



Fast Facts You Should Know About Home Heating Fires

- On average, U.S. fire departments respond to roughly 70,000 home¹ structure fires that involve heating equipment each year. These fires cause on average each year:
 - more than 600 deaths
 - nearly 1,600 civilian fire injuries
 - more than \$1 billion in direct property damage
- Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.
- Heating equipment is involved in nearly one in five home fires and nearly one in four home fire deaths.
- Space heaters, excluding fireplaces, chimneys, and chimney connectors, are involved in almost one third of the home heating fires but more than three-fourths of the home heating fire deaths. A space heater can be portable or stationary. Space heaters include wood stoves, portable kerosene heaters, electric heaters, fixed and portable electric or gas heaters, local furnaces and fireplace inserts.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires and deaths is heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, and mattresses or bedding.
- Improper fueling is a particular problem for kerosene heaters.
- Chimneys and chimney connectors account for the largest share of home heating fire incidents. Creosote build-up is the leading cause of chimney fires.
- Gas-fueled heating devices, particularly space heaters, pose a higher risk of death due to non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning than other heating equipment.
- Central heating of all types pose a much lower risk of fire and associated losses, relative to usage, than do space heaters.



¹Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses and condominiums.