the fires started by electrical failures or malfunctions in 2005-2009, some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in ignition.
 - Home electrical safety begins with <u>NFPA 70, National Electrical Code</u> and other documents related to homes, notably NFPA 73, Electrical Inspection Code for Existing Dwellings.
 - Call a qualified electrician if your home has electrical problems or if you need electrical repairs.
- Other leading types of equipment were washer or dryer (6%), fan (6%), portable or stationary space heater (4%), air conditioning equipment (4%), water heater (3%), and range (3%).
 - Plug appliances directly into a receptacle outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance, as it can overload the cord and cause the flexible covering to catch fire.
 - Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Have a qualified electrician install AFCIs in your home.

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).

*These estimates are based on sums of incidents with at least one of the eight electrical factors contributing to ignition.

Multiple entries are allowed for this data element, resulting in some double counting.