

FAQ: Fire

How many fires are attended to by U.S. fire departments every year?

Over one million.

How often does a fire department respond to a fire?

Every 19 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation.

Source: NFPA report *Fire Loss in the US 2006* p. i 9/07

How many fires occur in residential properties?

Over 70% of fires happen in residences.

Source: NFPA report *Fire Loss in the US 2006* p. i 9/07

How often does someone die in a residential fire?

On average, a civilian fire death occurs every 162 minutes

Source: NFPA report *Fire Loss in the US 2006* p. ii 9/07

What is the leading cause of residential fire deaths?

The leading cause of fatal fires is fires started by smoking materials

(Note: Most current data found on NFPA website)

http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Research/Fire_overview_2009.pdf

When do fatal fires generally occur?

The majority occur at night, when everyone is asleep

If I'm in a room away from where the fire is burning, aren't I safe?

The vast majority of fire deaths are caused by smoke, not the fire itself. Smoke can travel far and fast throughout a building.

Won't the fire or smoke wake me up?

So often, the answer is "no," especially if you have been drinking alcohol.

Does drinking have that big an impact?

Yes. Did you know that you lose most of your ability to wake up to a smoke alarm after the equivalent of just one beer? Studies involving sleeping students measured their ability to react to a smoke alarm after consuming increasing levels of alcohol. It took much louder smoke alarms to alert them after just one drink.

How much damage does fire cause each year?

\$11.3 billion in property damage.