U.S. Home Heating Equipment Fires

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 62,200 home\(^1\) structure fires that involved heating equipment in 2005. These fires caused

- 670 civilian fire deaths
- 1,550 civilian fire injuries
- $909 million in direct property damage

- Heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires in 2005 (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths.

- In 2002-2005, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and deaths (53%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding. These statistics exclude fires that were confined to a chimney, flue, fuel burner, or boiler.

- Nearly half (44%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February in 2002-2005.

- The peak time of home heating fires is between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

- Chimneys and chimney connectors accounted for the largest share (36%) of home heating fire incidents in 2005.

- Failure to clean accounted for two thirds (64%) of the confined chimney and chimney connector fires in 2002-2005.

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005.

- One-third of space heater fires started when the heater was too close to something that could catch fire. Improper fueling was a particular problem for kerosene heaters.

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\(^1\) Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses and condominiums.