

# Residential Building Fire Death Causes

Fire Estimate Summaries present basic data on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each Fire Estimate Summary addresses the size of the specific fire or fire-related issue and highlights important trends in the data.

Note: Fire Estimate Summaries are based on the USFA's national estimates methodology. The USFA is committed to providing the best and most current information on the United States' fire problem and, as a result, continually examines its data and methodology. Because of this commitment, changes to data collection strategies and estimate methodologies occur, causing estimates to change slightly over time. Previous estimates on specific issues (or similar issues) may have been a result of different methodologies or data definitions used and may not be directly comparable to current estimates.

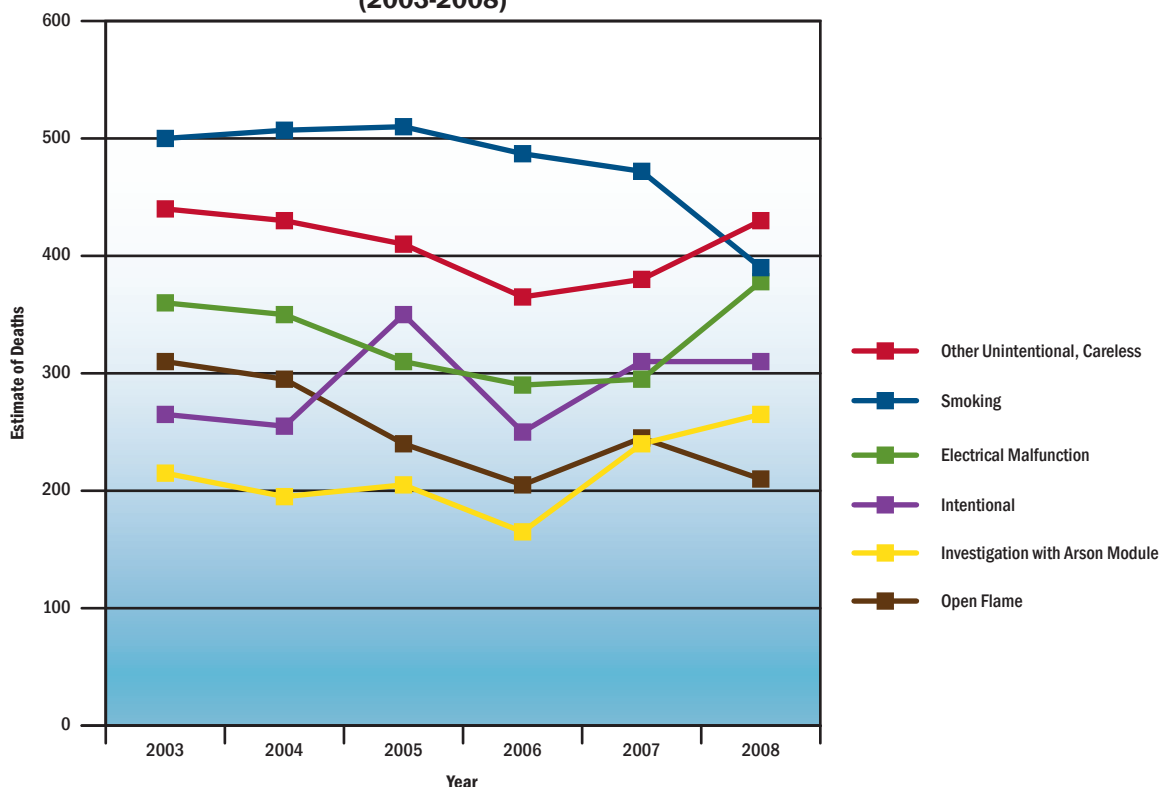
National estimates for the leading causes of residential building fire deaths for 2008, the most recent year data are available, are:

1. Other Unintentional, Careless: 430 deaths
2. Smoking: 390 deaths
3. Electrical Malfunction: 380 deaths

Overall trends in the leading fire death causes for the 6-year period of 2003 to 2008 show:

- Smoking as the leading cause of residential building fire deaths for 5 years, in the 6-year period.
- An 8% decrease in residential other unintentional, careless fire deaths.
- A 19% decrease in residential smoking fire deaths.
- A 4% decrease in fire deaths caused by electrical malfunctions.

Leading Causes of Residential Building Fire Deaths  
(2003-2008)



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