U.S. Home Heating Equipment Fires

In 2011–2015, U.S. fire departments responded to 54,030 home¹ structure fires that involved heating equipment. These fires caused:

- 480 civilian fire deaths
- 1,470 civilian fire injuries
- $1.1 billion in direct property damage

- Heating equipment fires accounted for 15% of all reported home fires in 2011–2015 (second behind cooking) and 19% of home fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (53%) was heating equipment too close to flammable items, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.
- Most home heating fire deaths (85%) involved stationary or portable space heaters.
- Nearly half (48%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.
- The number of home heating fires peaked in the hours between 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

¹Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, row houses, and condominiums.

Source: NFPA Research: www.nfpa.org/research
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