



## U.S. Home Candle Fires Fact Sheet

In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 12,860 home<sup>1</sup> structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused an annual average of 136 civilian fire deaths; 1,040 civilian fire injuries; and \$471 million in direct property damage.

Overall, candles caused 3% of reported home fires, 5% of the home fire deaths, 8% 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

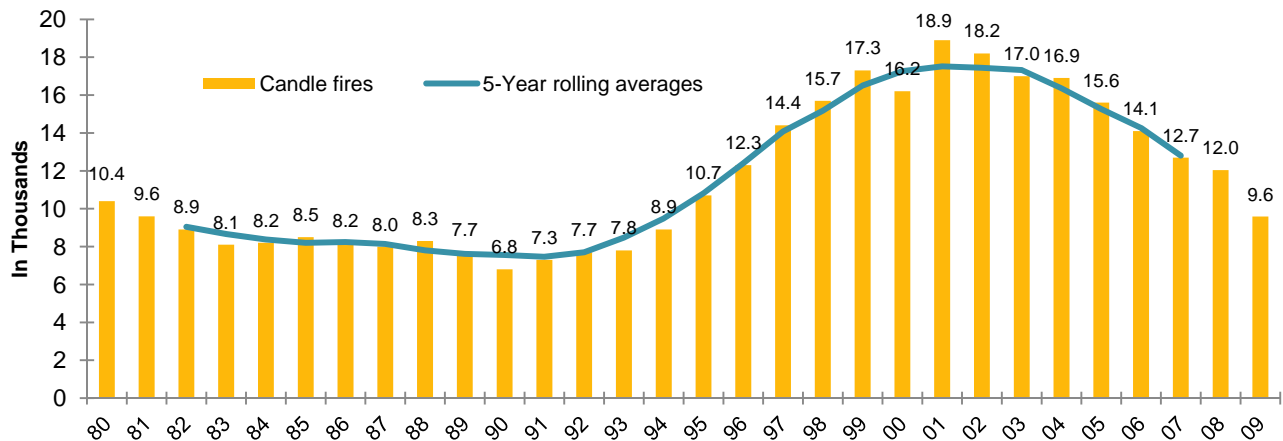
Details from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2005-2009:

- On average, 35 home candle fires were reported per day.
- More than half (55%) 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 (19%) 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, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
  - The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year’s Day, and Christmas Eve.

### Candle Fire Trends

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

Home Candle Fires (in Thousands) by Year: 1980-2009



<sup>1</sup>Homes include one- or two-family homes, manufactured homes, apartments and other multi-family homes..

Source: *Home Candle Fires*, Marty Ahrens, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, December 2011

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