

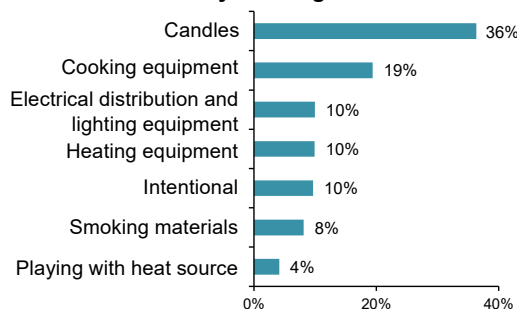


# FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

## Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 840 home<sup>1</sup> structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees<sup>2</sup>, in 2011–2015. These fires caused an annual average of 2 civilian deaths, 36 civilian fire injuries, and \$11.4 million in direct property damage.

**Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations by Leading Causes: 2011–2015**



Candles started more than one-third (36%) of home decoration structure fires.

Cooking equipment was involved in one of every five (19%) decoration fires.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 10% of decoration fires, as was heating equipment. Ten percent of decoration fires were intentional.

The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or cooking equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.

One-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room, or den.

### Things are a little different in December

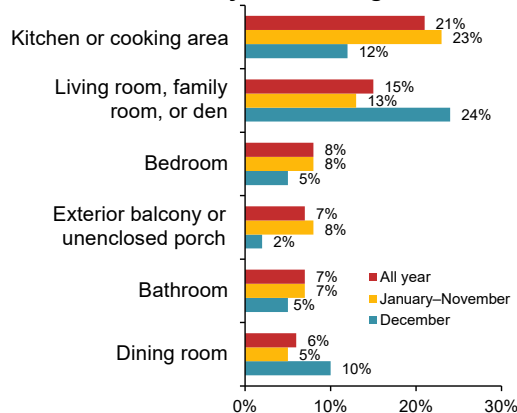
One-fifth (19%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December. Eleven percent occurred in January.

More than half (55%) of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third (32%) from January to November.

In December, one-quarter (24%) of home decoration structure fires started in the living room, family room, or den, compared to 13% the rest of the year.

The percentage of fires starting in the dining room was also twice as high (10%) in December as in January to November (5%).

**Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations by Area of Origin: 2011–2015**



<sup>1</sup>The term "home" includes one- or two-family homes and apartments or other multi-family housing.

<sup>2</sup>For information on Christmas tree fires, see NFPA's [Home Structure Fires Involving Christmas Trees](#) report, 2017.

Source: NFPA Research: [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research)  
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