

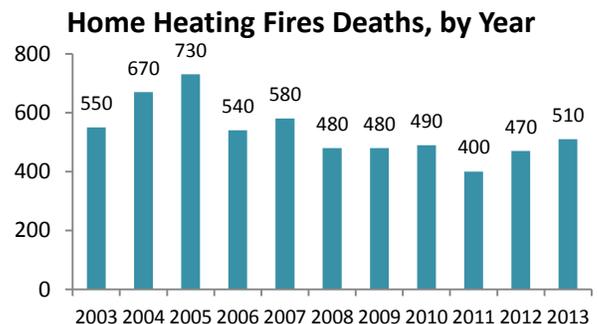
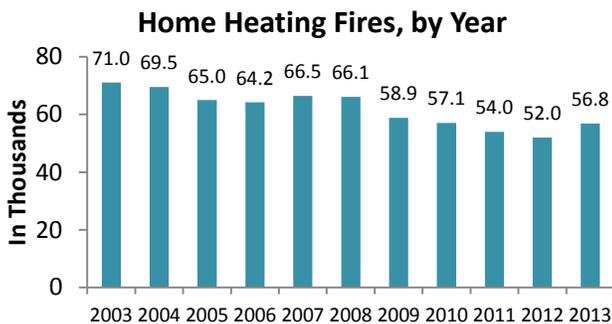


# NFPA's Latest Estimates of *Home Heating Fires - 2013*

Heating equipment was involved in an estimated 56,800 home structure fires that were reported to U.S. fire departments in 2013. These fires caused

- 510 deaths,
- 1,470 injuries and
- \$1.1 billion in direct property damage.

Heating equipment was involved in one of every six (16%) reported home fires, one of every five (19%) home fire deaths, one of every eight (12%) home fire injuries, and 17% of the direct property damage from home fires in 2013.



## ***More about Home Heating Fires***

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

### **Key findings**

Heating equipment was the leading cause of reported home fires in the 1980s and has generally ranked second since then. It is also the second leading cause of home fire deaths and injuries.

- Fireplaces, chimneys or chimney connectors were involved in two of every five (39%) of reported home heating fires in 2007-2011. Failure to clean was a factor in roughly three out of five (57%) such incidents.

*A sticky combustible substance, creosote, is created when wood does not burn completely. It can build-up inside the chimney and catch fire. Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.*

- Portable or fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) home heating deaths. In one-quarter (24%) of these fires and roughly three of every five (57%) space heater fire deaths, the heater was too close to something that could catch fire.

*All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.*