

The following analysis is from our report on dormitory structure fires. We are unable to provide an electronic version of the published incident descriptions. Please contact Nancy Schwartz at 617-984-7450 or e-mail [osds@nfpa.org](mailto:osds@nfpa.org) if you are interested in ordering a hard copy of the report.

## **DORMITORY STRUCTURE FIRES**

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## Executive Summary

During 2001, an estimated 2,530 reported fires in dormitory properties caused six civilian deaths, 82 civilian injuries and \$48.5 million in estimated direct property damage. Dormitories include school, college and university dormitories; nurses' quarters; convent, monastery and other religious dormitories; and bunk houses and worker's barracks.

Fires in the dormitory occupancy group fell 22% from 3,200 in 1980 to 2,530 in 2001. In comparison, structure fires of all types declined 48% from 1980 to 2001. While the long-term trend shows that the problem has been getting better, the number of fires reported in 2001 was at its highest point since 1989.

### **During the three-year period of 1999-2001:**

- Dormitory property structure fires started in a wide variety of areas. During this time period, the leading area of origin was the kitchen, with 39% of the incidents. Another 22% of the fires started in the bedroom; and 9% began in a hallway or corridor.
- Cooking caused 41% of the fires in dormitory properties. Cooking causes were blamed for 29% of all residential structure fires during the same period. The second most common cause was intentional.
- Fires in dormitories peaked with 11% in October but are fairly evenly distributed from February through April with a combined 32%. The smallest shares of fires occurred in June. July was a close second.

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