



National Fire Protection Association

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

[NFPA CATALOG](#)

[CODES & STANDARDS](#)

[RESEARCH & REPORTS](#)

[LEARNING](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[Sign-in](#) | [My Profile](#) | [View Cart](#)

Your cart contains 0 items | Tuesday, August 15,

Search

[Home](#) > [Research & Reports](#) > [Fact sheets](#) > [Home safety](#) > [Smoking material-related fires](#)

FEA

Smoking material-related fires

Research & Reports

- > [Candle safety](#)
- > [Homeland Security/general preparedness](#)
- > [Carbon monoxide poisoning](#)
- > [Children playing with fire](#)
- > [Cooking safety](#)
- > [Dryer and washing machine safety](#)
- > [Fire safety for the deaf or hard-of-hearing](#)
- > [Heating](#)
- > [Home escape planning](#)
- > [Security bars](#)
- > **Smoking material-related fires**

Smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. Roughly one of every four fire deaths in 2002 was attributed to smoking materials.



Fire-Safe Cigarettes: The Time Is Now

Cigarettes are the leading cause of U.S. home fire fatalities. The [Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes](#), coordinated by NFPA, is calling for cigarette manufacturers to immediately produce only cigarettes that adhere to an established safety performance standard. Please sign our [online petition](#).

[Home F
Checklis
6-Adult](#)

USFA and NFPA Release Report on Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires

Acting United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson and NFPA President and Chief Executive Officer James Shannon have announced the completion of [a report on Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires](#). (PDF, 5 MB) The report is the result of a USFA partnership with NFPA to develop sound, research-based recommendations for behavioral mitigation strategies to reduce smoking fire fatalities in the United States.

Facts & figures

- In 2002, there were an estimated 34,800 smoking-material structure fires in the United States. These fires caused 760 civilian deaths and 1,690 civilian injuries.
- Older adults are at the highest risk of death or injury from smoking-material fires even though they are less likely to smoke than younger adults.
- The most common material first ignited in home smoking-material fire deaths were mattresses, bedding and upholstered furniture.
- In Canada there were 3,800 fires in 1999 associated with smoking materials. These fires caused 120 civilian deaths, 260 civilian injuries and direct property damage of \$58 million Canadian (\$39 million U.S.).

[10 Tips
Brochur](#)
Count o
eliminat
dangers

[printer version](#)
 [email page](#)

Source: NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop.

2001 statistics on smoking material-related fires

NFPA's report, "The Smoking Material Fire Problem," John R. Hall, Jr., November 2004.

- **NFPA members:** [Download this report for free](#). (PDF, 299 KB)
- **All visitors:** [Download a free executive summary and table of contents](#). (PDF, 18 KB)

- [Order this report.](#)

Incidents

- **All visitors:** [Download NFPA's "Selected Published Smoking-Material Fire Incidents,"](#) March 2006. (PDF, 33 KB)

Safety tips

- Encourage smokers to smoke outside.
- Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn (i.e., mattresses, bedding, upholstered furniture, draperies, etc.).
- Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy, intoxicated or medicated.
- Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays to prevent ashes from spilling onto furniture and check them frequently. Do not rest ashtrays on sofas or chairs.
- Completely douse butts and ashes with water before throwing them away as they can smolder in the trash and cause a fire.
- Smoking should not be allowed in a home where oxygen is in use.
- Whenever someone has been smoking in the home, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trashcans for butts that may be smoldering.
- When smokers visit your home, ask them to keep smoking materials, lighters and matches with them so young children do not touch them.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach (preferably in a locked cabinet).
- If you smoke, choose fire-safe cigarettes. They are less likely to cause fires.

Updated 3/06

[top of page](#)

NFPA Mission: Reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. [More about NFPA.](#)

[Advertising](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Help](#)

© [Copyright](#) 2006, NFPA. All rights reserved.

URL: <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=294&itemID=19303&URL=Research%20%20Reports/Fact%20sheets/Home%20safety/Smoking%20material-related%20fires>