



HOME FIRES

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Table 1: Fire deaths, 2010-2014⁴

The 5 counties with the highest rates of fire deaths per 100,000 are highlighted below.

County	Number of Fire Deaths	Rate per 100,000
MARYLAND	333	1.1
Allegany	10	3.5
Anne Arundel	19	0.7
Baltimore City	96	2.8
Baltimore County	45	0.9
Calvert	4	1.1
Caroline	0	0.0
Carroll	4	0.8
Cecil	11	2.4
Charles	5	0.4
Dorchester	3	1.8
Frederick	11	0.6
Garrett	2	1.3
Harford	9	0.7
Howard	6	0.6
Kent	3	4.0
Montgomery	16	0.4
Prince George's	59	1.2
Queen Anne's	3	1.7
St. Mary's	5	0.8
Somerset	2	2.3
Talbot	3	1.1
Washington	11	1.1
Wicomico	2	1.4
Worcester	4	1.6

Home Fires

HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE UNITED STATES?

- In 2014, 3,339 people in the U.S. died in fires (including 64 firefighters)¹; 15,775 additional civilians were injured by fire and survived, translating into one injury every 30 minutes.²
- In 2014, about 84 percent of all fire deaths occurred in the home.²
- Young children and older adults are at highest risk of dying in a fire.³
- Residential fires caused an estimated \$11.6 billion in home property losses in 2014.²

HOW DOES IT AFFECT MARYLAND?

- From 2010-2014, 324 people died in residential fires in Maryland.⁴
- Table 1 displays fire deaths and death rate from 2010-2014 for each Maryland county.⁴
- Marylanders over 65 years old are at highest risk of dying in a residential fire.²
- In 2014, estimated property loss due to fires was \$129,743,640, loss of contents was \$36,529,195 for a total of fire-related loss of \$166,272,835 in Maryland.⁵

HOW DO WE ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

- Working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by at least half.⁶
- Maryland Senate Bill 969, effective July 1, 2013, requires homes to be equipped with a working lithium battery smoke alarm.
- Among homes with smoke alarms, most have too few alarms, incorrectly placed alarms, or non-working alarms.^{7,8} Support for efforts to assure smoke alarms are properly installed and maintained are needed.
- Fires that occur in homes with sprinklers cause less damage. Since 1992, Prince George's County has required sprinkler systems to be installed in all newly constructed homes. A 2009 study concluded there had been no reported fire deaths in a sprinkler-equipped home in Prince George's County from 1992-2007.⁹
- Several Maryland localities require sprinkler systems be installed in all new residential buildings; however, retrofitting older buildings with sprinkler systems as part of substantial renovations is not required by most localities.¹⁰
- The 2015 edition of the International Residential Code requires that all new 1- and 2-family homes be equipped with a home fire sprinkler system.¹¹ Maryland adopted the code and it became effective on January 1, 2011. Maryland law prohibits local jurisdictions from opting out of this state requirement or adopting weaker sprinkler requirements.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy: www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/fire-prevention/index.html>
- National Fire Protection Agency: www.nfpa.org
- National Safety Council: <http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/safety-at-home-fires-burns.aspx>
- Office of the State Fire Marshal in Maryland: www.mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal/

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