

Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (2011-2013)

In most cases, patterns of fire incidence on Thanksgiving Day differ substantially from the national fire profile. In order to prevent fires and associated loss on this particular holiday, we need to be aware of how fire incidence differs from the overall fire profile in the United States.

For each year from 2011 to 2013, an estimated 2,100 residential building fires were reported to fire departments in the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day and caused an estimated 10 deaths, 50 injuries and \$28 million in property loss.¹

Loss Measures for Thanksgiving Day and Non-Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (Three-Year Average, 2011-2013)

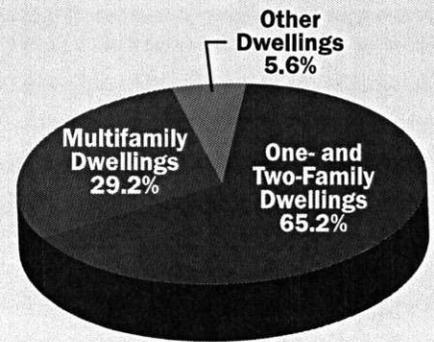
Loss Measure	Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings	Non-Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings
Average Loss:		
Fatalities/1,000 fires	3.4	5.5
Injuries/1,000 fires	16.9	28.4
Dollar Loss/fire	\$11,360	\$15,790

Source: National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0.

The average number of reported residential building fires on Thanksgiving Day was more than double (2.1 times more) the average number of fires in residential buildings on all days other than Thanksgiving. The average losses for Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings, however, were less than the same measures for non-Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings.²

Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings by General Property Type (2011-2013)

The majority of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings took place in one- and two-family dwellings (65 percent) followed by multifamily dwellings (29 percent). This is remarkably similar to the breakout by General Property Type for non-Thanksgiving Day residential building fires, with one- and two-family dwellings at 65 percent, multifamily dwellings at 28 percent, and other dwellings at 7 percent.



Source: NFIRS 5.0.

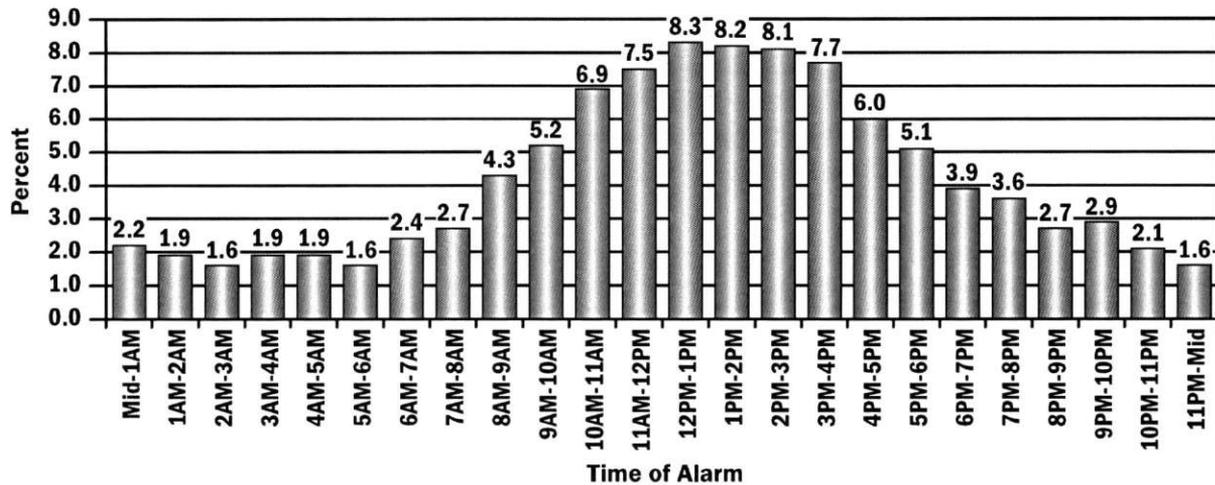
Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occurred most frequently from noon to 3 p.m., when many people most likely were preparing Thanksgiving dinner. Fires then declined throughout the evening. This stands in contrast to the rest of the year, when residential building fires peaked during “normal” dinnertime hours of 5 to 8 p.m.



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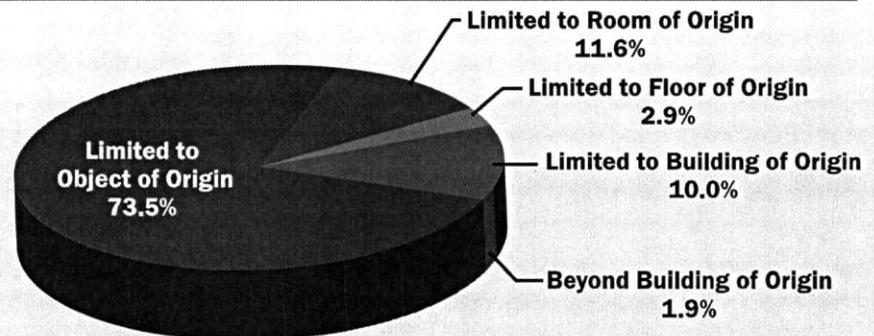
Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings by Time of Alarm (2011-2013)



Source: NFIRS 5.0.
 Note: Total does not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

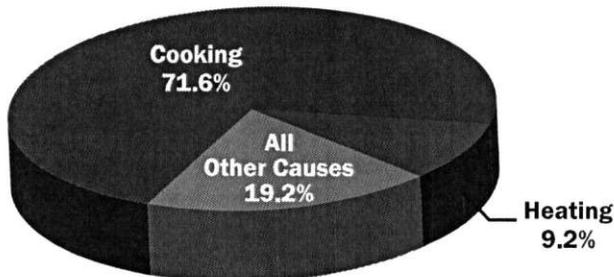
Extent of Fire Spread in Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (2011-2013)

In 74 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings, the fire was limited to the object of origin. An additional 12 percent of these fires were limited to the room of origin. The remaining 15 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings extended beyond the room of origin. Annually among all residential building fires, 56 percent were limited to the object of origin, an additional 20 percent were limited to the room of origin, and the remaining 25 percent extended beyond the room of origin.



Source: NFIRS 5.0.
 Note: Total does not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Causes of Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (2011-2013)



Source: NFIRS 5.0.
 Note: Percent of Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings with sufficient data to determine cause.

Cooking fires in residential buildings occurred more often on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year. Cooking was, by far, the leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings at 72 percent. By comparison, cooking was the cause of 48 percent of residential building fires that occurred on all days of the year other than Thanksgiving. Heating, at 9 percent, was the next leading cause of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings.

For additional information on home fire prevention, please visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>.

For additional fire statistics, please visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/>.

Sources: NFIRS and the National Fire Protection Association.
 Notes: 1. Thanksgiving Day fires are defined as fires that occurred on Nov. 24, 2011, Nov. 22, 2012, and Nov. 28, 2013.
 2. The average loss measures computed from the NFIRS data alone in the loss measures table will differ from the average loss measures computed from national estimates. Average loss for fatalities and injuries is computed per 1,000 fires. Average dollar loss is computed per fire and rounded to the nearest \$10. The 2011 and 2012 dollar-loss values were adjusted to 2013 dollars.



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