



## Introduction — Residential and Farm Fires

More than 5,500 Americans die every year in fires, and more than 30,000 are injured. Eighty percent of all fire deaths are preventable. Fires cause over \$2 billion in damage to homes every year.

This chapter contains information about house and building fires, how to prevent fires at home, what to do in the event of a fire in the home or on the farm, how to prevent arson, special concerns for children and the elderly, and how to clean up homes and farms after a fire.

Some of the information in this chapter was provided by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The USFA is a directorate within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is charged with national fire safety and prevention. The agency was founded after a series of meetings in the early 1970s which examined the staggering number of fires and fire-related casualties in the United States.

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