



NATIONAL NON-SMOKING WEEK
SEMAINE NATIONALE SANS FUMÉE

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Brought to you by the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control
Présenté par le Conseil canadien pour le contrôle du tabac

Statistics about Smoking and Fires in Canada

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We all know that smoking causes fatal diseases such as cancer, COPD and cardiovascular disease. But there is another reason why smoking can be deadly. Cigarettes are the primary cause of fatalities due to residential fires in Canada.ⁱ

Here are some grim statistics about smoking and fire in Canada:

- Cigarettes are the number one cause of fire-related deaths in Canadaⁱⁱ and worldwide.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Fires caused by cigarettes cause one out of every five fire deaths in Canada.^{iv}
- In 2002, a total of 9,414 fires in Canada were caused by “smokers’ material and open flame”.^v
- The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs estimates that approximately 70 deaths and 300 injuries are caused every year by smoking-related fires.^{vi}

Fires due to cigarettes are a costly problem in Canada

- Fires started by cigarettes tend to result in more property damage than fires started by other sources.^{vii}
- The cost of forest fires due to smoking was \$26 million in 2002.^{viii}
- The cost of home fires related to smoking was \$59.5 million in 2002.^{ix}

Smoking-related fires are usually the result of careless smoking

- In a recent Ontario study, one in four smokers admitted to leaving lit cigarettes unattended in the last 30 days and 15% admitted to smoking in bed.^x
- The same study reported that 1.7% of smokers reported that a fire had started in their home due to a cigarette.^{xi}
- Most fires caused by smoking materials start on beds, furniture, or in the trash.^{xii}



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- ^{vi} Health Canada Website. Science and Research: Program Estimates the Damage of Cigarette Fires. 2007. Accessed November 12, 2008 from: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/sr-sr/activ/protection/fire-feu-eng.php>
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- ^{xii} Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) If you smoke, put it out. All the way. Every time. 2007. Accessed November 12, 2008 from <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/smoking/GeneralAudienceFactSheet.pdf>