



Home Fires Involving Christmas Trees and Holiday Lights: 2002-2005

Christmas Tree Fires

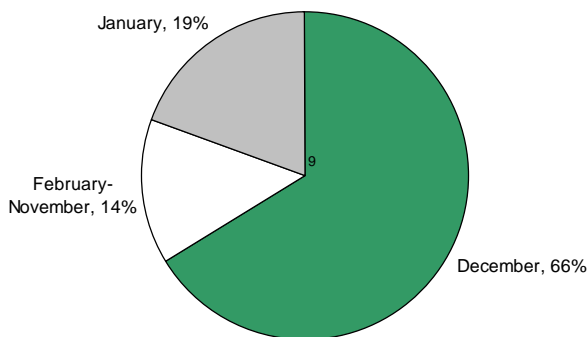


U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **210** home¹ structure fires that began with Christmas trees in 2002-2005.

These fires caused an annual average of

- 24 civilian fire deaths
- 27 civilian fire injuries
- \$13.3 million in direct property damage

**Home Structure Fires
 in Which Christmas Trees Were First Ignited,
 by Month: 2002-2005**



On average, one of every nine home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death.

Electrical problems were factors in half (48%) of home Christmas tree structure fires.

A heat source was too close to the tree in one-quarter (27%) of the fires.

Twenty-two percent involved decorative lights.

Candles started 15% of home Christmas tree structure fires.

Half started in the living room, family room or den.

An average of 90 outside or unclassified Christmas tree fires occurred on home properties. Sixty-six percent occurred in January. Sixty-four percent were intentionally set.

Twenty-six percent of home Christmas tree structure fires and 40% of the deaths occurred on just five days. The top five days were Christmas, Christmas Eve, December 27, December 26, and New Year's Day.

Line-Voltage Holiday or Decorative Light Fires



Line-voltage holiday or decorative lights or were involved in an average of 240 home structure fires per year, resulting in an average of

- 4 civilian deaths,
- 14 civilian injuries, and
- \$7.5 million in direct property damage.

Thirty-five percent of these fires were reported in December and 13% occurred in January.

In one-fifth (22%) of these fires, Christmas trees were the item first ignited.

Electrical problems were factors in 60% of these fires. Something that could burn was too close to the lights in 8% of the fires.

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

**Leading Items First Ignited
 in Holiday Light Home Structure Fires**

