



U.S. Home Candle Fires

U.S. fire departments responded to 15,600 home¹ structure fires that were started by candles in 2005. These fires caused

- 150 civilian fire deaths;
- 1,270 civilian fire injuries; and
- \$539 million in direct property damage.



Overall, candles caused 4% of reported home fires, 5% of the home fire deaths, 10% of the home fire injuries, and 8% of the direct property damage in reported home fires

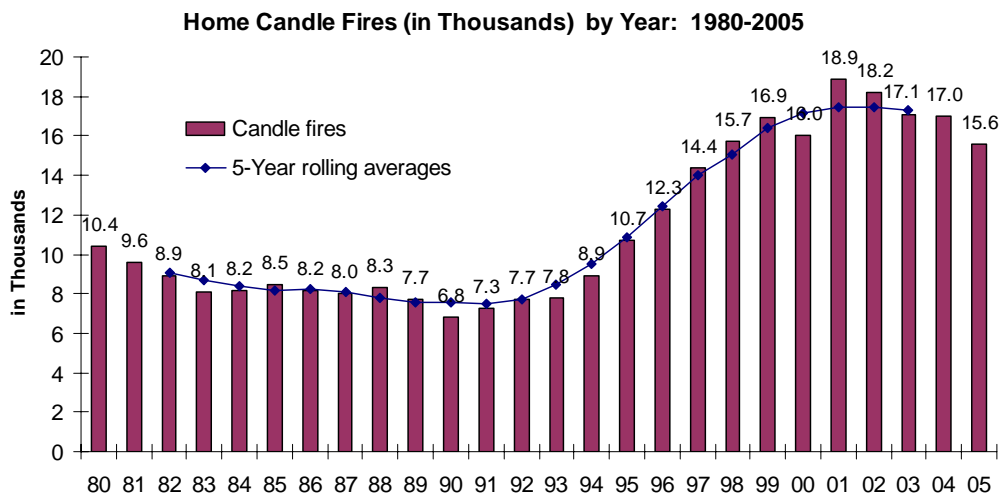
Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2002-2005:

- On average, one home candle fire was reported every 34 minutes.
- More than half of all candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- In one-fifth (20%) of the fires, the candles were unattended or abandoned.
- Almost two-fifths of home candle fires begin in the bedroom, although the candle industry found that only 13% of candle users burn candles in the bedroom most often.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
 - The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year’s Day, New Year’s Eve, and Halloween.

Candle Fire Trends

Although home candle fires fell 8% from 2004 to 2005, more than twice as many were reported in 2005 as in 1990.



¹Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.
 Source: *Home Candle Fires*, Marty Ahrens, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, September 2007.