- Cigarettes are the leading cause of home fire fatalities in the United States, killing 700 to 900 people - smokers and nonsmokers alike - per year.
- Smoking-material structure fires killed 760 people and injured 1,520 others in 2003.
- Property losses from smoking-material fires total hundreds of millions of dollars each year.
- There were 25,600 smoking-material structure fires in the United States in 2003.
- Fires caused by smoking materials are actually on the decline, thanks in part to more stringent standards for fire-resistive mattresses and upholstered furniture, public education, and a dramatic decrease in the number of cigarettes consumed per adult in the United States.
- The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age. Between 1999 and 2003, two-fifths (38%) of fatal smoking-material-fire victims were age 65 or older.
- One-quarter of victims of smoking-material fire fatalities are not the smokers whose cigarettes started the fire: 34 percent are children of the smokers; 25 percent are neighbors or friends; 14 percent are spouses or partners; and 13 percent are parents.
- NFPA research in the mid-1980s predicted that fire-safe cigarettes would eliminate three out of four cigarette fire deaths. If cigarette manufacturers had begun producing only fire-safe cigarettes then, an estimated 15,000 lives could have been saved by now.
- Mattresses and bedding, upholstered furniture, and trash are the items most commonly ignited in smoking-material home fires.
- Between 1999 and 2003, almost half (43%) of fatal home smoking-material fire victims were sleeping when injured; one-third (32%) were attempting to escape, to fight the fire, or to rescue others.

Source: NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division
Updated: 8/06