

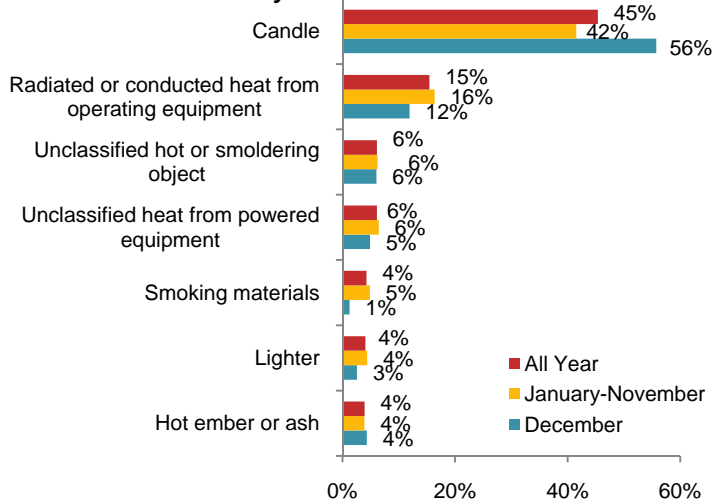


Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **1,170** home¹ structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2004-2008. These fires caused an annual average of

- Eight civilian fire deaths
- 54 civilian fire injuries
- \$19.1 million in direct property damage.

Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations by Heat Source: 2004-2008



Candles started 45% of home decoration structure fires.

The decoration was too close to heat source in half (48%) of the fires.

One-quarter of the home decoration fires occurred in December.

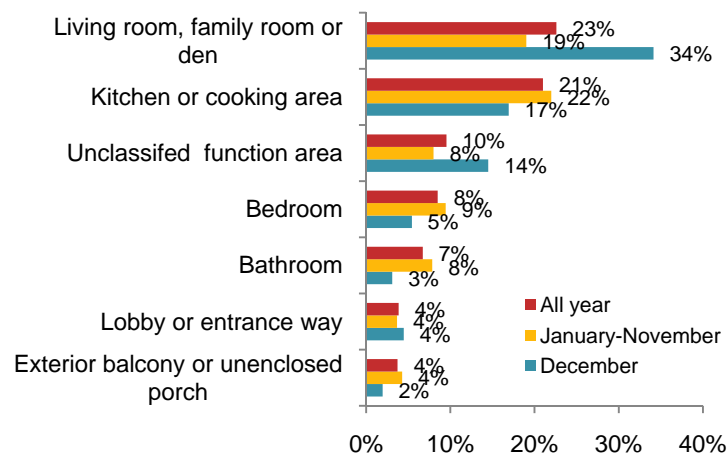
One-quarter (23%) started in the living room, family room or den. One in five (21%) started in the kitchen.

In December, one-third (34%) of the home decoration structure fires started in the living room, family room or den, compared to one in five (19%) the rest of the year.

Fifty-six percent of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to 42% in January to November.

Roughly 5,800 people per year were treated at hospital emergency rooms for falls associated with holiday decorations.²

Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations, by Area of Origin: 2004-2008



¹Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, and rowhouses.

²J.A. Stevens and M Vajami. "Fall-Related Injuries During the Holiday Season -- United States, 2000--2003, *MMWR Weekly*, December 10, 2004, 53(48); 1127-1129, online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5348a1.htm>.