2010 Residential Building Fire Death Causes

Fire Estimate Summaries present basic data on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each Fire Estimate Summary addresses the size of the specific fire or fire-related issue and highlights important trends in the data.

Note: Fire Estimate Summaries are based on the USFA's national estimates methodology. The USFA is committed to providing the best and most current information on the United States fire problem and, as a result, continually examines its data and methodology. Because of this commitment, changes to data collection strategies and estimate methodologies occur, causing estimates to change slightly over time. Previous estimates on specific issues (or similar issues) may have been a result of different methodologies or data definitions used and may not be directly comparable to current estimates.

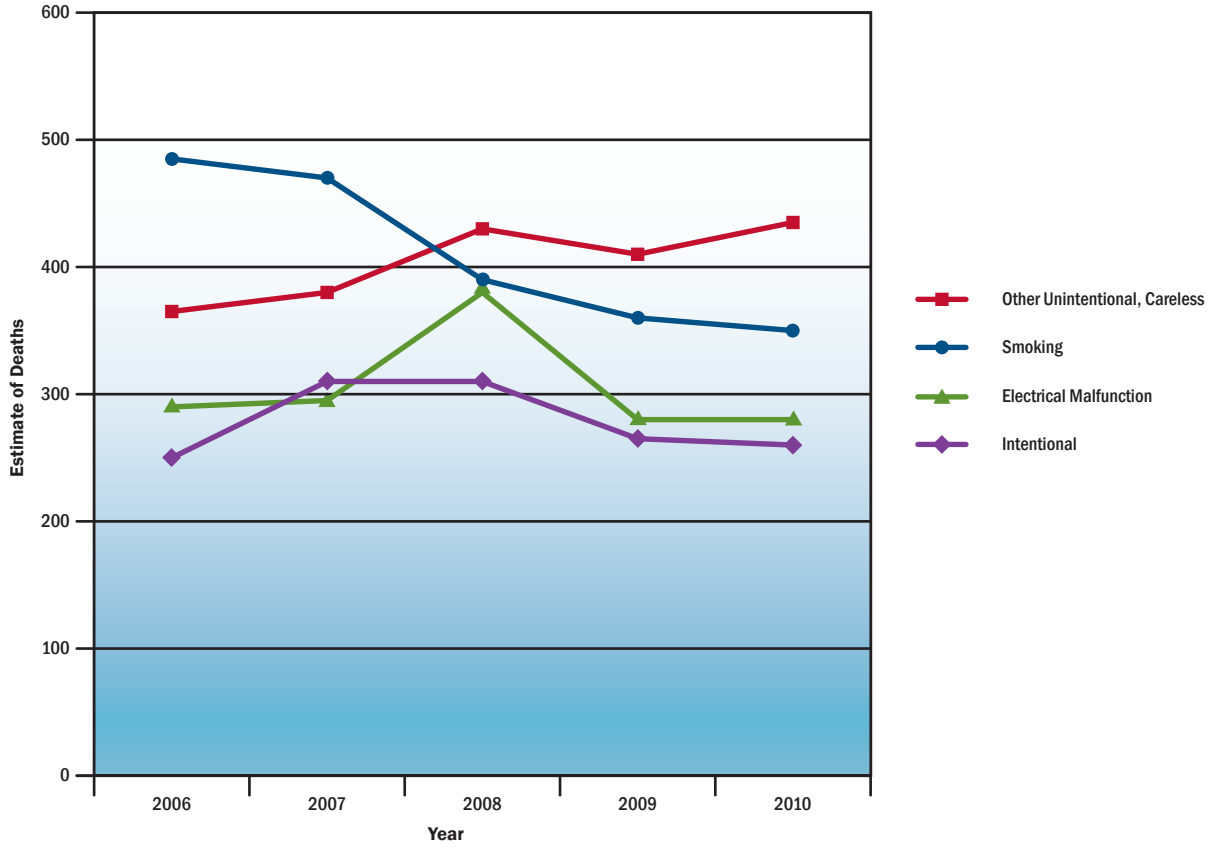
National estimates for the major causes of residential building fire deaths for 2010, the most recent year data are available, are:

1. Other Unintentional, Careless: 435 deaths
2. Smoking: 350 deaths

Overall trends in the leading fire death causes for the 5-year-period of 2006 to 2010 show:

- Smoking as the leading cause of residential building fire deaths prior to 2008 when other unintentional, careless became the leading cause.
- An 18% increase in residential other unintentional, careless fire deaths.
- A 31% decrease in residential smoking fire deaths.

Leading Causes of Residential Building Fire Deaths (2006-2010)



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