Fires in Residential Properties under Construction or Undergoing Major Renovation Fact Sheet

In 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 5,120 structure fires in residential properties that were under construction or undergoing major renovation. These fires caused an average of 9 civilian deaths, 94 civilian injuries, and $265 million in direct property damage each year. Almost two in five of fires were 1- and 2-family homes under construction (39%) and 37% were in 1- and 2-family homes undergoing major renovation. Residential properties other than 1- and 2-family homes accounted for 24% of fires – 16% in properties under construction and 8% in properties undergoing major renovation.

Heating equipment was the leading type of equipment involved in fires in one- and two-family homes under construction and those undergoing major renovation, while cooking equipment was the leading type of equipment involved in residential properties other than one- and two-family homes under construction. A torch, burner, or soldering iron was the leading type of equipment involved in residential properties other than one-or two-family homes undergoing renovation.

Source: *Fires in Residential Properties Under Construction or Undergoing Major Renovation*, Richard Campbell
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