

# Residential Building Fire Dollar Loss Causes

Fire Estimate Summaries present basic data on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each Fire Estimate Summary addresses the size of the specific fire or fire-related issue and highlights important trends in the data.

Note: Fire Estimate Summaries are based on the USFA's national estimates methodology. The USFA is committed to providing the best and most current information on the United States fire problem and, as a result, continually examines its data and methodology. Because of this commitment, changes to data collection strategies and estimate methodologies occur, causing estimates to change slightly over time. Previous estimates on specific issues (or similar issues) may have been a result of different methodologies or data definitions used and may not be directly comparable to current estimates.

National estimates for the three leading causes of residential building fire dollar loss for 2009, the most recent year data are available, are:

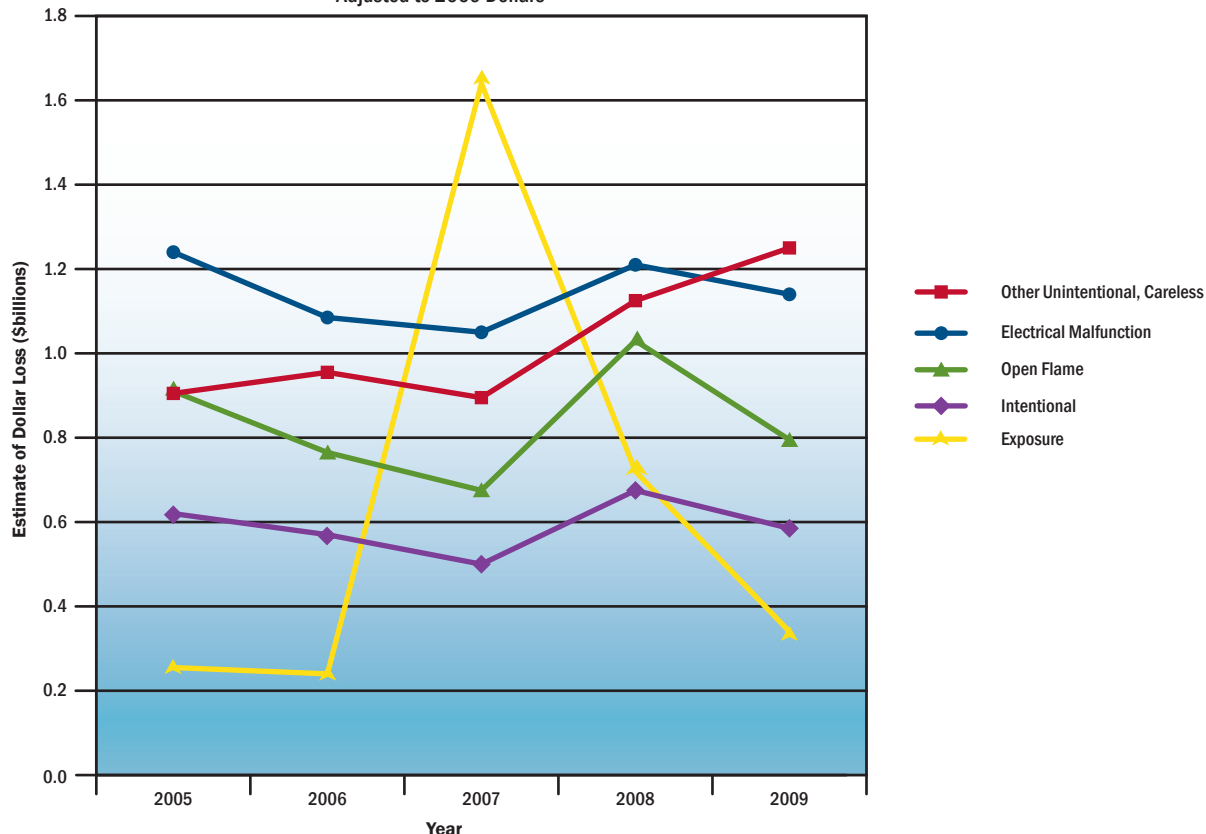
1. Other Unintentional, Careless: \$1,247,100,000
2. Electrical Malfunction: \$1,143,200,000
3. Open Flame: \$797,300,000

Overall trends in the leading causes of fire dollar loss for the 5-year period of 2005 to 2009 show:

- A 40% increase in residential other unintentional, careless fire dollar loss.
- A 2% decrease in residential electrical malfunction fire dollar loss.
- A 3% increase in fire dollar loss caused by open flame.
- The 2007 spike in dollar loss for exposure fires reflects residential building fire losses as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) from the October 2007 California fire storms.

**Leading Causes of Residential Building Fire Dollar Loss  
(2005-2009)**

Adjusted to 2009 Dollars



**FEMA**

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