

## Residential Fire Statistics

- Fire industry estimates suggest that residential fire deaths could be reduced by 69% if every residence had a working smoke detector.
- In 2007 2,895 people died in residential fires, 14,000 were injured, and property damage / loss was \$7,546,000,000.00.
- While 96% of *all* homes have smoke detectors, a 2001 - 2004 study found that detectors were present in only 60% of residences where lives were lost in a fire. When detectors *were* present in fatal fires, only 39% of them worked properly. This means that *operational* smoke detectors were present in only 23 % of fatal fires.
- Investigators believe that the percentage is non-operational smoke detectors is actually higher, but many detectors are completely destroyed in fires making it impossible to determine if they worked or not.

While the individual fire and fatality incidents are too numerous to list here, below is a representative sampling of tragic fire loss circumstances that could have been avoided with simple fire safety knowledge and preparation.

Date	State	City	No. of Fatalities	Alcohol Involved?	Cause	Pertinent Facts
2/5/2009	Florida	Bradenton (Tampa – St. Pete)	1		Heater	A 54-year-old woman was killed in a home fire, caused by an electrical heater.
2/4/2009	Missouri	Jackson	2	Unknown	Space Heater	Two boys, ages four and 12-years-old were killed in a home fire, caused by a space heater. The home had no smoking alarms.
2/4/2009	Florida	Jacksonville	1	Unknown	Heater	A 62-year-old man was killed in a mobile home fire. Fire officials believe that a window heating unit may have caused the fire. The home had smoke alarms, but the batteries had been removed.
2/4/2009	Michigan	Livonia (Detroit)	1	Unknown	Stove	A 96-year-old woman was killed in a home fire. Fire officials believe the woman’s clothing caught on fire as she reached across the stove’s electric burner.
2/4/2009	Nebraska	Oshkosh	1	Unknown	Combustibles	A 53-year-old man was killed in a home fire. Combustible material placed too close to the water heater vent caused the fire
2/3/2009	Louisiana	Carencro	1	Unknown	Cigarette	A 61-year-old man was killed in a mobile home fire, caused by a cigarette. The home had no working smoke alarms.
2/2/2009	South Carolina	West Columbia	2	Unknown	Wood Stove	Two children, ages four and six-years-old were killed in a mobile home fire, which fire officials believe was caused by a wood stove.

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2/1/2009	Kentucky	Louisville	2	Unknown	Candle	Two boys, ages 4 and 9, were killed in a home fire. Fire officials believe a candle started the fire.
2/2/2009	Oregon	Portland	1	Unknown	Combustibles	A 70-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire. A space heater placed too close to combustibles caused the fire.
2/2/2009	New Jersey	Freehold	1	Unknown	Electrical	A 12-year-old girl was killed in a home fire, caused by an electrical problem.
1/25/2009	South Carolina	Pelion (Columbia)	5	Unknown	Unknown	A woman and four children were killed in a mobile home fire. The cause of the fire is unknown.
1/25/2009	Virginia	Hampton	1	Unknown	Smoking	A 90-year-old man was killed in a home fire. Fire officials believe the fire may have been started by a cigarette.
1/25/2009	Virginia	Mountain Valley (Roanoke)	1	Unknown	Space Heater	An 88-year-old woman was killed in a home fire, caused by a space heater.
1/23/2009	New York	Richland (Syracuse)	1	Unknown	Unknown	A 77-year-old woman was killed in a home fire – cause under investigation. The home had no working smoke alarms.
1/21/2009	Pennsylvania	Waymart (Scranton)	3	Unknown	Neglected cooking	A 28-year-old woman, an 11-year-old boy, and a 6-year-old boy were killed in an apartment fire caused by a pot left cooking on the stove.
1/19/2009	Iowa	Glidden (Des Moines)	1	Unknown	Poorly maintained dryer	A 16-year-old girl was killed in a home fire caused by a build-up of lint in the dryer. Officials say smoke alarms were present in the home but were unable to locate them in the debris.
1/18/2009	Louisiana	Shreveport	4	Unknown	Space Heater	Four children were killed in a mobile home fire. A space heater caused the fire.
1/18/2009	Maryland	Hagerstown	1	Unknown	Electric Heater	A 46-year-old woman was killed in a home fire caused by an electric portable heater placed too close to a chair.
1/17/2009	Louisiana	Lacombe (New Orleans)	4	Unknown	Space Heaters	A 10-year-old boy, an 8-year-old girl and twin 6-year-old girls were killed in a home fire - cause under investigation. Fire officials believe the fire was caused by an oil-filled space heater. The home had no working smoke
1/16/2009	Kentucky	Middlesboro (Knoxville)	2	Unknown	Cigarette	A 12-year-old boy and a 6-year old boy were killed in a home fire. A burning cigarette caught a couch on fire.

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1/15/2009	Louisiana	Delcambre (Lafayette)	1	Unknown	Space Heater	A 69-year-old woman was killed in a home fire caused by a space heater placed too close to a couch. There were no smoke alarms in the home.
1/15/2009	Illinois	Chicago	1	Unknown	Unknown	A 74-year-old woman was killed in a home fire – cause is under investigation. The home had no working smoke alarms.
12/29/2008	Texas	Austin	1	Unknown	Unknown	A 40-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire. The apartment did not have a smoke alarm. The fire's cause is under investigation
12/29/2008	Oklahoma	Newcastle (Oklahoma City)	1	Unknown	Candles	A 47-year-old man was killed in a home fire. Officials believe unattended burning candles may have caused the fire. The fire's cause remains under investigation.
12/28/2008	Ohio	Euclid (Cleveland)	1	Unknown	Smoking	A 45-year-old man was killed in a home fire when he attempted to rescue his dog. While the fire's cause is under investigation officials say there was evidence of a cigarette and a candle in the living room, where the fire began.
12/26/2008	Ohio	Carlisle (Dayton)	1	Unknown	Smoking	A 41-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire. Officials determined the fire was caused by an improperly discarded cigarette.
12/26/2008	Pennsylvania	Swissvale (Pittsburgh)	1	Unknown	Smoking	A 60-year-old man was killed in a home fire. While the cause remains under investigation, officials believe the cause may be an electrical appliance in the second-floor bedroom.
12/26/2008	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	7	Unknown	Kerosene Heater	Two men, ages 54 and 23; one woman, age 23; and four children ages 1, 6, 8, and 17-years old were killed in a home fire caused by a kerosene heater that ignited while being filled in the basement. Officials are attempting to determine if the children purchased gasoline instead of kerosene for the heater. There were no smoke alarms in the home and only one escape route from the basement.
12/25/2008	New Jersey	Pennsauken (Camden)	1	No	Candle	A 3-year-old boy was killed in a home fire caused the boy playing with a candle next to the Christmas tree, which then caught on fire.
12/25/2008	Texas	San Marcos (Austin)	1	Unknown	Unknown	A 52-year-old man was killed in a home fire that officials believe originated near the living room couch. There were working smoke alarms in the home. The fire's cause remains under investigation.

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12/24/2008	North Dakota	Grand Forks (Fargo)	2	Unknown	Kitchen Appliance	A 65-year-old man and a 50-year-old woman were killed in a home fire. A radio was either left on top of, or fell onto, a hot plate and caught fire. An attempt was made by the residents to extinguish the fire but it reignited later and spread to the countertop. Toxic fumes from the plastic killed the victims.
12/24/2008	Alabama	Smiths Station	1	Unknown	Electrical	A 51-year-old woman was killed in a home fire that officials believe was caused by an electrical problem in the kitchen. The fire's cause remains under investigation.
12/24/2008	Kentucky	Mount Sterling (Lexington)	4	Unknown	Unknown	Four children ages 3, 5, 7, and 17-years-old were killed in an apartment fire, the cause of which remains under investigation.
12/17/2008	Georgia	Dodge County (Macon)	3	Unknown	Unknown	Three people, ages 40, 38, and 9-years-old were killed in a home fire, the cause of which remains under investigation. The home had no working smoke alarms.
12/17/2008	Mississippi	Jackson	1	Unknown	Electrical	A 22-year-old woman was killed in a home fire. Fire officials believe the fire was caused by an overheated extension cord.
12/17/2008	Colorado	Simla (Denver)	1	Unknown	Smoking	A man was killed in a home fire, caused by smoking next to oxygen tanks.
12/16/2008	Iowa	Mason City	1	Unknown	Smoking	A man was killed in a home fire caused by a smoldering cigarette that ignited a mattress.
12/09/2008	Virginia	Roanoke – Lynchburg	1	Unknown	Electrical	A 65-year-old woman was killed in a home fire believed by fire officials to be caused by faulty wiring.
12/08/2008	Michigan	Detroit	1	Unknown	Space Heaters	A 56-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire, which fire officials believe may have started from space heaters or their electrical cords.
11/20/2008	Pennsylvania	Woodbury (Johnstown)	1	Unknown	Electrical	A 55-year-old woman was killed in a home fire caused by overheated extension cords.
11/1/8/2008	North Carolina	Charlotte	1	Unknown	Smoking	A 48-year-old woman was killed in an apartment fire, which fire officials believe was caused by discarded smoking materials.