Topical Fire Report Series

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At a Glance

Portable Heater Fires in Residential Buildings (2017-2019)

Each year, from 2017 to 2019, an estimated average of

1,100

portable heater fires in residential buildings

were reported to U.S. fire departments.

These fires caused an estimated annual average of:

65 deaths

150 injuries

$51 million in property loss

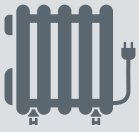
3% **of heating fires in residential buildings** involved portable heaters.

However, portable heaters were involved in

41% **of fatal heating fires in residential buildings.**

Portable heater fires in residential buildings peaked in January (25%).

48%



The leading reported factor contributing to ignition was placing a heat source too close to combustible objects (48%).

Portable heater fires in residential buildings most often started in bedrooms (34%).

Smoke alarms were present in 41% of portable heater fires in occupied residential buildings.

Full or partial automatic extinguishing systems (AESs), including residential sprinklers, were present in only 2% of portable heater fires in occupied residential buildings.

The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in the USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System from incidents reported from local response agencies. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information.

To read the full report, visit usfa.fema.gov.

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National Fire Data Center
16825 S. Seton Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
usfa.fema.gov