

Alberta Home Fire Statistics

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, and the second cause of home fire deaths in Alberta.

Most cooking fires (59 per cent), fire injuries (73 per cent), and deaths (16 deaths out of 29) occurred when people weren't paying attention to what they were heating.

Home Fire Losses in Alberta (1995-2004)

YEAR	NO. OF FIRES	FIRE DEATHS	FIRE INJURIES	PROPERTY LOSS \$
1995	6,528	36	425	111,140,466
1996	6,304	41	451	120,556,429
1997	6,670	37	448	141,964,034
1998	6,579	20	429	139,492,065
1999	6,380	51	386	146,519,201
2000	6,457	27	341	158,724,441
2001	7,022	43	393	229,233,932
2002	5,992	31	307	272,545,284
2003	5,646	24	322	349,194,472
2004	5,126	27	291	202,168,498
TOTAL	62,704	337	3,793	1,871,538,822

On average there are 6,270 fires a year in Alberta. These fires result in 34 deaths, 379 injuries, and \$187,153,882 in property losses.

Home Fire Causes (1995-2004)

Home Fire Causes	Fires	% Fires	Deaths	Injuries	Property Loss \$
Cooking	3798	24	29	629	62,872,605
Smoking	1908	12	68	377	66,167,881

Home Fire Causes	Fires	% Fires	Deaths	Injuries	Property Loss \$
Heating	1727	11	18	203	69,417,587
Arson/	1696	10	17	177	57,969,277
Electrical	1076	7	7	71	61,020,564
Candle	800	5	8	175	23,823,483
Exposure Fire	763	5	0	3	74,800,589
Child Fireplay	757	5	8	222	25,653,260
Clothes Dryer	507	3	1	17	7,322,941
Appliance Related	492	3	1	44	16,796,922
Light Bulbs	399	2	4	49	14,693,974
Flammable Ignition	184	1	2	54	5,752,790
Welding	129	1	0	11	14,178,839
Match Lighters	95	1	2	18	1,717,251
Flammable Gas	57	0	6	24	3,880,598
Open Fire	34	0	1	0	776,257
Other	1844	11	43	200	144,888,693
Total	16,266	100	215	2,274	651,733,511

Homes account for 26% of all fires, 64% of all fire deaths, 60% of all fire injuries, and 35% of all property losses in Alberta.

Home Cooking Fire Causes (1995-2004)

Cooking Fire Causes	Fire	% Fire	Death	Injury	Property Loss \$
Unattend	2226	59	16	451	32,411,62

Cooking Fire Causes	Fire	% Fire	Death	Injury	Property Loss \$
Unattended Cooking					2
Ignorance of Hazard	282	7	2	56	6,033,155
Combustible Too Close to Heat	245	6	3	30	6,366,866
Accident	217	6	0	14	3,495,876
Human Failing	187	5	2	8	3,175,638
Leak, Break	138	4	0	9	2,011,033
Other	503	13	6	61	9,378,415
Total	3798	100	29	629	62,872,605

Unattended cooking is the number one cause of home cooking fires (59%), fire deaths (10 out of 16), and fire injuries (72%).

Unattended cooking can involve being distracted or pre-occupied, falling asleep and being impaired.

The majority of unattended cooking fire deaths and injuries happen to adults age 18-64, followed by children aged 11 and under.

Adults are four times more likely than any other age group to die during an unattended cooking fire, and children are three times more likely than any other age group to die in an unattended cooking fire.

What Burns in Unattended Home Cooking Fires

Materials First Ignited	Fires	% Fire	Death	Injury	Property Loss \$
Cooking Oil/Fat	1952	88	10	407	28,815,583
Plastics	28	1	0	10	222,332
Chemicals	12	1	0	3	77,968
Food	11	0	0	4	61,114
Building Components	8	0	1	0	68,327
Interior Wall	8	0	0	3	348,787
Rubber	7	0	0	2	54,128
Furniture	7	0	0	1	160,790
Clothing	6	0	1	4	10,948
Floor Covering	4	0	0	1	9,420
Polish / Wax	4	0	0	0	65,809
Grain / Flour / Starch	4	0	0	0	38,639
Other	175	10	4	16	2,477,777
Total	2226	100	16	451	32,411,622

Eighty-eight per cent of unattended cooking fires ignite cooking oil.

Cooking oil includes oils vegetable oils and animal fats.

The majority of unattended cooking oil fires (96%), fire deaths (10 out of 10) and fire injuries (99%) were caused when the cooking oil ignited on a stove top.

These fires, deaths and injuries were mostly due to a distracted/pre-occupied cook (95%, 4 out of 10, and 93% respectively).

The majority of unattended cooking oil fire deaths and injuries happen to adults age 18-64.

Adults are 9 times more likely to die or be injured during an unattended cooking oil fire than any other age group.

The majority of unattended cooking oil fire injuries occur from burns (60 per cent).

These burns occur when people try to use water to put out a cooking oil fire causing it to spread flaming droplets of oil or try to move the flaming pot or pan causing the hot oil to spill and inflict burns.

The majority of unattended cooking oil fire deaths (6 out of 10) occur from smoke inhalation.