



## Fact Sheet on the Danger of Home Fires

The following statistics were gathered by the American Red Cross from several sources, including Red Cross polling, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association.

- Eighty percent of Americans don't realize that home fires are the single most common disaster across the nation. (American Red Cross)
- The American Red Cross responded to more than 73,000 disasters in communities across the United States last year and 92 percent of these were fire related. (American Red Cross)
- In the United States, a home fire is reported every 79 seconds, and someone dies from a home fire every 135 minutes. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Every two and a half hours someone is killed in a home fire. In a typical year, 20,000 people are injured in home fires. (U.S. Fire Administration)
- Although children five and under make up about 7 percent of the country's population, they accounted for 14 percent of the home fire deaths, assigning them a risk twice the national average. (National Fire Protection Association)
- African Americans make up less than 13 percent of the U.S. population but 25 percent of all fire deaths. This means that African Americans are disproportionately affected by home fires. (U.S. Fire Administration)
- African American children under the age of 5 are 2.5 times more likely to die in a residential fire than the rest of the nation's African American population. (U.S. Fire Administration)
- Older adults are also at greater risk of dying in a home fire than the population at large. Adults 65 and older face a risk twice the average, while people 85 and older have a risk that is three-and-a-half times more than average. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Only 26 percent of families have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. (American Red Cross)
- Approximately 70 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Two out of three cooking fires start with the range or stove. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Heating fires are the second leading cause of home fires. Heating fires are fires that are caused by functioning or malfunctioning central heating units, fixed or portable local heating units, fire places, chimneys and water heaters. (U.S. Fire Administration)
- Fixed and portable space heaters, including wood stoves, are involved in 74 percent of fire-related deaths. (U.S. Fire Administration)
- Space heaters (defined as space heating equipment including portable electric heaters, portable kerosene heaters, wood stoves, fireplaces and gas heaters) account for 66 percent of all home heating fires. (National Fire Protection Association)