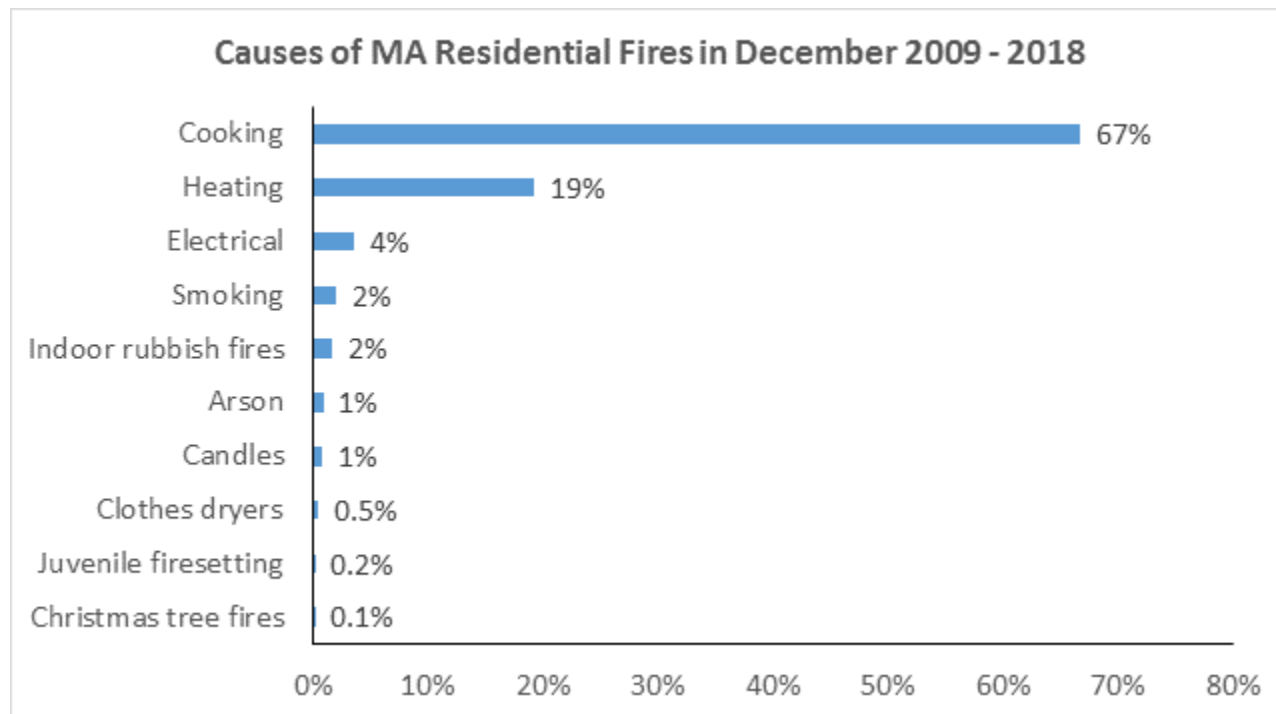

What's the Fire Risk in December?

Fire Data Based on MFIRS Reporting, December 2009 - 2018

- 7% of all fires throughout the year
- Average of 29 civilian injuries
- Average of 35 fire service injuries
- Average of 4 civilian deaths
- Average of \$18.6 million in dollars lost



Cooking continues to be the leading cause of residential fires. Although there are fewer cooking fires in December than November, heating fires start to increase in December.

Holiday Fires (December 1 - January 6)

According to MFIRS

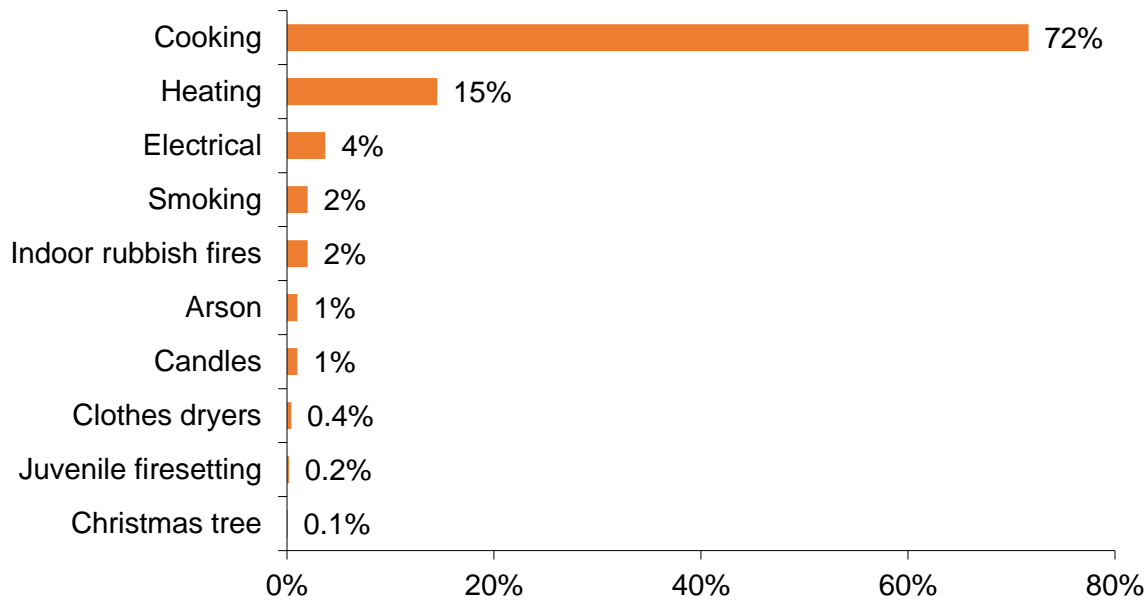
- Except for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve had the most residential fires, February 4 had the 2nd most and New Year's Eve the 3rd most residential fires of any day during the past 5 years.
- Cooking was the leading cause (72%) of residential structure fires during the holiday season.
- There were five candle fires during the past 5 years on Christmas Day.
- Fires on Christmas Day accounted for only 3% of the fires for the holiday season.
- In the past five years, there have been 15 Christmas tree fires.
- Candle fires accounted for only 1% of fires during the holiday season. The top three days for candle fires for the whole year are during the holiday season (in the past 5 years).



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Leading Causes of Holiday Fires in Massachusetts Homes, 2018-2019



Educational Opportunities

Space Heater Fires, 2009 - 2018

One hundred thirty-six (136) space heater fires were reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal between 2009 and 2018. While these fires are not frequent, they are deadly. One of every 68 space heater fires causes a fatality. Remind everyone that:

- space heaters need space
- keep space heaters three feet away from anything that can burn and never place blankets or clothing on a space heater
- plug heaters directly into wall outlets, not extension cords
- unplug heaters at night before bed



There are more educational resources at www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe



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Carbon Monoxide Safety

- Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the U.S.
- The highest percentage of carbon monoxide calls occur between November and February – during heating season.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning mimics flu symptoms and other illnesses. Having these symptoms during cold and flu season can make people who are exposed to CO ignore the symptoms.
- Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless. The only way to detect CO is with working CO alarms. If the CO alarm sounds, move outdoors immediately and call 911 when outside. Do not go back inside.
- If the power goes out, keep generators away from the house, not indoors or in the garage.

Protecting Yourself from Carbon Monoxide

- CO is a silent killer. Test CO alarms monthly.
- CO is an invisible killer. Install CO alarms on every level of homes.
- Prevent CO poisoning. Keep vents, flues and chimneys clear.



Holiday Safety



Many home fires happen between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Make fire safety part of your messaging to help everyone stay safe. Include our **Winter Holiday Safety** pamphlet in [English](#), [Spanish](#), or [Portuguese](#) in your fire department information distribution area. We also have fire safety tips online, and pamphlets to download and distribute, on many winter and holiday topics including:

[Candles](#)

[Electrical Fire Safety](#)

[Christmas Tree Care](#)

[Matches and Lighters](#)

[Twas the Night for Fire Safety](#)



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