Smoking-Material Fire Problem Fact Sheet

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 90,000 smoking-material fires in 2011. These fires caused:

- 540 civilian deaths
- 1,640 civilian injuries, and
- $621 million in direct property damage.

These estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and NFPA’s annual fire department experience survey.

FACT: Most deaths in home smoking-material fires were caused by fires that started in bedrooms (40%) or in living rooms, family rooms or dens (35%).

FACT: The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age.

Canada and all 50 U.S. states now require cigarettes sold to be “fire safe,” that is, have sharply reduced ignition strength or ability to start fires. The laws were effective everywhere by the end of 2011, and they are considered principally responsible for the 30% decline in smoking-material fire deaths from 2003 to 2011. See www.firesafecigarettes.org for more details.

Source: The Smoking-Material Problem, John R. Hall, Jr., July 2013
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