

NFPA® RESEARCH

Fire Loss in the United States During 2024

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Key Findings

In 2024, local fire departments responded to an estimated 1.38 million fires in the United States. These fires caused an estimated 3,920 civilian fire deaths and 11,780 reported civilian fire injuries. The property damage caused by these fires was estimated at $19 billion.

On average, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the US every 23 seconds in 2024. A home structure fire was reported every 96 seconds, while a home fire death occurred every three hours, and a home fire injury occurred every 59 minutes.

More than one-third of the fires (470,500, or 34 percent) occurred in or on structures. Most of the fire losses were caused by these fires, including 3,170 of the civilian fire deaths (81 percent); 10,335 of the civilian fire injuries (88 percent); and $15.3 billion of the direct property damage (83 percent).

Nearly one-quarter of the fires (23 percent) occurred in home properties, including one- or two-family homes and apartments or other multifamily housing, yet these fires caused three-quarters of the civilian fire deaths (75 percent) and injuries (75 percent).

One of every five fires (18 percent) occurred in one- or two-family homes. These fires caused more than half of the civilian fire deaths (66 percent) and civilian fire injuries (56 percent). The five percent of fires that occurred in apartments caused nine percent of the civilian fire deaths and 19 percent of the injuries.

Vehicle fires accounted for 15 percent of the fires, 13 percent of the civilian fire deaths, and nine percent of the civilian fire injuries.

Neither structures nor vehicles were involved in half of the fires reported in 2024 (52 percent). These fires included brush, grass, or wildland fires — excluding crops, timber, and other properties of value (22 percent); outside rubbish fires (18 percent); outside fires involving property of value (6 percent); and other fires (6 percent).

The 2024 overall estimate for total fire incidents was 54 percent lower than in 1980. However, property loss, adjusted for inflation, was 20 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980.

The 2024 estimate of total fire deaths was 40 percent lower than in 1980, home fire deaths were 44 percent lower, deaths in one- or two-family home fires were 38 percent lower, and apartment fire deaths were 67 percent lower.

However, data suggest that less progress has been made in regard to the rates of deaths and injuries. For overall home fires, the 2024 rate of 8.9 deaths per 1,000 reported home fires was higher than the rate of 7.1 in 1980. The death rate for one- or two-family home fires was 44 percent higher than in 1980, while the rate for apartment fires was 37 percent lower.

Most of the reduction in reported fires and fire losses occurred more than a decade ago. Thus, there is more work to be done to reduce fire incidence and improve life safety, particularly regarding home fires.

Introduction

In 2024, local fire departments, including departments protecting towns, townships, cities, and counties, responded to an estimated 1,388,000 fires in the US. These fires caused an estimated 3,920 civilian deaths; 11,780 civilian injuries; and $19 billion in direct property damage. This report provides a breakdown of these fires. Firefighter fatalities and injuries are discussed in separate NFPA reports and are not included here.

On average, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the US every 23 seconds in 2024. A civilian was fatally injured in a fire every two hours and 14 minutes. Every 45 minutes, a civilian suffered a non-fatal fire injury.

The fire and fire loss estimates in this analysis were derived from NFPA's 2024 fire department experience survey (FES). Only fires reported to local fire departments have been included. State fire agencies were also surveyed about large loss and catastrophic multiple-death fires.

Such major incidents were added to the FES results. For more information on how these estimates were calculated, see *Methodology Used for Calculating National Estimates from NFPA's Fire Experience Survey*.

Trends

From 2023 to 2024, the estimated total number of fires decreased 0.1 percent, civilian deaths increased 6.8 percent, and civilian injuries decreased 11.8 percent. The decrease in civilian injuries was statistically significant. Meanwhile, direct property damage decreased by 18 percent in 2024 compared to property damage in 2023. In 2024, the largest losses resulted from fires in a manufacturing facility, industrial plants, and apartment complexes. The 2024 fire property damage total includes losses of $550 million from Northern California wildfires, predominantly the Park wildfire.

The estimate of total fires was 54 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980, while fire death and injury estimates were 40 percent and 61 percent lower, respectively, over the same period. Property loss, adjusted for inflation, was 20 percent lower than in 1980. See Figures 1–3.

Figure 1. Reported fires by year

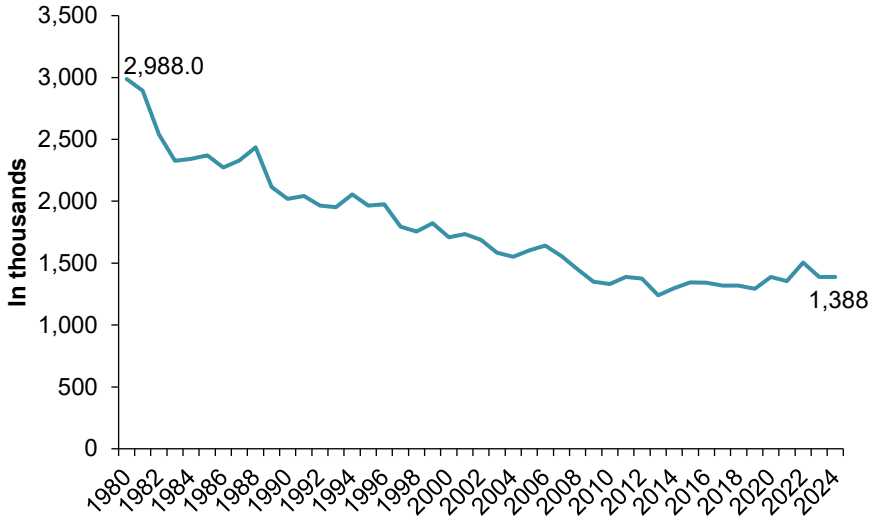


Figure 2. Civilian fire deaths by year

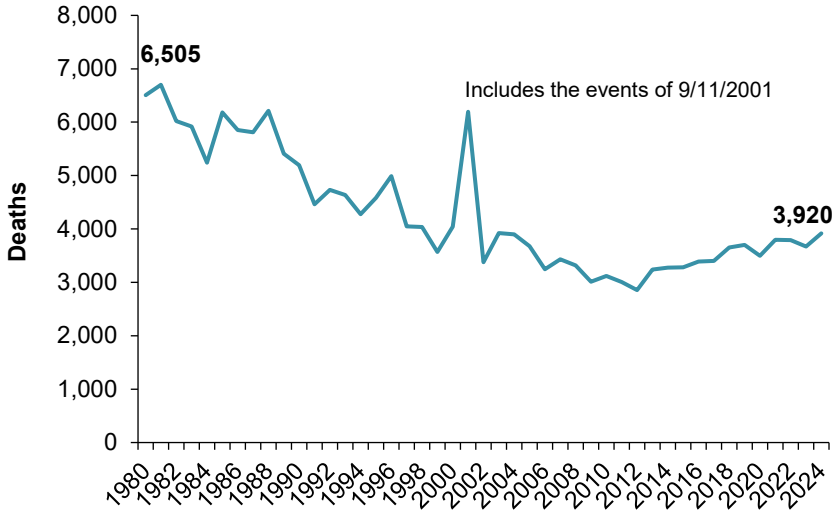
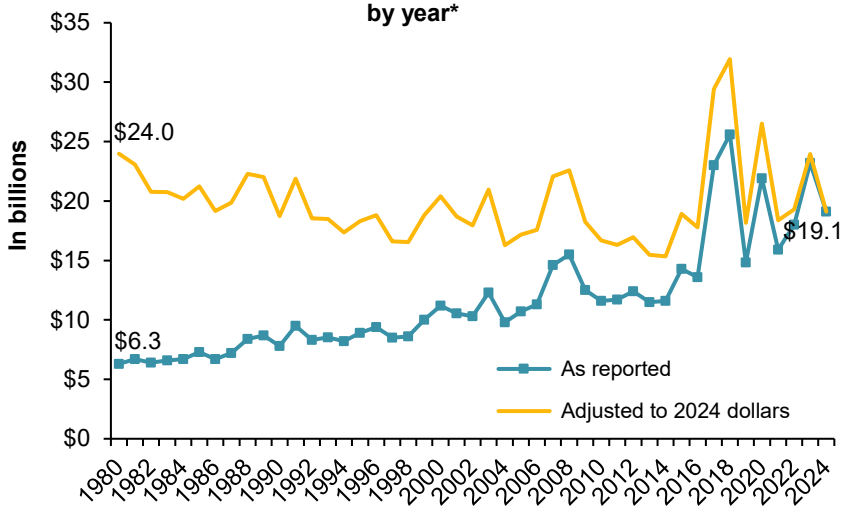


Figure 3. Estimated fire property loss by year*



*Excludes the $33.4 billion loss from 9/11/2001, which would adjust to $64.5 billion in 2024 dollars.

US Census data shows that the resident population of the US grew 54 percent from 1980 to 2024. The resulting rate of 4.1 fires per 1,000 population in 2024 was 69 percent lower than the 13.1 rate in 1980 and the same as the 2023 rate.

The rate of 11.5 civilian fire deaths per million population in 2024 was 60 percent lower than the 28.6 rate in 1980 and five percent higher than the rate of 11.0 in 2023. (See Figures 4 and 5.)

While smaller communities generally have fewer fires than larger communities, the 11.4 fires per 1,000 population for fire departments protecting communities with fewer than 2,500 people is more than two times the overall national rate. One explanation of this phenomenon could be that fire departments in smaller communities are less likely to conduct fire prevention or code enforcement activities.[1] Open burning of debris might also be more common in these communities. Figure 5 shows that the rate of fires generally decreases as the population protected increases from very small to midsize, with the lowest population-based fire rates found in departments protecting populations of at least 25,000.

Figure 4. Population-based fire and civilian fire death rates: 1980–2024

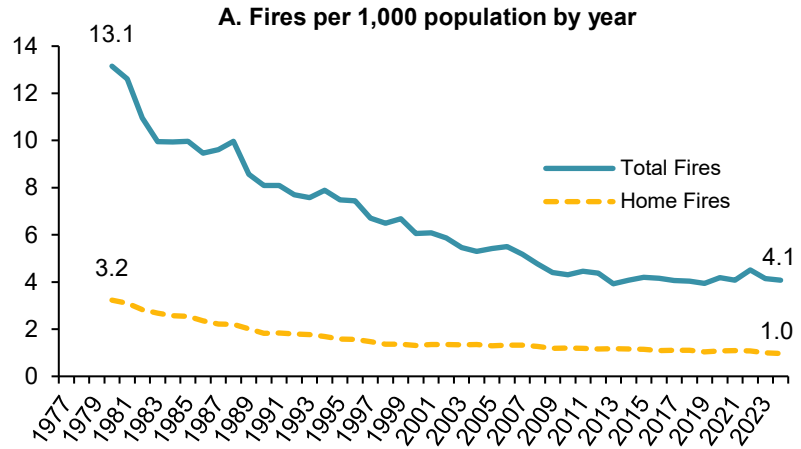
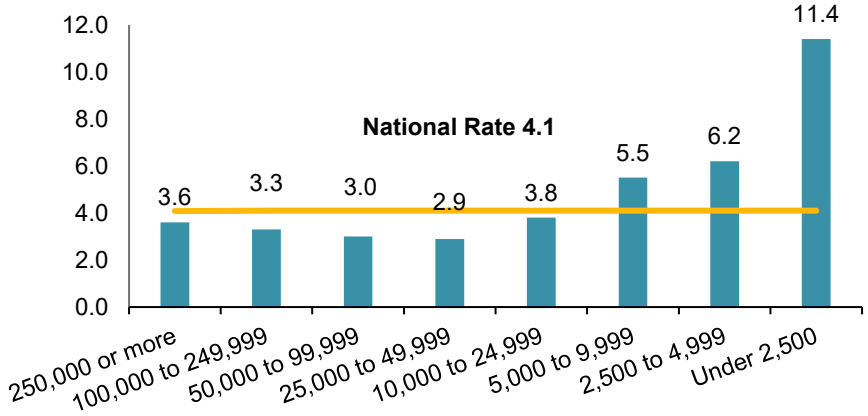


Figure 5. Fires per 1,000 population by size of community: 2024



[1] Hylton Haynes, *Fourth Needs Assessment of the US Fire Service*. Quincy, MA: NFPA, 2016.

These fire rates only tell part of the story. To really understand the US fire problem, areas of progress, and remaining challenges, we need to know more about where fires occur, their causes, and whether fires and casualties are increasing or decreasing in actual number and population-based rates.

Table 1 provides a summary of fires, civilian casualties, and direct property loss by type of fire in 2024.

Structure Fires

In 2024, the estimated 470,500 structure fires (34 percent of the reported fires) caused 3,170 civilian fire deaths (81 percent); 10,335 civilian injuries (88 percent); and $15.3 billion in direct property damage (83 percent).

In 2024, on average, fire departments responded to a structure fire every 67 seconds, a structure fire death occurred every 2 hours and 45 minutes, and a structure fire injury occurred every 51 minutes. From 2023 to 2024, the number of structure fires increased 0.1 percent, while the associated civilian deaths rose 3 percent, civilian injuries fell a statistically significant 12 percent, and property damage rose 4 percent.

The estimate of the total number of structure fires was 56 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980, while structure fire death and injury estimates were 44 percent and 58 percent lower, respectively, over the same period. Structure fires have caused 80–90 percent of the civilian fire deaths and injuries in most years, with the events of September 11, 2001, contributing to a high of 92 percent in 2001. See Figures 6 and 7.

Figure 6. Fires by incident type in the US: 1980–2024

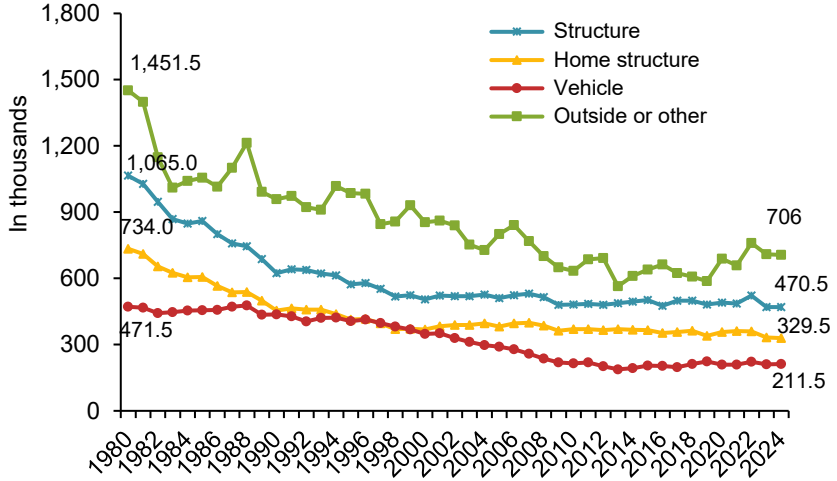


Figure 7. Fire deaths by incident type in the US: 1980–2024

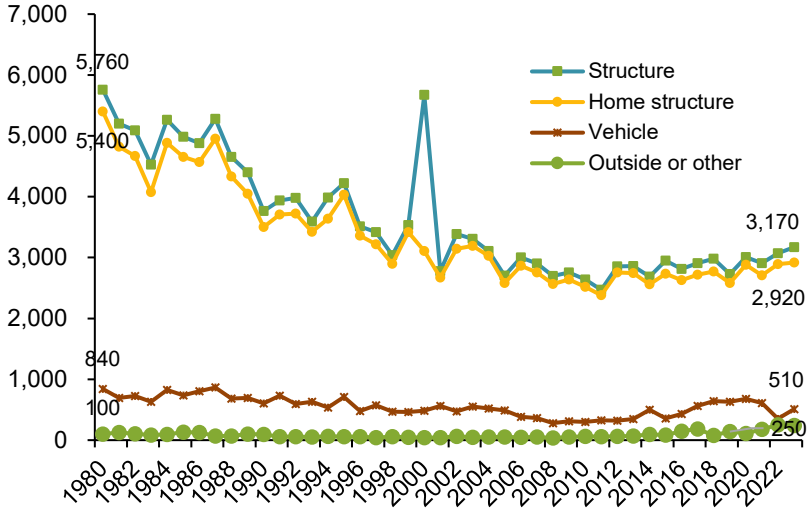


Table 1. Reported Fires in 2024 by Incident Type

Incident Type	Fires		Civilian Deaths		Civilian Injuries		Property Loss (In Millions)[1]	
Structure Fire	**470,500**	**(34%)**	**3,170**	**(81%)**	**10,335**	**(88%)**	**$15,305**	**(83%)**
Residential Structure Fire	**351,000**	**(25%)**	**3,000**	**(77%)**	**9,330**	**(79%)**	**$11,690**	**(63%)**
Home structure fire	329,500	(23%)	2,920	(75%)	8,920	(75%)	$11,386	(62%)
One- and two-family homes, including manufactured homes	*253,500*	*(18%)*	*2,580*	*(66%)*	*6,630*	*(56%)*	*$9,409*	*(51%)*
Apartment or other multi-family housing	*76,000*	*(5%)*	*340*	*(9%)*	*2,290*	*(19%)*	*$1,977*	*(11%)*
Other residential structure fire	*21,500*	(2%)	*80*	(2%)	410	(3%)	$304	(2%)
Non-residential structure fire	**119,500**	**(8%)**	**170**	**(4%)**	**1,020**	**(9%)**	**$3,615**	**(20%)**
Vehicle Fire	**211,500**	**(15%)**	**510**	**(13%)**	**1,070**	**(9%)**	**$2,792**	**(15%)**
Highway vehicle fire	178,500	(13%)	450	(11%)	850	(7%)	$2,164	(12%)
Other vehicle fire	33,000	(2%)	60	(2%)	220	(2%)	$628	(3%)
Outside and Other Fire*	**706,000**	**(51%)**	**240**	**(6%)**	**370**	**(3%)**	**$989****	**(2%)**
Fire outside, but no vehicle (outside storage, crops, timber, etc.)	79,500	(6%)	*	*	*	*	$187	(1%)
Fire in brush, grass, or wildland (excluding crops and timber) with no dollar loss	302,000	(22%)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Outside rubbish fire	247,000	(18%)	*	*	*	*	*	*
All other fires	77,500	(6%)	*	*	*	*	$252	(1%)
Total	**1,388,000**	**(100%)**	**3,920**	**(100%)**	**11,780**	**(100%)**	**$19,086****	**(100%)**

* Casualty data is not reported for subcategories of outside and other fires. Property damage is not captured for brush, grass, or wildland fires with no loss or outside rubbish fires.

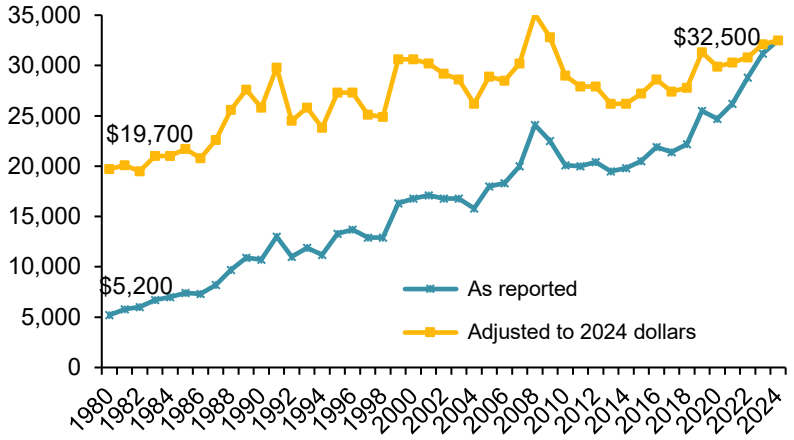
** Includes $550 million property loss estimates from California wildfires that occurred in 2024. Those property loss incidents were not used when calculating the percentage contributed to the total.

Note: Sums may not equal totals due to rounding errors.

Source: NFPA's 2024 survey of fire departments for the US fire experience and surveys of state fire authorities for large loss and catastrophic multiple-death fires.

Figure 8 shows that the average loss per structure fire, adjusted for inflation, was 1.6 times higher in 2024 ($32,500) than in 1980 ($19,700).

Figure 8. Average loss per structure fire: 1980–2024



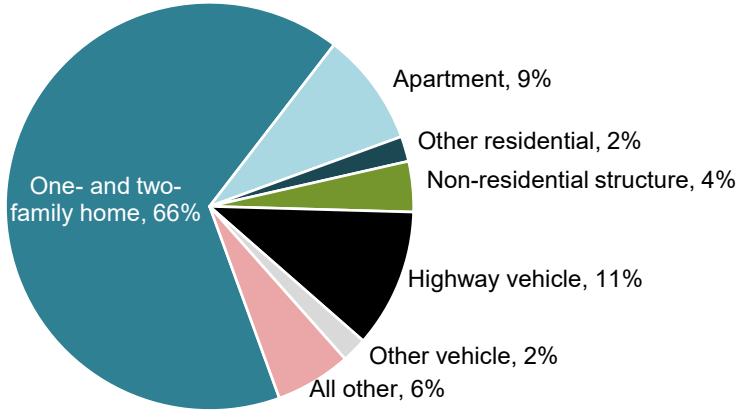
Excludes the $33.4 billion loss from 9/11/2001, which would adjust to $64.4 billion in 2024 dollars.

In 2024, an estimated 351,000 total residential structure fires (25 percent of the reported fires) caused 3,000 civilian deaths (77 percent); 9,330 civilian injuries (79 percent); and $11.7 billion in direct property damage (63 percent). From 2023 to 2024, the number of residential structure fires fell 0.3 percent, associated civilian deaths rose 2.7 percent, civilian injuries fell 11 percent, and residential fire property damage rose 3 percent.

The estimate of 351,000 residential structure fires reported in 2024 was 54 percent lower than the 757,500 reported in 1980. Residential structure fire deaths fell 45 percent from 5,446 in 1980 to 3,000 in 2024. In addition, the 2024 estimate of 9,330 residential fire injuries was 56 percent lower than the 21,100 injuries reported in 1980.

See Figure 9 for a breakdown of the 2024 fire deaths by type of fire.

Figure 9. Civilian fire deaths by incident type and occupancy: 2024



Home Structure Fires

The 329,500 home structure fires in 2024 (23 percent of the reported fires) caused 2,920 civilian deaths (75 percent); 8,920 civilian injuries (75 percent), and $11.4 billion in direct property damage (62 percent). On average, a home structure fire was reported every 96 seconds, a home fire death occurred every three hours, and a home fire injury occurred every 59 minutes.

From 2023 to 2024, the number of home structure fires rose 1 percent, associated civilian deaths rose 1 percent, civilian injuries fell 12 percent, and home fire property damage rose 3 percent. With homes accounting for 94 percent of residential structure fires, it is not surprising that the pattern for home fires resembles that of residential structure fires.

The estimated number of home structure fires was 55 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980, while estimates for home fire deaths and injuries were 44 percent and 55 percent lower, respectively.

Figure 4 shows that the population-based rates of home fires and home fire deaths were lower in 2024 than in 1980 — 69 and 63 percent lower,

respectively. The rate of reported home fires fell from 3.2 per 1,000 population in 1980 to 1 in 2024, while the home fire death rate dropped from 23.0 per million population to 8.6 over the same period. The trend lines for the home fire death rate and total fire death rate are very similar.

For information on the causes and circumstances of these home fires, see NFPA's report, *Home Structure Fires.* For information about the deaths and injuries caused by home fires, see NFPA's report, *Home Fire Victims by Age and Gender.*

In 2024, the 253,500 one- or two-family home structure fires (18 percent of the reported fires) caused 2,580 civilian fire deaths (66 percent); 6,630 civilian fire injuries (56 percent); and $9.4 billion in direct property damage (51 percent). From 2023 to 2024, fires in one- or two-family homes fell 1 percent, while deaths rose 4 percent, injuries fell 11 percent, and property damage rose a statistically significant 8 percent. The estimated number of structure fires in one- or two-family homes was 57 percent lower in 2023 than in 1980, while the estimated deaths and injuries were 38 and 59 percent lower, respectively.

The 76,000 apartment or other multi-family housing fires in 2024 (5 percent of the reported fires) caused 340 civilian fire deaths (9 percent); 2,290 civilian fire injuries (19 percent); and $2.0 billion in direct property damage (11 percent). From 2023 to 2024, apartment fire deaths fell 15 percent, injuries fell 16 percent, and property damage fell 16 percent.

The estimated number of apartment structure fires was 47 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980, while apartment fire deaths and apartment fire injuries were 67 percent and 36 percent lower, respectively. The number of injuries in apartments in 2024 continues an overall downward trend.

Less progress has been made in reducing death and injury *rates* in reported home fires. In 1980, there were 7.1 deaths per 1,000 reported home fires overall. This was also true for one- or two-family homes and apartments. In 2024, the rate of 8.9 deaths per 1,000 reported home fires was 25 percent higher. In comparison, the death rate per 1,000 reported apartment fires has dropped 37 percent since 1980 to 4.5.

In one- or two-family homes, the 2024 rate of 10.2 deaths per 1,000 reported fires was 44 percent higher than in 1980. This is the highest rate of deaths per 1,000 one- or two-family home fires since 2000. While the rates fluctuated, 1984 was the only year in which the death rate (6.5) per 1,000 one- or two-family home fires was lower than in 1980.

Fire in apartment buildings, which are more regulated than one- and two-family homes, have followed an overall downward trend in the past few years but have not reached the low rates seen in the early 2010s. See Figure 10.

Figure 10. Deaths per 1,000 reported home fires by year and occupancy: 1980–2024

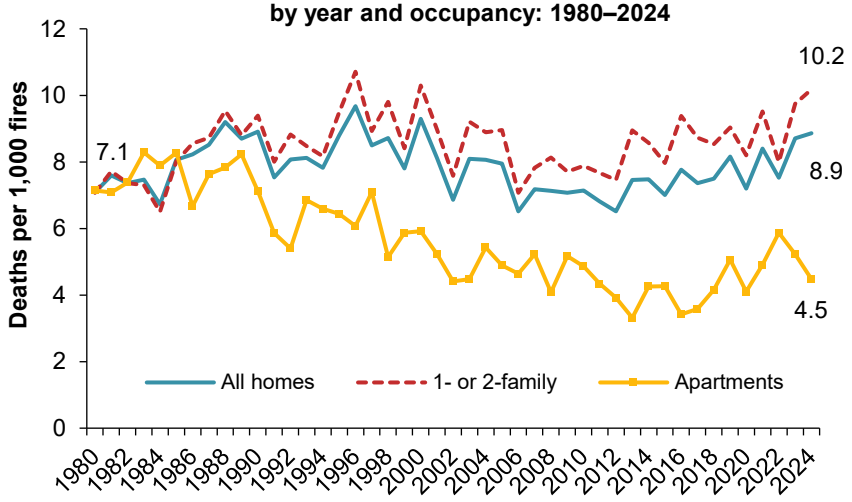
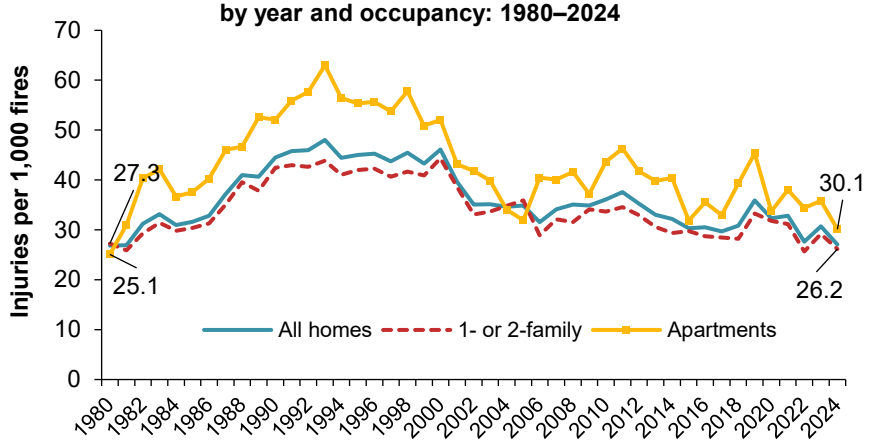


Figure 11 shows that the 2024 rate of 30.1 civilian injuries per 1,000 apartment fires was 20 percent higher than the 1980 rate of 25 per 1,000 fires. For one- or two-family home fires, the 2024 rate of 26.2 injuries per 1,000 fires was 4 percent lower than the 1980 rate of 27 per 1,000 fires. The rate of 27.1 injuries per 1,000 reported home fires overall in 2024 was 1 percent higher than the rate of 26.8 per 1,000 fires in 1980. However, caution should be used when interpreting these results. Occupants who are alerted by smoke alarms may handle a small fire without fire department assistance, resulting in fewer small fires being reported. In addition, many apartment buildings have monitored fire detection systems that can lead to a fire department response even when the system is triggered by a minor fire.

Figure 11. Injuries per 1,000 reported home fires by year and occupancy: 1980–2024



Non-Home Structure Fires

Non-home occupancies, including other residential properties such as dormitories, hotels and motels, rooming houses, residential board and care occupancies, and non-residential properties, such as public assembly, educational, institutional, retail, office, manufacturing, and industrial or utility occupancies, are usually more regulated than home properties.

In 2024, the estimated 21,500 structure fires in other residential properties (2 percent of the reported fires) — including unclassified residential structures — caused 80 civilian fire deaths (2 percent), 410 civilian fire injuries (3 percent), and $304 million in direct property damage (2 percent). From 2023 to 2024, the number of other residential structure fires rose 7.5 percent, deaths rose more than 100 percent, and injuries rose 37 percent. Although the percentage increase in the number of deaths is high, none of these changes are statistically significant.

In 2024, the 119,500 non-residential structure fires (8 percent of the reported fires) caused an estimated 170 civilian deaths (4 percent); 1,020 civilian injuries (9 percent); and $3.6 billion in direct property damage (20 percent).

From 2023 to 2024, the number of non-residential structure fires rose 1 percent, deaths rose 13 percent, and injuries fell 22 percent. The 2024 estimate of non-residential structure fires was 61 percent lower than the 1980 estimate, while the estimates for civilian deaths and injuries were 26 and 72 percent lower, respectively.

NFPA has reports on the causes and circumstances of fires in many of these occupancies. For the latest annual averages of fires, civilian casualties, and property damage by occupancy or property use, contact us at research@nfpa.org.

Vehicle Fires in 2024

Vehicle fires are an often-overlooked part of the fire problem; however, in 2024, an estimated 211,500 vehicle fires (15 percent of the reported fires) caused 510 civilian fire deaths (13 percent); 1,070 civilian fire injuries (9 percent); and $2.8 billion in direct property damage (15 percent).

From 2023 to 2024, the number of vehicle fires rose 0.1 percent, while vehicle fire deaths rose 46 percent, vehicle fire injuries rose 2 percent, and property damage rose 8 percent. The estimated number of vehicle fires was 55 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980. Estimates of deaths in vehicle fires were 31 percent lower in 2024 than in 1980.

Fires involving highway vehicles accounted for 84 percent of vehicle fires, 88 percent of the associated deaths, and 79 percent of the associated injuries. The 178,500 highway vehicle fires (13 percent of the reported fires) in 2024 caused an estimated 450 civilian fire deaths (1 percent), 850 civilian fire injuries (7 percent), and $2.2 billion in direct property damage (12 percent). Fire departments responded to an average of one highway vehicle fire every 2 minutes and 57 seconds.

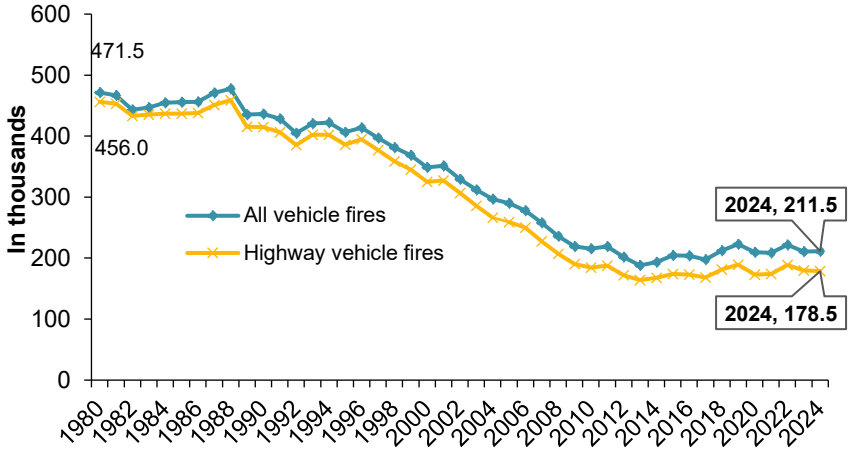
From 2023 to 2024, highway vehicle fire deaths rose 80 percent, but this was not statistically significant. Injuries in highway vehicle fires increased 8 percent, and property damage rose 10 percent. However, the estimated number of highway vehicle fires in 2024 was 61 percent lower than the 1980 estimate, while the associated fire death estimate fell 31 percent, and the injury estimate fell 70 percent.

For more information on the causes and circumstances of highway vehicle fires, see NFPA's 2020 report *Vehicle Fires*. Vehicles that burn inside a garage or other structure but do not damage the structure or spread to other contents are counted as vehicle fires and are the exception to the structure fire definition included below.

Other non-highway vehicles, such as boats or ships; aircraft; trains; and agricultural, garden, or industrial vehicles, were involved in an estimated 33,000 fires (2 percent of the reported fires) in 2024. These fires caused 60 civilian deaths (2 percent), 220 civilian injuries (2 percent), and $628 million in direct property damage (3 percent). From 2023 to 2024, the number of other vehicle fires rose 8 percent, while deaths fell 40 percent, injuries fell 15 percent, and property damage fell 2 percent.

The 2024 estimate of other non-highway vehicle fires is well above the 1980 estimate. It is possible that more of these vehicles, including boats, planes, construction vehicles, and gardening vehicles, are in use today than in 1980.

Figure 12. Vehicle fires by year: 1980–2024



Outside and Other Fires in 2024

Half of the reported fires in 2024 (52 percent) were non-structural, non-vehicle fires or other fires that did not fit into any of the standard categories. The estimated 706,000 outside and other fires caused 240 civilian fire deaths (6 percent), 370 civilian fire injuries (3 percent), and $989 million in direct property damage. Casualties were grouped together in this broad category and not subdivided further. A fire on an outside or unclassified property was reported every 45 seconds. In 2024, a series of wildfires broke out predominantly in Northern California known as the Park wildfire. Included in the property loss for this category is an estimated $550 million in damage from those fires.

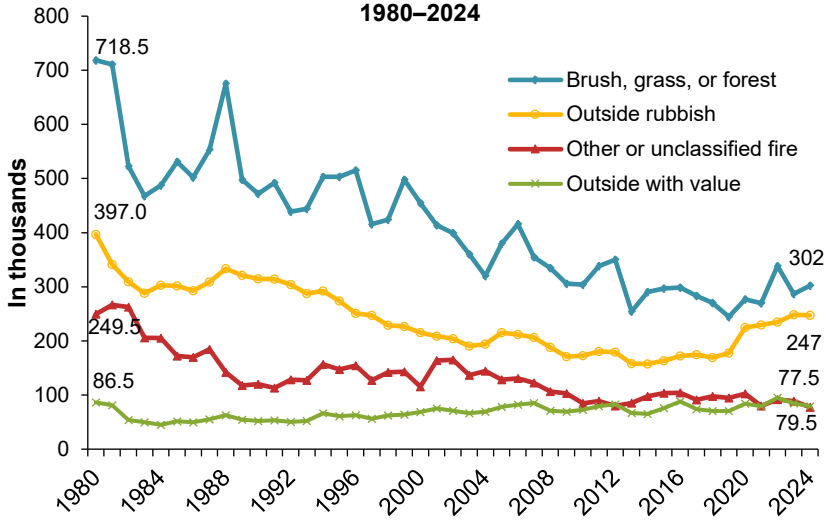
The 79,500 outside fires involving property of value (6 percent of the fires in 2024), such as outside storage, crops, timber, etc., caused $187 million in direct property damage (1 percent). Outside and other fires also included 302,000 brush, grass, and wildland fires, excluding crops and timber (22 percent), and 247,000 outside rubbish fires

(18 percent). Property damage information was not collected for these two incident types in NFPA's survey. The remaining 77,500 non-structural, non-vehicle fires (6 percent) caused $252 million in direct property damage (1 percent).

From 2023 to 2024, outside and other fires of all types combined fell less than 1 percent, while the associated deaths fell 4 percent, injuries fell 29 percent, and direct property damage fell 6 percent. The estimated number of outside fires involving property of value, such as outside storage, crops, or timber — but not structures or vehicles — fell 6 percent, while property damage from these incidents fell 12 percent. Brush, grass, or wildland fires with no value or loss involved rose 5 percent. Outside rubbish fires fell 1 percent. Other fires fell 12 percent, but the direct property damage from these fires rose 15 percent.

Figure 13 shows that the biggest decreases in this category since 1980 were in the estimated number of brush, grass, or wildland fires with no value or loss (58 percent), other or unclassified fires (69 percent), and outside rubbish fires (38 percent).

Figure 13. Outside and other fires by year: 1980–2024



Definitions

Civilian: Anyone other than a firefighter.

Structure fire: In general, any fire in or on a structure, even if the structure itself is not damaged.

Homes: One- or two-family homes, including manufactured homes, and apartments or other multi-family housing.

Non-home or other residential: Hotels, motels, dormitories, rooming houses, residential board and care, and unclassified residential occupancies.

Residential: Homes plus non-home or other residential occupancies.

Non-residential: Public assembly, educational (excluding dorms), institutional, industrial, utility, manufacturing, processing, and storage occupancies, as well as stores or offices, bridges, tents, poles, and other special properties.

Highway vehicle: A vehicle intended for use on roadways, such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses, recreational vehicles in transit, etc. A vehicle burning inside a garage is considered a vehicle fire if the fire does not spread to the structure or other items.

Acknowledgments

NFPA is grateful to the many fire departments that responded to the 2024 fire experience survey for their continuing efforts to provide the data necessary to make national projections. The authors would also like to thank the members of the NFPA staff who worked on this year's survey, including Michael Chabot, Stephen Badger, Frank Deely, and Jay Petrillo, for editing the survey forms and making follow-up calls to fire departments.

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