NFPA's Latest Estimates of

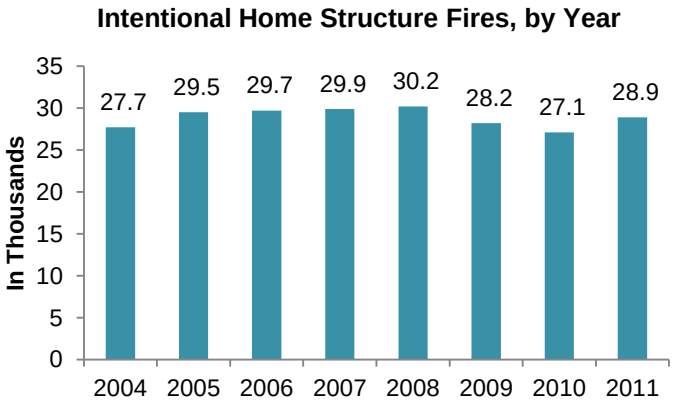
NFPA Fire Analysis & Research

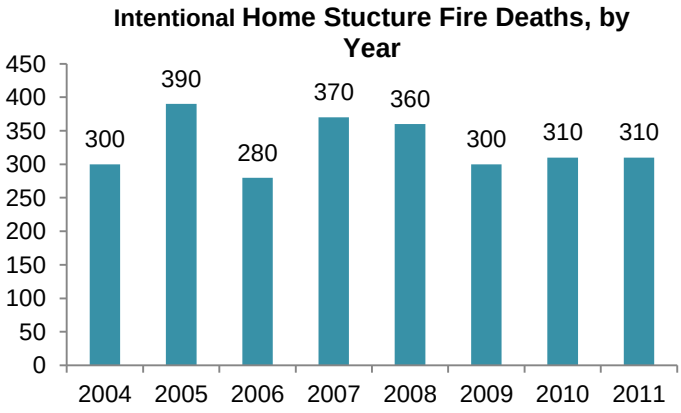
Intentional Home Structure Fires - 2011

In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 28,900 home structure fires that were intentionally set. These fires caused:

- 310 deaths
- 980 injuries, and
- $544 million in direct property damage.

Intentional firesetting caused 8% of reported home fires, 13% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fires injuries and 8% of direct property damage from home fires in 2011.





More about Intentional Fires

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

Key findings from the most recent detailed analysis

- Home structure fires account for 55% of all intentional structure fires and 87% of associated civilian deaths.
- Intentionally set home structure fires are more likely to be set between 3 p.m. and midnight.
- The bedroom is the most common area of origin for intentional home structure fires, and rubbish, trash, or waste was the leading item first ignited.
- Statistics from the FBI show that more than half of people arrested for arson in 2009 were under 21 years old.

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).

What is an "intentional" fire? These statistics use detailed data from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS). The definition of "intentional" in NFIRS 5.0 specifically includes "deliberate misuse of heat source or a fire of an incendiary nature."