

Cigarette-Caused Fires in Colorado

The Case for Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Legislation

During 2006, there were about 755 cigarette-caused fires in Colorado. These fires resulted in 5 civilian fire deaths, 13 civilian fire-related injuries, and \$2.2 million in direct property loss.

Cigarettes are the leading cause of residential fire fatalities in Colorado.

- During 2006, cigarettes were the cause of 302 residential fires. These fires resulted in 5 civilian fire deaths, 13 civilian fire-related injuries, and \$1.7 million in direct property loss.

During 2006, cigarettes caused:

- 5% of all residential fires
- 39% of all residential fire fatalities
- 7% of all residential fire injuries
- 3% of all residential property loss

... in Colorado

During 2006, cigarettes were the cause of nearly 5% of all fires in Colorado. During 2006, cigarettes caused:

- 325 of the 5,740 total building and structure fires (5.7%)
- 263 of the 4,261 total brush, grass and wildland fires (6.2%)

Bedding or upholstered furniture were the items first ignited in 18% of the cigarette-caused residential fires during 2006 . . .

- Trash was the 2nd leading item first ignited (15%)
- Vegetation was the 3rd leading item first ignited (11%)

Cigarette-Caused Fires by Property Use, 2006

Property Use	NO.	% OF CATEGORY	CIVILIAN DEATHS	CIVILIAN INJURIES	TOTAL LOSS
Building & Structure Fires	325	43.0%	5	11	\$2,176,468
Fires in Mobile Property Used as a Fixed Structure	13	1.7%	0	2	\$3,259
Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fires	59	7.8%	0	0	\$19,773
Natural Vegetation Fire	263	34.8%	0	0	\$14,732
Outside Rubbish Fire	46	6.1%	0	2	\$0
Special Outside Fire	23	3.0%	0	0	\$1,543
Cultivated Vegetation, Crop Fire	20	2.6%	0	0	\$0
Fire, Other	7	0.9%	0	0	\$22
Total	755	100%	5	13	\$2,215,797

These figures were compiled from 2006 NFIRS data submitted to the Colorado Division of Fire Safety from a total of 227 fire departments, which protect about 93% of Colorado's resident population. No adjustments were made for under-reporting; therefore, the actual incident rates are higher than reported. Figures include a proportional share of fires with heat source unknown or unknown between smoking material and open flame.