Massachusetts Fires in 2020



Structure Arson by Year



Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



Structure arson increased by 18% and motor vehicle arson decreased 3% from 2019 to 2020. Since 1986, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98.7%. For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the cause is listed as intentional and age is not a factor or the person involved was over 18. This definition excludes undetermined and youth-set fires.

Department of Fire Services

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Massachusetts Fire Deaths in 2020



Fire Deaths by Year



- 42 fatal fires killed 44 civilians 29 men and 15 women.
- There were no child fire deaths in 2020.
- No firefighters died in fire-related incidents.
- Forty-one percent (41%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
- Fire deaths increased by 5% from the 42 in 2019.
- Eighty percent (80%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- In 2020, smoking fires were the leading cause of residential fire deaths; smoking fires caused 15, or 43% of home fire deaths.
- One civilian died in an explosion.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths

