

Table 3.170

Estimated number of structure fires, civilian fire deaths, and value of property loss due to fires of incendiary or suspicious origin

United States, 1995

	Estimated number of fires	Estimated number of civilian fire deaths	Estimated value of property loss (in thousands)
Total, all fires in structures	573,500	4,585	\$8,918,000
Total, incendiary and suspicious fires	90,500	740	1,647,000
Incendiary fires	57,500	570 ^a	1,116,000 ^a
Suspicious fires	33,000	170	531,000

Note: These data are weighted estimates from an annual survey of fire departments conducted by the National Fire Protection Association. All U.S. fire departments that protect communities of 100,000 population or more are included in the sample. For departments that protect communities of less than 100,000 population, the sample is stratified by community size. A total of 2,729 fire departments responded to the 1995 survey. Readers are advised to consult the Source for more detailed information on methodology and weighting procedures.

"Incendiary fires" are fires in which a legal decision or physical evidence indicates that a fire was deliberately set. "Suspicious fires" are fires that involve circumstances, such as multiple ignitions, that indicate that a fire may have been set deliberately. "Civilians" include anyone other than a fire fighter. "Property loss" includes all forms of direct loss, but does not include indirect losses, such as interruption of business or temporary shelter provisions. (Source, p. 56.)

^aThese figures include 168 civilian deaths and an estimated \$135,000,000 in property loss resulting from the bombing and subsequent fire at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City on Apr. 19, 1995.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data presented in Michael J. Karter, Jr., "NFPA's Latest Fire Loss Figures," *NFPA Journal*® 90 (September/October 1996), pp. 54, 55, 57. *NFPA Journal*® is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02269.