



U.S. Religious and Funeral Property Structure Fires

U. S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **1,890** structure fires on religious and funeral properties per year during 2004-2008. These fires caused annual averages of

- **1** civilian death
- **12** civilian fire injuries
- **\$102** million in direct property damage

Only 4% of these fires were in funeral parlors.

Fires in religious and funeral properties fell 48% from 3,500 in 1980 to 1,810 in 2008

Leading Causes of Structure Fires in Religious and Funeral Properties, 2004-2008

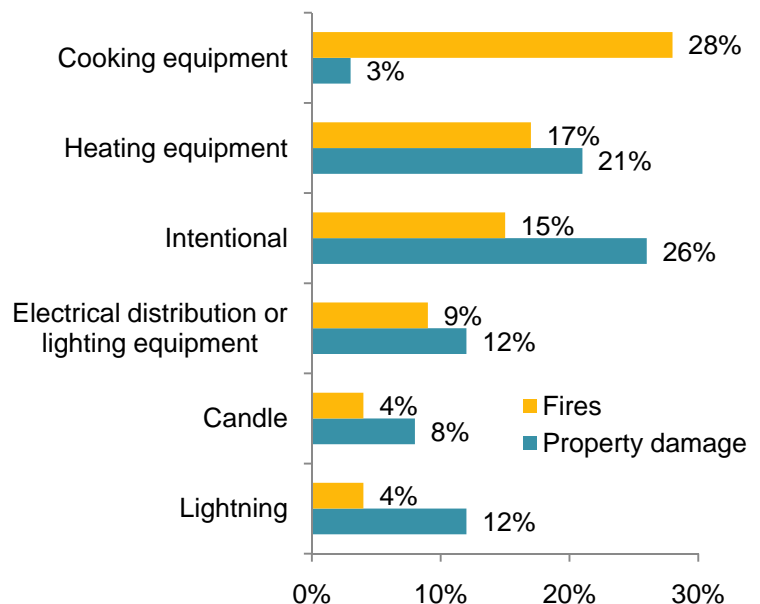
One of every four fires in these properties was caused by cooking. Most of these fires were minor.

Heating equipment was the second leading cause.

15% of these fires were intentional, but they accounted for 26% of the direct property damage.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 9% of these fires and 12% of the direct property damage.

Candles caused 4% of the fires and 8% of the dollar loss. Lightning also caused 4% of these fires but 12% of the dollar loss.



Protecting These Properties

- During 2004-2008, only 15% of the fires in religious or funeral properties occurred between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. but these fires accounted for 42% of the direct property damage.
- Forty percent of these fires occurred in properties with no fire detection equipment.

Automatic suppression systems were present in only 14% of these fires. Almost all of these were sprinklers. When wet pipe sprinklers were present in the fire area, the average loss per fire was 67% lower than when no automatic suppression systems were present. Properties under construction were excluded from these calculations.