

## U.S. FIRE STATISTICS-2010

By Richard Schulte

Each year the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) publishes a report on the annual fire loss estimates for the United States. This year's report, titled "*Fire Loss in the United States During 2010*", authored by Michael J. Carter, Jr. of the Fire Analysis and Research Division of the NFPA is dated September 2011. The following are a few of the statistics included in the NFPA report:

- An estimated 482,000 structure fires occurred in the US in 2010.
- An estimated 3,120 fire fatalities occurred in the US in 2010.
- An estimated 2,755 fire fatalities occurred as a result of structure fires in 2010.
- An estimated 2,665 fire fatalities occurred in residential occupancies.
- An estimated 90 fire fatalities occurred in commercial (non-residential) occupancies.
- An estimated 285 fire fatalities occurred in highway vehicles in 2010.

Based upon the above, the following statistics can be developed:

- The ratio of structure fires to structure fire fatalities was roughly 175:1 in 2010.
- 96.73 percent of the structure fire fatalities occurred in residential occupancies.
- 3.27 percent of the structure fire fatalities occurred in commercial (non-residential) occupancies.
- The number of fire fatalities which occurred in highway vehicles was more than three times the number of structure fire fatalities which occurred in commercial (non-residential) occupancies.

To put these statistics in perspective, statistics collected by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicate that 32,788 Americans died in traffic accidents in 2010. The NHTSA indicates that this number of highway fatalities is the lowest since 1949.

Based upon the data above, the number of highway fatalities which occurred in the United States in 2010 was roughly 11.9 times the number of structure fire fatalities which occurred in the US. The ratio of highway fatalities to commercial structure fire fatalities in 2010 is roughly 364:1.

The NFPA report referenced above can be found the “Research” section of the NFPA website ([nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org)).

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