

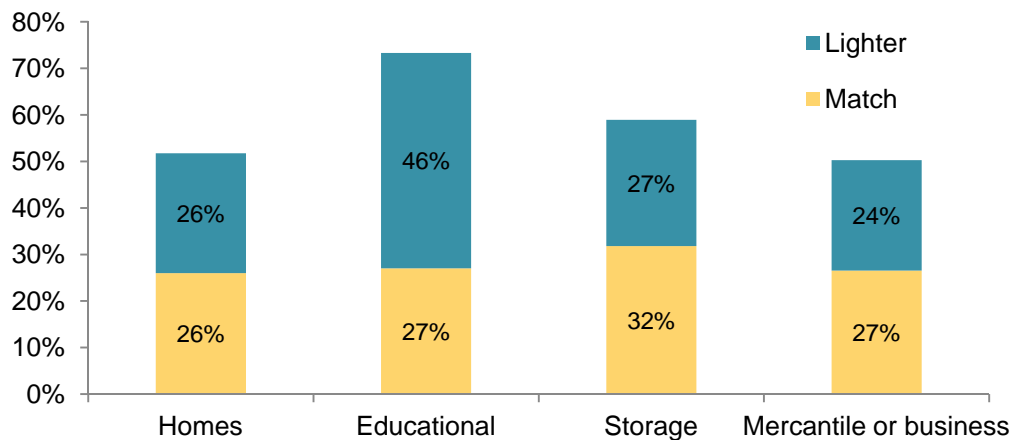


## Intentional Fires Fact Sheet

During 2005-2009, an estimated 306,300 intentional fires were reported to U.S. fire departments each year, with associated annual losses of 440 civilian deaths, 1,360 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage: These fires included:

- 229,200 outside or unclassified fires
- 53,700 structure fires
- 23,400 vehicle fires

### Percent of Intentional Structure Fires Started by Matches or Lighters 2005-2009 By Property Use



- Despite being only 18% of all intentional fires, intentional structure fires account for 88% of civilian deaths
- Intentionally set home structure fires are more likely to be set in the afternoon and evening hours, between 3 p.m. and midnight
- Three-fifths (61%) of outside or unclassified intentional fires began with a match or lighter

### IDENTIFYING INTENTIONAL FIRES

#### What is an “intentional” fire?

The fire statistics in this analyses use detailed data from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS). The definition of “intentional” in NFIRS 5.0 specifically includes “deliberate misuse of heat source or a fire of an incendiary nature.”

Additional resources, including a free downloadable presentation on preventing arson can be found at [www.nfpa.org/arson](http://www.nfpa.org/arson)