



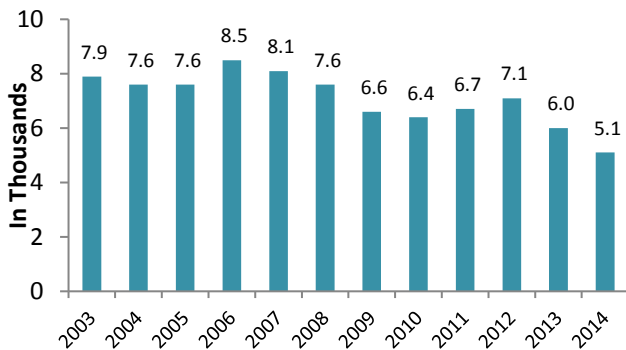
NFPA's Latest Estimates of *Home Fires Started by Playing - 2014*

In 2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 5,100 home structure fires that were started by someone, usually a child, playing with fire. These fires caused:

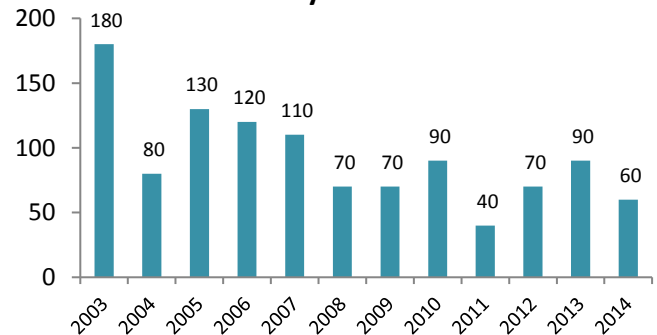
- 60 civilian deaths,
- 430 civilian injuries and
- \$115 million in direct property damage per year.

Playing with a heat source was a factor in 1% of reported home fires, 2% of home fire deaths, 4% of home fire injuries, and 2% of the direct property damage from home fires.

Playing Home Structure Fires, by Year



Playing Home Structure Fire Deaths by Year



More about Home Fires Started by Playing

NFPA's 2014 report, [Playing with Fire](#), provides additional information. Because of normal fluctuation from year to year, NFPA uses five-year annual averages in its detailed analyses.

Key findings

- These fires are more common during the month of July and during the afternoon to early evening hours. Lighters were the heat source in half (52%) of home structure fires caused by playing, and matches were the heat source in almost one-fifth (18%).

Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Teach young children and school-age children to tell an adult if they see matches or lighters.

- Based on fires with age cited as a factor, three out of five home structure fires caused by playing were started by someone at least three years old and under eight years of age.

If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unduly fascinated with fire, get help. Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts.