

## **Fire and Burn Injuries Fact Sheet:**

Key statistics:

- Fatality rates for males were greater than twice the fatality rates for females.
- The highest fatality rates were seen among children below the age of five and adults above the age of 65 years.
- Age adjusted fatality rates for blacks were more than twice that of whites.

**Compiled by the Men's Health Network : Washington, D.C. : [www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/burn.htm> (downloaded 4-18-99)

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)

### **Fire and Burn Injuries Fact Sheet**

(excerpts)

#### ***Ranking of fires among other unintentional injuries***

Fires rank fifth among unintentional injuries after motor vehicle related crashes, poisonings, falls, and drownings.

#### ***Most common causes of residential fire death***

Residential fire deaths are most commonly caused by careless use of cigarettes (30-45%). Heating and electrical equipment malfunction are the second and third most common causes. Children playing with ignition sources (matches, cigarette lighters) cause approximately two percent of fatalities. Studies show impairment due to alcohol consumption to be the strongest independent risk factor for death after outbreak of fire.

#### ***Seasons when fires most commonly occur***

Most residential fires occur during the winter months (December-February). The fewest occur in the summer (June-August). Studies show winter fatalities to be 1.5 to 3.3 times summer fatalities.

#### ***Individuals most commonly affected by fires***

There were approximately 30,000 civilian (non-firefighter) injuries in 1993 and 3,900 fire deaths. Nationally a fire death occurred approximately every 113 minutes. The highest fatality rates were seen among children below the age of five and adults above the age of 65 years. Age adjusted fatality rates for blacks were more than twice that of whites. Fatality rates for males were greater than twice the fatality rates for females.