



## U.S. Home Structure Fires

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 399,000 home<sup>1</sup> structure fires in 2007. These fires caused:



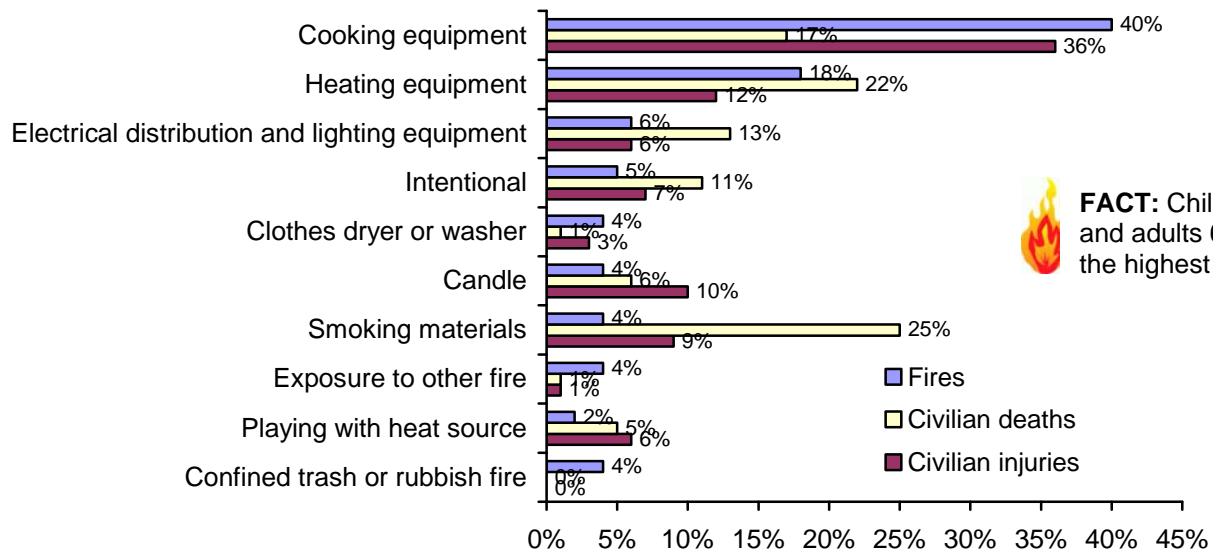
- 2,865 civilian fire deaths,
- 13,600 civilian fire injuries, and
- \$7.4 billion in direct damage.
- Roughly 84% of all civilian fire deaths in 2007 resulted from home structure fires.
- On average, eight people died in U.S. home fires every day.

### Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2003-2006:

- Cooking was the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking was the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Heating ranked second in home fire deaths overall, but was the leading cause in one- or two-family dwellings.

**Figure 5. Leading Causes of Home Structure Fires: 2003-2006**



**FACT:** Children under five and adults 65 and over face the highest risk of fire death.



63% of reported home fire deaths in 2003-2006 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Based on a telephone survey done in 2008, 96% of all homes have at least one smoke alarm.

<sup>1</sup>Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums. Source: *U.S. Home Structure Fires*, by Marty Ahrens, NFPA, Quincy, MA, January 2009

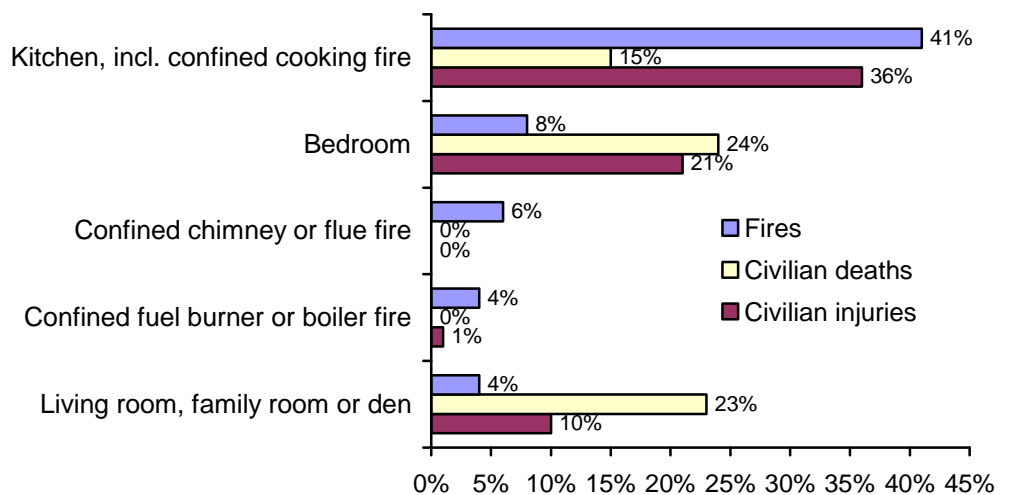
### Kitchens were the leading area of origin.

- 41% of home structure fires and 36% of civilian home fire injuries resulted from kitchen fires. (Kitchen fires include confined cooking fires.)
  - 15% of home fire deaths also resulted from kitchen fires.
- 8% of reported home fires started in the bedroom. These fires caused 24% of home fire deaths and 21% of home fire injuries.
- 4% of home fire deaths started in the living room, family room, or den. These fires caused 23% of home fire deaths and 10% of the home fire injuries.
- Fires confined to chimneys or flues accounted for 6% of all reported home fires. Confining fuel burner or boiler fires accounted for 4%. These fires caused very few casualties.

**Figure 5. Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Fires: 2003-2006**



**Fact:** 21% of home fire deaths resulted from fires beginning with upholstered furniture.



### Roughly one-third of home fires and home fire deaths occur in December, January and February.

- 20% of reported home structure fires occurred between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. These fires caused 52% of all home fire deaths.
- Home structure fires peaked around the dinner hours between 5:00 and 8:00 PM.

**Figure 5. Home Structure Fires by Month: 2003-2006**

