



Structure Fires in Stores and Other Mercantile Properties Fact Sheet

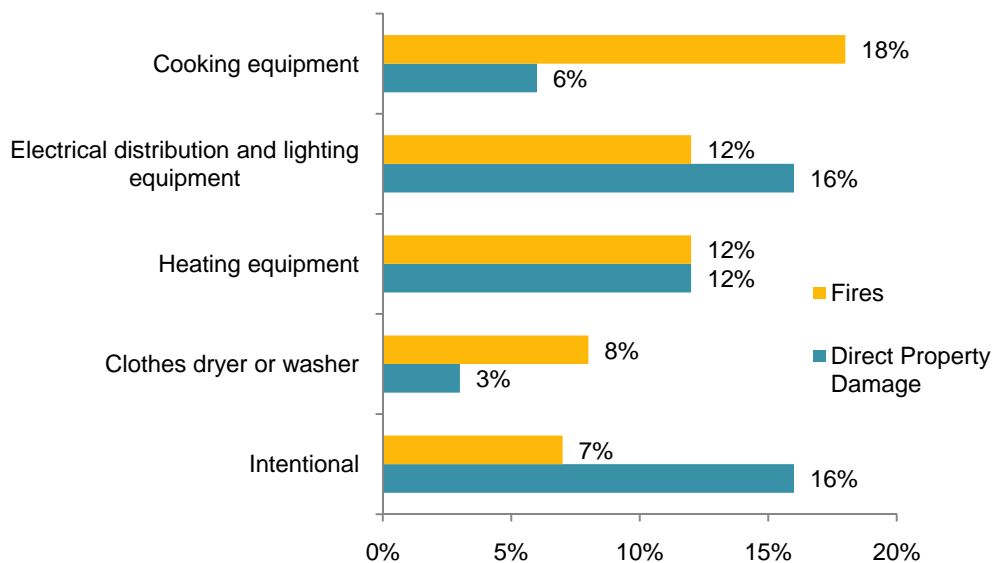
U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **17,100 structure fires** in stores or other mercantile properties per year in 2003-2006. These fires caused annual averages of

- **10** civilian deaths
- **240** civilian fire injuries
- **\$646 million** in direct property damage

Estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Version 5.0 and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey.

- **61%** of the reported **structure fires** in stores or other mercantile properties were reported between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. There was relatively little variation throughout the day.
- Kitchen or cooking area was the leading area of origin for structure fires in stores or other mercantile properties. Food or cooking materials was the leading item first ignited.

**Leading Cause of Structure Fires in Stores and Other Mercantile Properties
2003-2006 Annual Averages**



The 1992 LA Riot collectively constituted the 12th largest loss fire ever in U.S. history and involved mostly stores.

