

Fire's impact on people

Who is most likely to die in a fire? A disproportionate number of mature adults die in Oregon fires each year. Currently, mature adults and young children can expect a relative risk of dying in a fire that is approximately two times higher than for the population as a whole.

Vulnerable age groups While children less than five years and adults sixty-five years or more comprise almost 19 percent of Oregon's population, data shows a disproportionate number of people in these age groups die in fires. From 1998 through 2005, 59.7 percent of Oregon fire deaths involved the very young and mature adults. People in these age groups are almost twice as likely to die in a fire.

For every age group, the greatest number of fire-related deaths occur in homes (includes one-and two-family dwellings, manufactured homes, and apartments).

Mature adults The U.S. Census Bureau (as of July 1, 2005) estimates that adults over age sixty-four comprise 12.5 percent of Oregon's population. A trend analysis of OAIRS data (1998 through 2005) shows that a disproportionate number of mature adults aged sixty-five and older

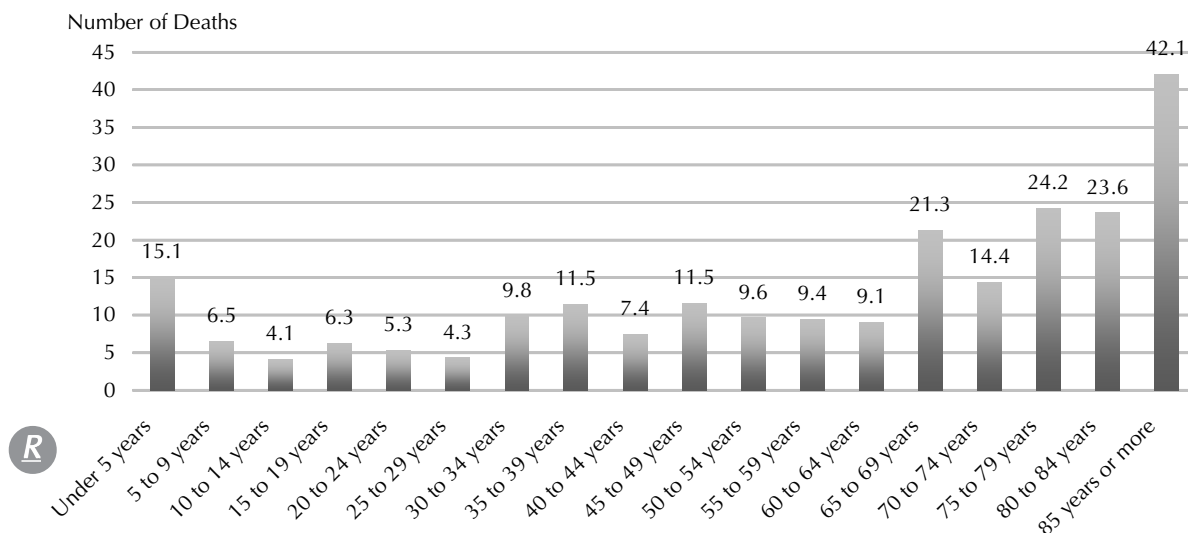
died in Oregon fires. People over age sixty-four represented 53.3 percent of all Oregon fire deaths in the seven year period.

This trend will likely continue as it is anticipated that the number of adults over age sixty-four will rise sharply between 2010 and 2030 when the baby boom generation enters retirement.

For 2005 alone, additional findings of the over sixty-four year age groups:

- This group made up 41 percent of all residential fire deaths.
- Almost 82 percent of fire deaths aged 65 or older occurred in a single-family dwelling.
- The heat source was a cigarette in over one of every five, or 22 percent of residential fires.
- For all fire types the gender mix is 55 percent female and 45 percent male.

Oregon fire deaths per 10,000 population by age group 1999-2005



Note: In the table to the right, the greatest number of civilian fire deaths occurred in 1976 and 1977. In both years, several fires involved multiple deaths. One fire, in 1977, took five lives.

Injuries and fire

Civilian Injuries

There were 301 civilian injuries caused by reportable fires in Oregon in 2005. The majority (83 percent) of civilians injured in 2005 were the result of structure fires. Another 7 percent of the injuries reported involved fires in mobile property.

Civilian injuries by type of fire and year

	Structure Fires	Mobile Property Fires	Other Fires	Totals
2005	251	21	29	301
2004	176	17	17	210
2003	172	33	19	224
2002	203	28	17	248
2001	208	26	30	264
2000	252	21	25	298
1999	236	30	7	273

Firefighter Injuries

There were 105 firefighter injuries and no firefighter deaths associated with reportable fires in 2005. As in previous years, the majority of injured were men, while the age of the injured ranged from eighteen to sixty-nine. These injuries were related to eighty-one structural fires, seven mobile property fires and seventeen other types of fires.

Firefighter injuries by type of fire and year

	Structure Fires	Mobile Property Fires	Other Fires	Totals
2005	81	7	17	105
2004	83	1	14	98
2003	69	4	8	81
2002	83	3	8	94
2001	100	2	17	119
2000	100	7	8	115
1999	104	8	18	130

Oregon civilian fire deaths and death rate by year

Year	Fatalities	Fatalities per Million Population	State Population* (in mils)
2005	28	7.7	3.63
2004	42	11.7	3.58
2003	30	8.5	3.54
2002	45	12.9	3.50
2001	40	11.5	3.47
2000	42	12.2	3.44
1999	31	9.4	3.31
1998	28	8.5	3.28
1997	54	16.6	3.24
1996	56	17.5	3.20
1995	34	10.8	3.14
1994	51	16.5	3.09
1993	63	20.8	3.03
1992	51	17.1	2.97
1991	46	15.8	2.92
1990	40	14.0	2.86
1989	34	12.2	2.79
1988	45	16.4	2.74
1987	48	17.8	2.70
1986	50	18.6	2.68
1985	52	19.5	2.67
1984	48	18.0	2.67
1983	61	23.0	2.65
1982	60	22.5	2.66
1981	60	22.5	2.67
1980	63	23.9	2.63
1979	69	26.7	2.59
1978	74	29.4	2.52
1977	94	38.4	2.45
1976	95	39.9	2.38
1975	85	36.5	2.33
1974	84	36.8	2.29
1973	85	37.9	2.24
1972	85	38.7	2.20
1971	66	30.7	2.15
1970	89	42.6	2.09
1969	80	38.8	2.06
1968	68	33.9	2.00
1967	74	37.4	1.98

* Estimates from Portland State University's Center for Population Research and Census.

2005 civilian deaths

<u>Type of fire</u>	<u># of deaths</u>	<u># of fires</u>	<u>Cause of ignition</u>
One- and two- family dwelling fires	5	5	Undetermined after investigation
	2	2	Abandoned, discarded cigarette
	1	1	Misuse of heat, cigarette
	1	1	Unlawful incendiary (intentionally set)
	1	1	Suicide
	1	1	Abandoned, discarded unknown smoking material
	1	1	Heat source too close to combustible
	1	1	Heat source too close to combustible, propane heater
	1	1	Overloaded equipment, extension cord
	1	1	Combustible too close, candle
One- and two- family dwelling total	15	15	
Apartment building fires	1	1	Failure to use ordinary care (cigarette)
	1	1	Abandoned, discarded cigarette
	1	1	Suicide
	1	1	Combustible too close, candle
Apartment building total	4	4	
Nursing home building fire	1	1	Heat source too close to combustible, cigarette
Motel building fire	2	1	Heat source too close to combustible, candle
Tent dwelling, field	1	1	Undetermined after investigation, warming fire
Cardboard box dwelling, parking lot	1	1	Undetermined after investigation
Outside fires			
	1	1	Trapped by backyard burn inadequately controlled
	1	1	Suicide
Mobile property fires (recreational)			
	1	1	Suicide
	1	1	Mechanical failure
Total 2005 fatal fires	28	27	