

**MAJOR CAUSES OF 1994 THROUGH 1998 HOME STRUCTURE FIRES**  
**Unknown Cause Fires Allocated Proportionally**  
**National Estimates, Annual Averages**

| <b>Major Cause</b>                  | <b>Fires</b>   |                 | <b>Civilian Deaths</b> |                 | <b>Civilian Injuries</b> |                 | <b>Direct Property Damage (in Millions)</b> |                 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Cooking equipment                   | 91,700         | (22.6%)         | 327                    | (9.3%)          | 4,607                    | (25.5%)         | \$394.8                                     | (9.0%)          |
|                                     | #1             |                 | #5                     |                 | #1                       |                 | #5  |                 |
| Heating equipment                   | 59,100         | (14.5%)         | 468                    | (13.4%)         | 1,592                    | (8.8%)          | \$550.6                                     | (12.6%)         |
|                                     | #2             |                 | #3                     |                 | #5                       |                 | #3  |                 |
| Incendiary or suspicious            | 49,000         | (12.1%)         | 568                    | (16.2%)         | 1,923                    | (10.6%)         | \$803.2                                     | (18.3%)         |
|                                     | #3             |                 | #2                     |                 | #4                       |                 | #1  |                 |
| Other equipment                     | 42,800         | (10.5%)         | 264                    | (7.6%)          | 1,554                    | (8.6%)          | \$509.8                                     | (11.6%)         |
|                                     | #4             |                 | #7                     |                 | #6                       |                 | #4  |                 |
| Electrical distribution             | 38,400         | (9.4%)          | 352                    | (10.1%)         | 1,343                    | (7.4%)          | \$614.2                                     | (14.0%)         |
|                                     | #5             |                 | #4                     |                 | #7                       |                 | #2  |                 |
| Appliance, tool or air conditioning | 29,400         | (7.2%)          | 133                    | (3.8%)          | 962                      | (5.3%)          | \$253.4                                     | (5.8%)          |
|                                     | #6             |                 | #9                     |                 | #9                       |                 | #6  |                 |
| Smoking materials                   | 21,200         | (5.2%)          | 798                    | (22.8%)         | 1,983                    | (11.0%)         | \$252.0                                     | (5.7%)          |
|                                     | #7             |                 | #1                     |                 | #3                       |                 | #7  |                 |
| Open flame, ember or torch          | 19,700         | (4.8%)          | 112                    | (3.2%)          | 706                      | (3.9%)          | \$214.2                                     | (4.9%)          |
|                                     | #8             |                 | #10                    |                 | #10                      |                 | #10   |                 |
| Child playing                       | 18,200         | (4.5%)          | 289                    | (8.3%)          | 2,056                    | (11.4%)         | \$239.6                                     | (5.5%)          |
|                                     | #9             |                 | #6                     |                 | #2                       |                 | #8  |                 |
| Exposure (to other hostile fire)    | 15,500         | (3.8%)          | 33                     | (0.9%)          | 164                      | (0.9%)          | \$224.1                                     | (5.1%)          |
|                                     | #10            |                 | #11                    |                 | #11                      |                 | #9  |                 |
| Other heat source                   | 13,000         | (3.2%)          | 142                    | (4.1%)          | 1,078                    | (6.0%)          | \$165.9                                     | (3.8%)          |
|                                     | #11            |                 | #8                     |                 | #8                       |                 | #11   |                 |
| Natural causes                      | 8,400          | (2.1%)          | 13                     | (0.4%)          | 124                      | (0.7%)          | \$162.6                                     | (3.7%)          |
|                                     | #12            |                 | #12                    |                 | #12                      |                 | #12   |                 |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>406,400</b> | <b>(100.0%)</b> | <b>3,498</b>           | <b>(100.0%)</b> | <b>18,092</b>            | <b>(100.0%)</b> | <b>\$4,384.3</b>                            | <b>(100.0%)</b> |

Major cause classes are based on a hierarchy developed by the U.S. Fire Administration. Fires are expressed to the nearest hundred, deaths and injuries to the nearest ten, and property damage to the nearest hundred thousand dollars. Totals under "Total" may not equal sums because of rounding errors.

Each entry shows the estimated number, percent share of total in parenthesis, and rank among the twelve major cause groups below. Percentages are calculated on the actual estimates, so two figures with the same rounded-off estimates may have different percentages. Fires in which the cause was unknown have been allocated proportionally among fires of known causes. "Homes" include one- and two-family homes, manufactured housing and apartments. The values in this table represent the sum of the data for a) fires in one- and two-family dwellings and manufactured housing, and b) fires in apartments.

Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA survey.  
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