

## ***Monthly Message from EMS Director Jeffrey Leaming***

### **USFA Releases Report on Residential Fires**

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently released a special report focusing on the traits and causes of residential fires. The report, *Residential Building fires*, was developed by USFA's national Fire Data Center. It is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2007 through 2009 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data.

*Residential* is commonly referred to as homes, whether they are one-or two-family dwellings or multifamily buildings. It also includes manufactured housing, hotels and motels, residential hotels, dormitories, assisted living facilities, and halfway houses.



According to the report:

- An estimated 374,900 home fires are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 2,630 deaths, 13,075 injuries, and \$7.6 billion in property loss.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires (44 percent). Nearly all are small, confined fires (94 percent).
- House fires are higher in the cooler months, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Residential fires occur most frequently in the early evening hours, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when cooking fires are high.
- Forty-six percent of non-confined residential fires extend beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires are electrical malfunctions (16 percent), unintentional or careless actions (15 percent), intentional (12 percent), and open flame (11 percent).
- Smoke alarms were not present in 21 percent of the larger, non-confined fires in occupied residences.

Everyone should have a comprehensive fire protection plan that includes smoke alarms, residential sprinklers, and practicing a home fire escape plan.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Leaming". The signature is stylized and cursive, written in a professional manner.