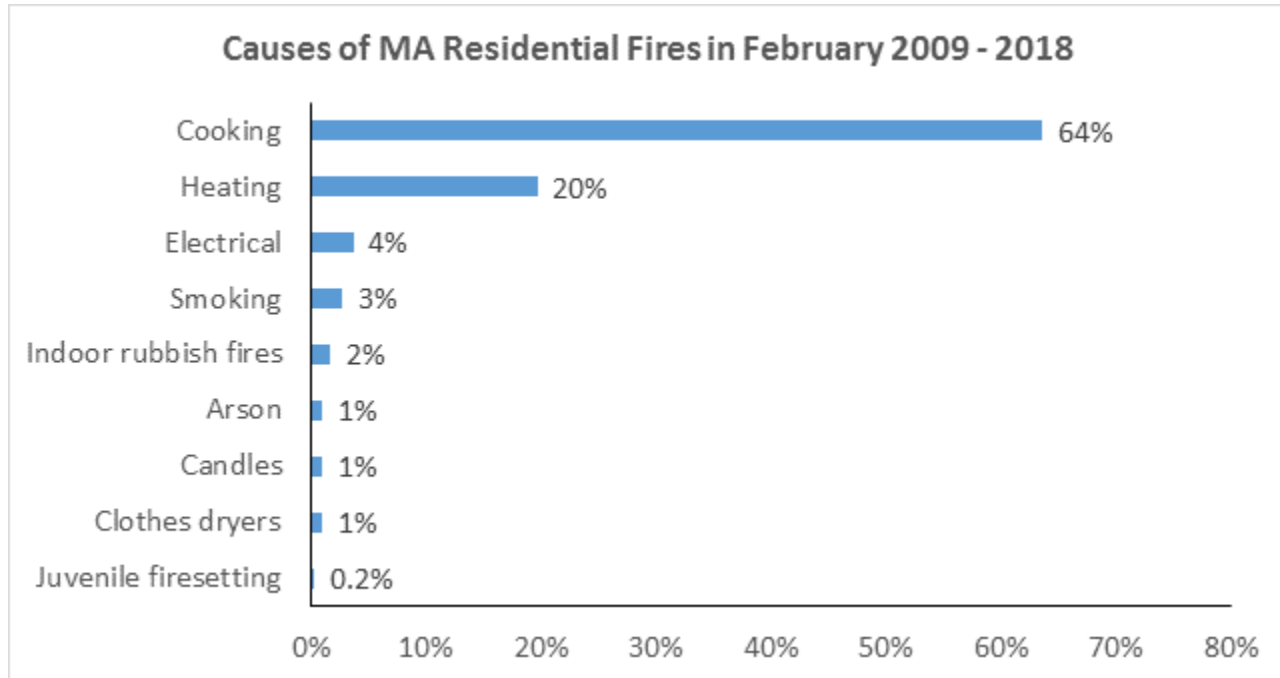


# What's the Fire Risk in February?

## Fire Data Based on MFIRS Reporting, February 2009 – 2018

- 7% of all fires throughout the year
- Average of 26 civilian injuries
- Average of 38 fire service injuries
- Average of 7 civilian deaths
- Average of \$23.6 million in dollars lost



There is a slight increase this month in cooking, electrical and smoking fires. On the average, heating fires have gone down this month, but only by 1%. Heating continues to be the second leading causes of fires in February.

## Educational Opportunities

### Burn Awareness week in February 2-8, 2020.

Burn Awareness Week is an opportunity to promote burn awareness and prevention in our communities. Scalds are the leading cause of burn injuries. In 2018, scalds caused 156, or 45% of the burn injuries reported to M-BIRS. Cooking liquids causes the majority of scald burns. Young children were the most frequent victims of scald burns. 46% of the 156 scald victims were under fire years old, and most were less than one year. Hot beverages posed the

**Hot Fluids  
Burn Like Fire**

Hot fluids were the cause of 87% of the total burns in children under age 5.

**Hot beverages**

- Put coffee down when you hold a baby. A wiggling baby can shake your arm and spill the drink on themselves.
- Put drinks and soups in the middle of the table, away from curious fingers. Babies like to grab things.
- Consider replacing tablecloths with place mats to prevent children from pulling everything on the table onto themselves.
- Hot beverages caused 44% of the burns in children under age five.
- Of all victims burned by hot beverages, 62% were children under age five.

**Tap water**


- It takes only one second for water at 155 °F to cause a third degree burn.
- Set your hot water heater to temperatures of 125 °F or less. (Massachusetts law states that the temperature must be between 120 °F and 130 °F.)
- Always supervise young children in the bath and face them away from faucets. Babies and toddlers like playing with knobs and handles. They may turn on the hot water when you turn your back.

**Cooking**

- Turn pot handles inward.
- Establish and enforce a 6-foot zone around the stove. Do not let children playing near a stove or barbecue. This protects children from hot cooking liquids, grease and metal.
- Children under age five are 16 times more likely to be burned by cooking activities than others.
- 20% of all cooking-related burns were suffered by children under five years old.

Statistics obtained from the 2018 reports of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System.

**Fire factors**  
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greatest risk to these young children. Information on [preventing and treating burns and scalds](#) that has a flyer in both English and Spanish can be found on the DFS website. You will find additional resources from other agencies to assist you in your burn and scald prevention campaign.

## Open Burning

In 2018, 3,061 brush fires were reported to the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) causing one civilian death, two civilian injuries and two firefighter injuries. This is a 28% drop in brush fires from the 4,233 reported in 2017. Spring weather conditions drive the number of brush fires each year. The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) limits open burning for public health and safety reasons, beginning January 15 through May 1. Visit the [Open Burning Safety](#) page on the DFS website for more information.

## Keep Warm Keep Safe



Continue to support The [Keep Warm, Keep Safe](#) campaign which has information and a toolkit for fire educators to help prevent winter home heating fires. It includes a logo for local use, TV and radio public service announcements that can be aired locally, educational handouts that can be downloaded and a full color English/Spanish

pamphlet that can be ordered in quantity from the [Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#).



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