



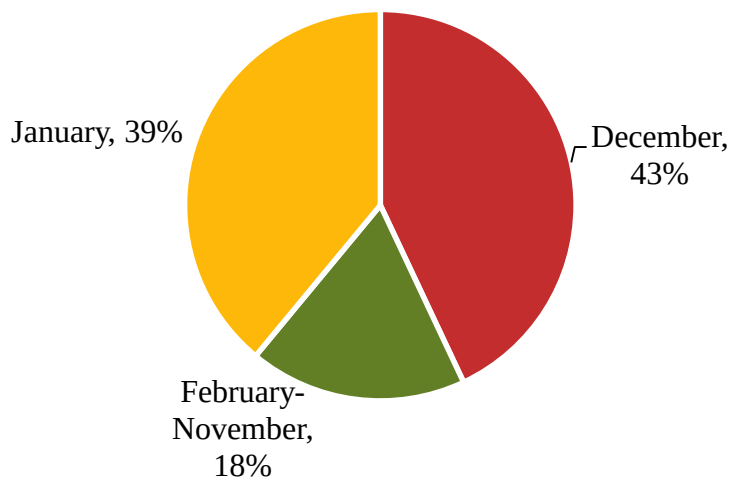
Home Christmas Tree Fires Fact Sheet

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 230 home¹ structure fires that began with Christmas trees in 2007-2011. These fires caused an annual average of

- 6 civilian fire deaths,
- 22 civilian fire injuries, and
- \$18.3 million in direct property damage

On average, one of every 40 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.

**Home Structure Fires
in Which Christmas Trees Were First Ignited
by Month: 2007-2011**



- Four of every five Christmas tree fires occurred in December and January. Of the 10 days with the largest shares of Christmas tree fires, none were before Christmas.
- Electrical problems were factors in one-third (32%) of home Christmas tree structure fires.
- Twelve percent of home Christmas tree fires involved decorative lights.
- Candles started 7% of home Christmas tree structure fires.
- Two of every five (39%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.

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

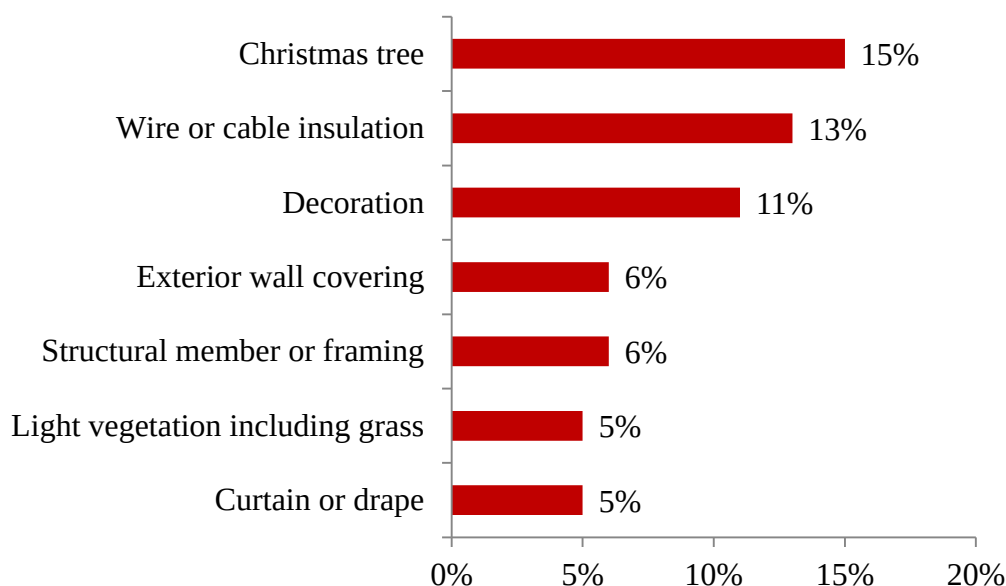


Home Fires Involving Holiday or Other Decorative Lights Fact Sheet

Holiday or other decorative lights with line voltage were involved in an average of 150 home¹ structure fires per year, resulting in an average of

- 9 civilian deaths,
- 16 civilian injuries, and
- \$8.4 million in direct property damage.

Leading Items First Ignited in Holiday Light Home Structure Fires



- Two out of five (40%) of these fires were reported in December and 12% occurred in January
- In nearly one sixth (15%) of these fires, Christmas trees were the item first ignited.
- Electrical problems were factors in nearly two-thirds (64%) of these fires. Something that could burn was too close to the lights in 19% of the fires.
- Falls are also a problem. A study found that roughly 5,800 people per year were treated at hospital emergency rooms for falls associated with holiday decorations during November to January.²

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

² J.A. Stevens and M. Vajami. "Fall-Related Injuries During the Holiday Season – United States, 2000-2003," MMWR Weekly, December 10, 2004, 53(48); 1127-1129, online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5348a1.htm>.