

Table 3.167.2010

Estimated number of intentionally set structure fires, and resulting civilian fire deaths and value of property damage

United States, 1977-2010

	Intentionally set structure fires		
	Estimated number	Estimated civilian fire deaths	Estimated property damage (in millions)
1977	86,500	480	\$636
1978	87,000	520	650
1979	88,500	435	787
1980	92,000	590	1,158
1981	88,000	555	1,142
1982	77,500	720	1,088
1983	72,500	565	946
1984	66,000	385	883
1985	68,500	455	1,069
1986	71,000	505	1,162
1987	65,500	465	1,109
1988	63,000	570	1,022
1989	59,500	460	1,057
1990	58,500	565	875
1991	62,000	365	1,072
1992	58,000	465	1,493
1993	54,000	415	1,839
1994	53,000	410	964
1995	57,500	570	981
1996	52,500	330	897
1997	52,000	340	802
1998	46,500	355	816
1999	43,500	290	828
2000	45,500	375	792
2001 ^a	45,500	330	1,013
2002	44,500	350	919
2003	37,500	305	692
2004	36,500	320	714
2005	31,500	315	664
2006	31,000	305	755
2007	32,500	295	733
2008	30,500	315	866
2009	26,500	170	684
2010	27,500	200	585

Note: These data are weighted estimates from an annual survey of fire departments conducted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). All U.S. fire departments that protect communities of 50,000 population or more are included in the sample. For departments that protect communities of less than 50,000 population, the sample is stratified by community size. The number of fire departments responding varies from year to year; a total of 2,650 departments responded to the 2010 survey. Readers are advised to consult the Source for more detailed information on methodology and weighting procedures.

"Civilians" include anyone other than a firefighter. "Property damage" includes all forms of direct loss to contents, structure, vehicles, machinery, vegetation, etc., but does not include indirect losses, such as interruption of business or temporary shelter provisions. (Source, p. 36.) This table has been revised by the Source due to a change in survey methodology beginning with the 2001 data. Data for 1977-2000 have been adjusted to include only intentionally set structure fires and are comparable to the figures for 2001 and later.

^a Does not include events of Sept. 11, 2001, which resulted in over 3,000 civilian deaths and property loss valued at over \$33 billion dollars.

Source: Michael J. Karter, Jr., *Fire Loss in the United States During 2002*, p. 15; **2003**, p. 15; **2004**, p. 15; **2005, Abridged Report**, p. 13; **2006**, p. 15; **2007**, p. 15; **2008**, p. 15; **2009**, p. 16; **2010**, p. 15 (Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association); and data provided by Michael J. Karter, Jr., National Fire Protection Association. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted with permission from NFPA, Fire Analysis and Research Division, Quincy, MA 02169.