



U.S. Home Candle Fires

In 2003-2007, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 15,260 home¹ structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused an annual average of 166 civilian fire deaths; 1,289 civilian fire injuries; and \$450 million in direct property damage.

Overall, candles caused 4% of reported home fires, 6% of the home fire deaths, 10% of the home fire injuries, and 7% of the direct property damage in reported home fires during this period.

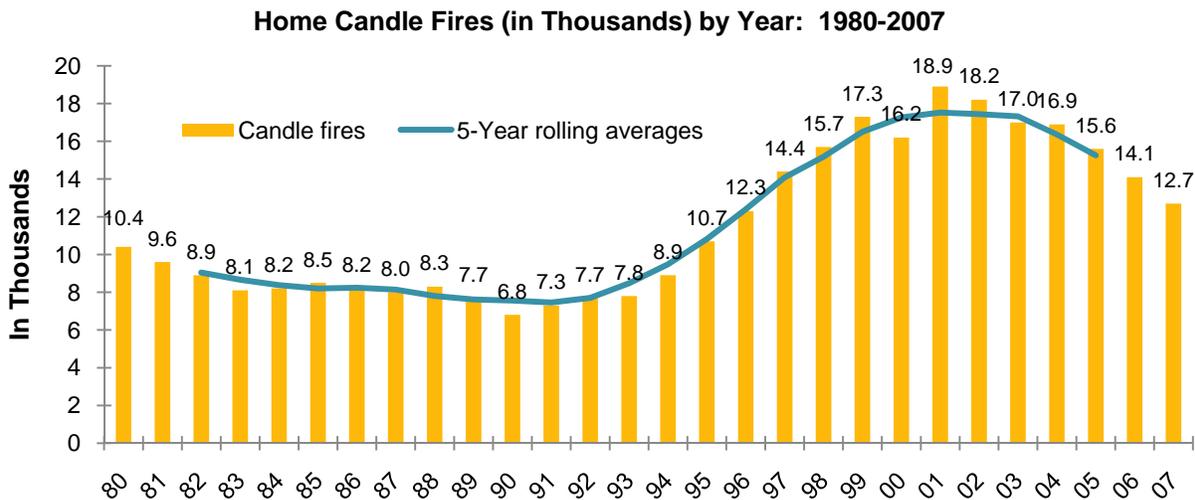
Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2003-2007:

- On average, 42 home candle fires were reported per day.
- 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.
- More than one-third 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, Halloween, and December 23.

Candle Fire Trends

Home candle fires climbed through the 1990s but have been falling since the 2001 peak.



Source: NFIRS and NFPA survey.