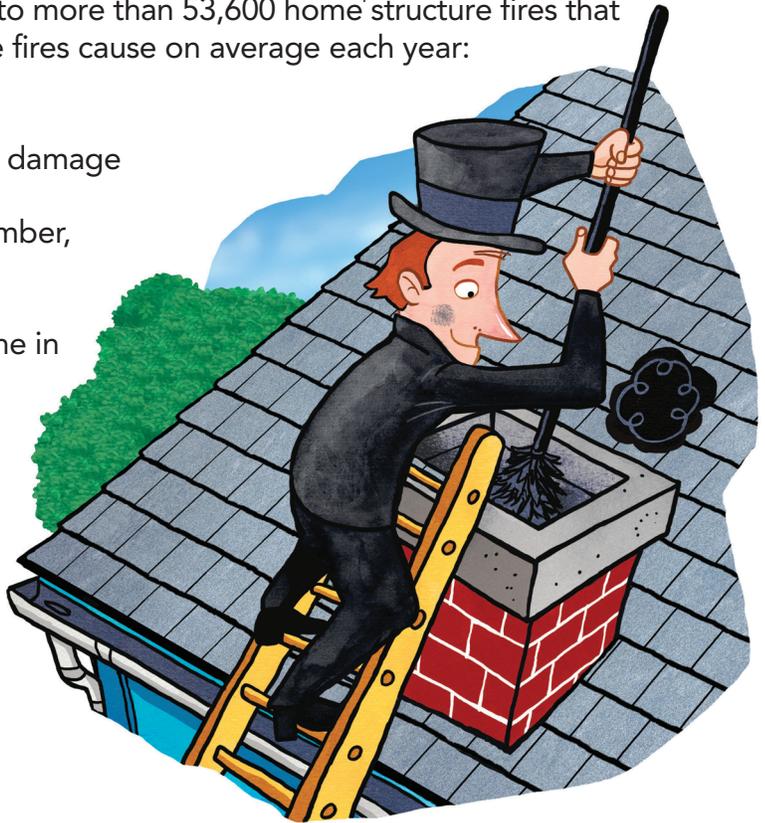




Fast Facts You Should Know About Home Heating Fires

- On average, U.S. fire departments respond to more than 53,600 home¹ structure fires that involve heating equipment each year. These fires cause on average each year:
 - 400 deaths
 - 1,520 civilian fire injuries
 - roughly \$893 million in direct property damage
- Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.
- Heating equipment is involved in roughly one in six home fires and fire deaths.
- Space heaters, excluding fireplaces, chimneys, and chimney connectors, are involved in one third of the home heating fires but four of every five home heating fire deaths. A space heater can be portable or stationary. Space heaters include wood stoves, portable kerosene heaters, fixed and portable electric or gas heaters, local furnaces and fireplace inserts.
- Half of home heating fire deaths were caused by fires that started because the heating equipment was too close to things that could burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, and mattresses or bedding.
- Fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors account for the largest share of home heating fire incidents. Creosote build-up is the leading cause of chimney fires.
- Gas-fueled heating devices, particularly space heaters, pose a higher risk of death due to non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning than other heating equipment.
- Central heating of all types pose a much lower risk of fire and associated losses, relative to usage, than do space heaters.



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