



## Children Playing with Fire Fact Sheet

In 2004-2008, the annual average of fires involving fire-play reported to U.S. municipal fire departments was as follows:

### Total Fires

- 57,700 fires
- 113 civilian deaths
- 916 civilian injuries
- \$286 million direct loss

### Home Structure Fires

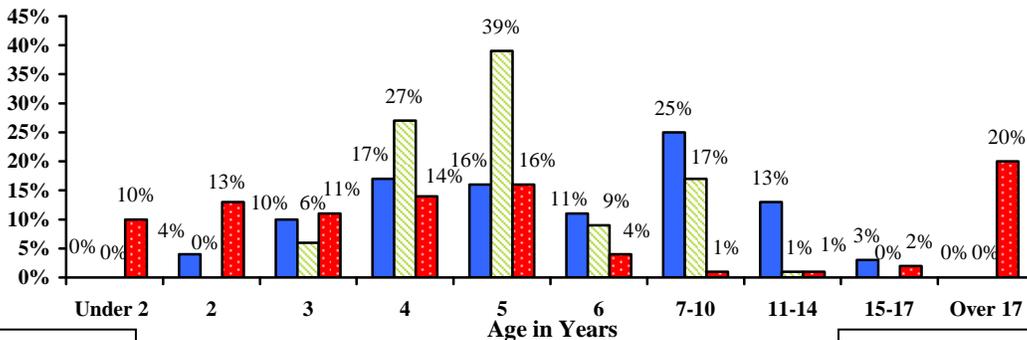
- 7,900 fires
- 104 civilian deaths
- 775 civilian injuries
- \$197 million direct loss

Most fire-play fires (77%) started outside, but most associated deaths (92%) were in home structure fires.

Most (65%) child-playing home fires were started with lighters or matches.

July was the peak month for outdoor fire-play. Most of these fires involved fireworks.

### Home Child-Playing Fires and Deaths, by Age of Firesetter and Age of Victim 2004-2008 Annual Averages



Two out of five (41%) child-playing home structure fires began in the bedroom.

- % of child-playing fires by age of firesetter
- % of civilian deaths by age of firesetter
- % of civilian deaths by age of victim

The leading items first ignited by home fire-play were mattresses and bedding (24% of fires).

47% of people who start reported home fires by playing (where age is a factor) were 5 years old or younger.

65% of all fatal victims of child-playing fires were children 5 years old or younger.

Non-fatal injuries in child-playing home fires often involved parents or other caregivers, but fatal injuries rarely did.

- In 1994, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) set a mandatory safety standard requiring the manufacturing and importation of most cigarette lighters to be child-resistant.
- NFPA offers programs to teach children to stay away from hot things and to teach parents and caregivers to keep lighters and matches out of reach and out of sight of children.