

Fire Fatalities Facts: SC/US

South Carolina

- Incidence of Fire Deaths:** In the last 20 years fire fatalities in South Carolina have declined 66%.
- Cause of Fires:** Cooking and heating fires are the most common in existing/new homes. 75% of fires are caused by behavioral (smoking, suicide, arson, and candles) non-home (autos, business, trash burning) and unknown factors.
- Demographics:** Primarily in urban areas where more people are located. Highest incidence of death is for age 40-60.
- Smoke Alarms:** 50% of home fatalities are in houses that either didn't have a smoke alarm or the smoke alarm was not working.
- Site of Fires:** 50% of fire fatalities occur in homes while another 15% occur in mobile homes. Since new construction makes up annually only 1% or less of the housing stocks – 99% of residential fires are in existing homes. Strong construction standards, fire retardant products and hard-wired smoke alarms account for the minimal fatalities in new homes.
- Effective Ways to Reduce Home Deaths:**
- Prohibit the use of space heaters, candles, and smoking in houses.
 - Install hard-wired some alarms in existing homes – new homes already have this.
 - Require fire extinguishers be installed in the kitchen in all existing and new homes.

United States

In the U.S. the risk associated with fire fatalities (commercial, residential, auto, suicide etc.) is relatively low compared to all other risk sources.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Deaths/100,000</u>
Motor Vehicle	43,100	14.3
Fall Related	21,600	7.2
Poisoning	22,700	7.5
Choking	3,700	1.2
Drowning	4,700	1.6
Fire, Flames, Smoke	2,700	0.9
Suffocation	1,200	.04
Firearms	830	.03

* National Safety Council 2007