Home Fires Involving Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines

In 2010–2014, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated 15,970 home fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines each year.* These fires resulted in annual losses estimated at:

- 13 civilian deaths
- 440 civilian injuries
- and $238 million in direct property damage

In 2010–2014:

- The leading items first ignited in clothes dryer fires were dust, fiber, or lint (27%) and clothing (26%). In washing machine fires, the leading items first ignited were electrical wire or cable insulation (26%) and appliance housing or casing (24%).
- Most of these home fires involved clothes dryers (92%).
- The leading cause (31%) of home clothes dryer and washer fires was failure to clean.

*Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

Source: NFIRS 5.0 and NFPA fire experience survey.

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