

Holiday Home Fire Safety Data Sheet

Over the five year period between 2015 and 2019, Oregon fire agencies reported 3,329 home fires during the months of November and December. Although they typically tend to be highlighted during the holiday season, candle fires accounted for just over one percent of all fires, while decorations, light strings, and Christmas tree fires accounted for less than one percent of all fires during the months of November and December in Oregon over the last five years. The two types of fires that impact Oregonians the most during the holiday season are chimney and cooking fires, accounting for almost half of all home fires.

Primary Fire Risks

Chimney Fires

accounted for

29%

of all home fires

and resulted in

\$3.6 million

in estimated loss

Cooking Fires

accounted for

20%

of all home fires

and resulted in

\$3.4 million

in estimated loss

How to reduce these numbers

Chimney Fires:

- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. It creates less creosote buildup in the chimney.
- Use only paper and kindling or fire starters to start a fire. Never use lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline to start a fire.

Cooking Fires:

- Heat cooking oil slowly and never leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your cooking area.
- Always keep a pan lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan, and turn off the burner. If you cannot extinguish the fire, get out and call 911.

**Information is based on incident response data provided by Oregon fire agencies during the time period indicated. Loss amounts are estimates made by on-scene firefighters and are not official insurance estimates.*



Oregon State Police

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

PHONE: 503-378-3473 | FAX: 503-378-1825

oregon.gov/osp/sfm | oregon.sfm@state.or.us

 fb.com/OregonStateFireMarshal

 twitter.com/OSFM