



## HOME CHRISTMAS TREE FIRES FACT SHEET

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 210 home<sup>1</sup> structure fires per year that began with Christmas trees in 2010-2014. These fires caused an annual average of six civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$16.2 million in direct property damage.

On average, one of every 34 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.

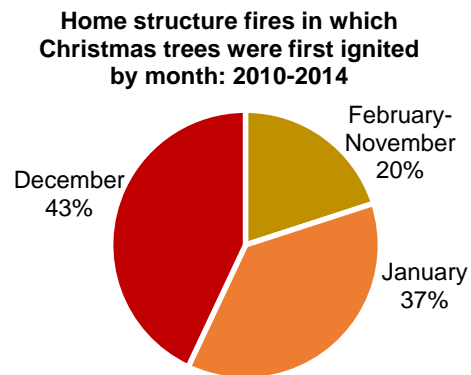
Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are much more likely to be deadly than most other fires.

In one-quarter (26%) of the Christmas tree fires and 80% of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.

Electrical failures or malfunctions were also factors in one-quarter (26%) of Christmas tree fires.

Four of every five Christmas tree fires occurred in December and January.

More than two of every five Christmas tree fires (43%) were in December. More than one-third (37%) were in January.



### Leading causes of Christmas tree fires

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in one-third (35%) of home Christmas tree fires.

- Eighteen percent of home Christmas tree fires involved decorative lights.
- Wiring or related equipment was involved in 11%.
- Cords or plugs were involved in 4%.

Twenty-three percent of Christmas tree fires were intentional. More than half of these intentional fires occurred in January.

Heating equipment was involved in 15%.

Ten percent of Christmas tree fires were started by someone playing with fire.

Candles started 8% of home Christmas tree structure fires.

### Leading areas of origin

Almost two of every five (38%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den. All of the fatalities and three-quarters of the injuries resulted from fires started in this area.

Seven percent were chimney or flue fires.

To learn more about holiday safety, see NFPA's [Winter Holiday Safety Tips](#).

<sup>1</sup> Homes include one- or two-family homes and apartments or other multi-family housing.  
Source: NFPA, Fire Analysis & Research Division, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)