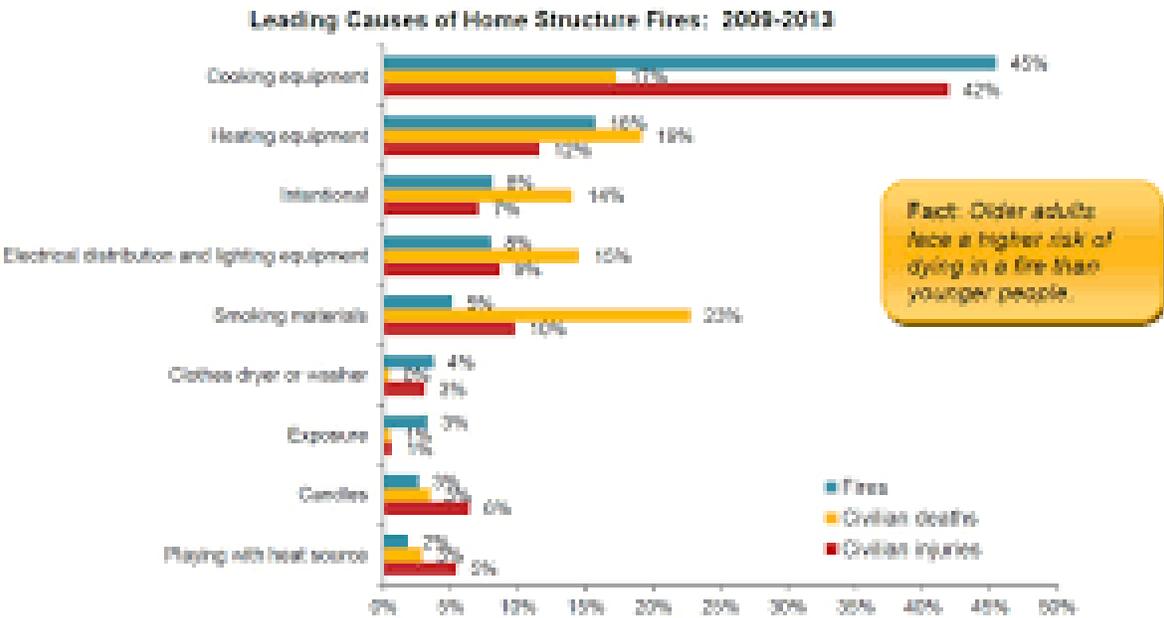


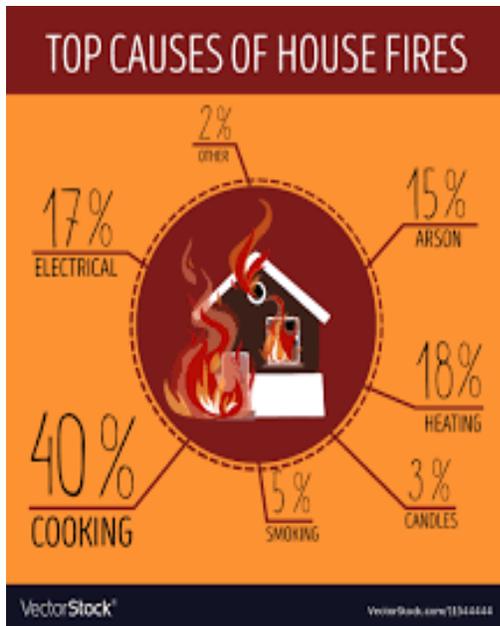
Home Fires: What you need to know

As summer fades, school begins, and we move toward winter, we also enter the time when most home fires occur. In thinking about this issue now may be helpful in planning in the future. No one wants a house fire, even a small one, and so there is some information and things you can do to reduce the chance of a home fire.

Between 2009 to 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home fires and heating equipment being the second leading cause followed by smoking. Smoking was the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Older adults have a higher risk of dying in a fire than younger persons. Other causes by order of cause is electrical equipment, candles, children playing with fire, inadequate wiring, flammable liquids, Christmas tree & decorations, and barbecues.

Looking at the graph, the yellow line is civilian deaths and the red line is civilian injuries. If you have had even a small burn, you know how painful a burn can be even if it is small.





It is important to have an all-purpose fire extinguisher in your home or apartment and know how to use it properly with the P.A.S.S. method.

- Discharge the **extinguisher** within its effective range using the P.A.S.S. technique (**pull, aim, squeeze, sweep**). Back away from an extinguished **fire** in case it flares up again. Evacuate immediately if the **extinguisher** is empty and the **fire** is not out.
- Have hard wire or battery fire alarms or fire/CO alarms in every level. Install **smoke alarms** inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. On levels without bedrooms, install **alarms** in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.
- Have an evacuation plan for your home and practice it so everyone knows how to get out safely no matter where the initial fire is located.

Kitchen Fire Safety:

Never leave cooking unattended and have pot holders in easy reach when cooking. The pot handle should be turned inwards and keep combustibles away from your stove. Electrical equipment should be safely away from the sink and emergency numbers need to be located prominently near your phone.

Candle Safety:

Never leave candles unattended and do not allow children to keep candles or incense in their rooms. Use stable candle holders made of non-combustible materials. Remember to blow out candles when adults leave the room.

There are many other tips and safety ideas which can be seen on these sites:

<https://www.safety.com/fire-safety/>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire.html>

The Red Cross also has a program to install free smoke alarms.

<https://www.homewarrantyreviews.com/home-maintenance/14-tips-for-fire-safety-in-your-home/>

I normally do not give links that are ads but there were many insurance groups that had great links.

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