

Figure 10.2.28. Fires

Database: World Problems and Issues

Link type: aggravated by problems

Network nodes: 167

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&CL=2&DR=D8054>



All fires involve the chemical reaction of the burning substance with oxygen in the air, the release of great amounts of heat, and the rapid conversion of the combustion products into gases. Uncontrolled burning may destroy property and human life. The most common causes of fires are carelessness, misuse of industrial equipment, spontaneous combustion of raw materials and finished products, static electricity, lightning and arson. In the USA, it has been estimated that up to 20% of unexplained fires may be started by rats or mice biting through electricity cables. About 25% of fires are extinguished in their early stages with no material loss. Only a small percentage of fires are major fires, occurring in depots, warehouses, stores and other places where goods are concentrated; nevertheless, the material damage resulting from these fires is considerable.