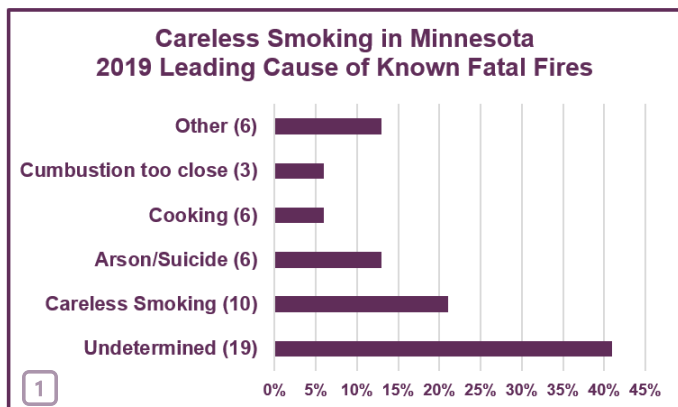


# The Impact of Smoking-Related Fires in Minnesota Multi-Unit Housing



The leading cause of residential fire death in Minnesota is cigarettes and other smoking materials. <sup>1</sup>



"The real number is likely higher because it is challenging for investigators to positively identify smoking material as a cause."

Minnesota State Fire Marshal, 2019

Trash, mattresses, bedding, and furniture are most commonly ignited.



Smoking-related fires are deadly

## 2020 Minnesota Smoking Related Fire Deaths

11 Number of Smoking Caused Fatalities

59 Average Age

35 Total Fire Fatalities

\*Preliminary numbers from January-July 2020 <sup>2</sup>



Smoking-related fires are costly

## Minnesota Multi Family Careless Smoking Property Damage Costs 2010 - 2019

YEAR	NO. OF FIRES	DOLLAR LOSS
2010	82	\$7,307,749
2011	92	\$3,621,888
2012	85	\$3,920,113
2013	88	\$2,507,187
2014	75	\$1,295,097
2015	68	\$924,550
2016	65	\$2,532,925
2017	93	\$2,844,655
2018	89	\$1,256,436
2019	69	\$579,330

<sup>3</sup>



What You Can Do

### Tips from MN State Fire Marshal Division to avoid smoking-related fires:

- **SMOKE OUTSIDE** and extinguish cigarettes in a sturdy ashtray filled with sand or water.
- Do not discard cigarettes in potted plants, leaves, mulch or other vegetation.
- Do not smoke while on oxygen or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Smoking can kill you in more ways than one. Year after year, people die in preventable smoking-related fires and, to be honest, it's frustrating.

-MN State Fire Marshal Jim Smith <sup>4</sup>



Homeowner associations can greatly reduce the risk of fire, fire damage, and death by adopting a smoke-free policy!

Live Smoke Free

651-646-3005

info@mns smokefreehousing.org

www.mns smokefreehousing.org



#### References:

1. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/mfirs/Documents/Fire%20in%20Minnesota/Fire-in-Minnesota-2019.pdf>; 2. <https://dps.mn.gov/blog/Pages/20200709-smoking-related-fire-deaths.aspx>; 3. MN State Fire Marshal Division, 2020; 4. <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/fires/4880222-4-of-8-Minnesota-fire-deaths-in-2020-likely-smoking-related>