



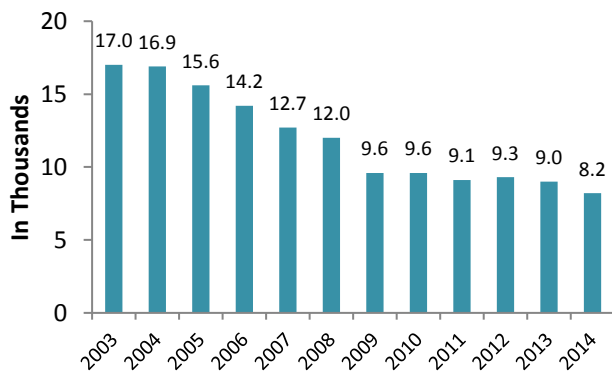
NFPA's Latest Estimates of *Home Candle Fires - 2014*

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 8,200 home structure fires that were started by candles in 2014. These fires caused:

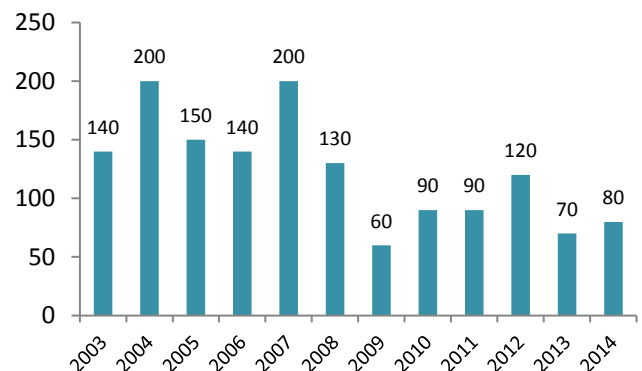
- 80 deaths,
- 790 injuries and
- \$281 million in direct property damage.

In 2014, candles caused 2% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 4% of the direct property damage from home fires.

Home Candle Fires, by Year



Home Candle Fires Deaths, by Year



More about Home Candle Fires

NFPA's 2015 report, [Home Candle Fires](#), provides more details. Because of normal fluctuation from year to year, NFPA uses five-year annual averages in its detailed analyses.

Key findings

Candle fires fell steadily from 1980 through 1990. As candle sales increased through the 1990s, so home did candle fires. They peaked in 2001 at 18,900 fires and have been generally falling since, despite a small increase from 2011 to 2012.

- Almost three of every five (58%) of the home candle fires in 2009-2013 started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.

Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.

- In almost one-fifth (18%) of the fires, the candles were unattended or abandoned.

Never leave a burning candle unattended. Blow out candles when you leave a room.

- The top four days for home candle fires in 2009-2013 were New Year's Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and Christmas Eve. Eleven percent of candle fires in December began with decorations, compared to 4% the rest of the year.

If candles are part of your holiday decorating, be sure to keep them away from greens, paper, and other decorations that could catch fire.