

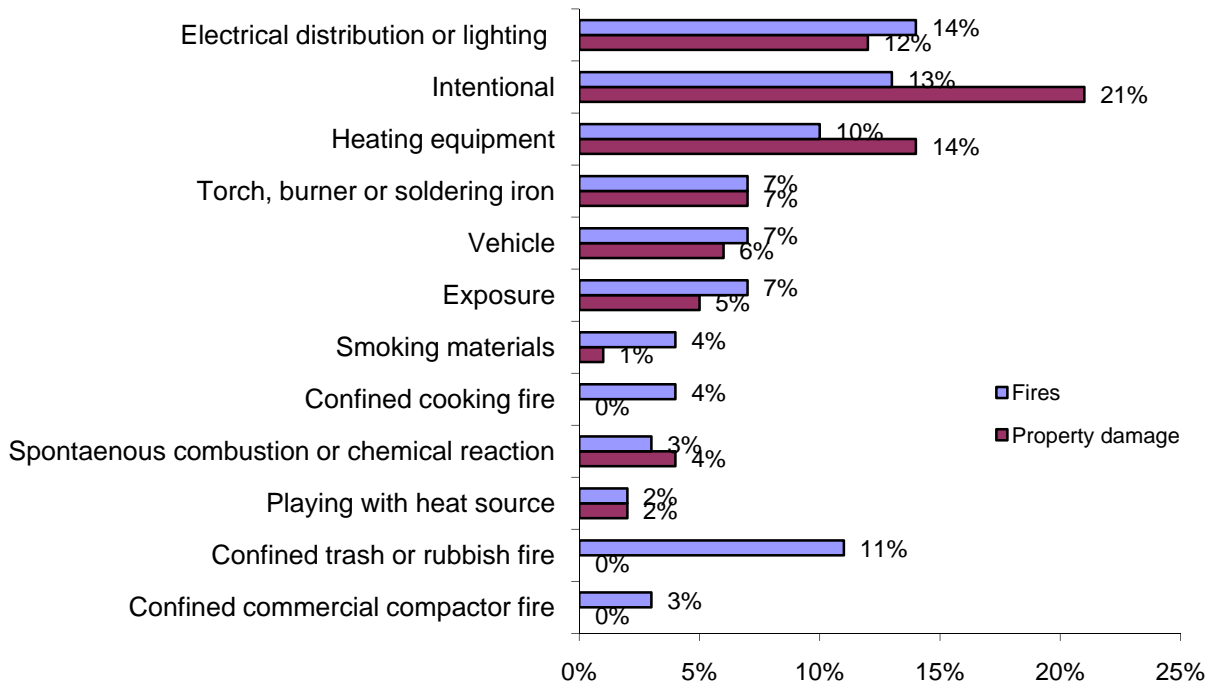


Structure Fires in Warehouses Excluding Cold Storage Fact Sheet

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 1,350 structure fires per year in warehouse properties during 2003-2006. These fires caused an annual average of five civilian deaths, 21 civilian injuries, and \$124 million in direct property damage. Cold storage, residential storage, and self-storage are excluded from these statistics.

- Electrical distribution was involved in 14% of these fires.
- 13% of warehouse fires were intentionally set. Intentional fires accounted for 21% of the direct property damage in these properties.
- Heating equipment was involved in 10% of these fires.
- In one of every five warehouse fires, trash or waste was the item first ignited.

Leading Causes of Warehouse Structure Fires: 2003-2006



Automatic Extinguishing Equipment

- Automatic extinguishing equipment was present in 38% of reported warehouse fires. Sprinklers accounted for 99% of the equipment with wet pipe sprinklers accounting for 81%.
- Wet pipe sprinklers operated in 85% of the fires that were large enough to activate the system and operated effectively in 83%.
- In 91% of the warehouse fires in which wet pipe sprinklers failed to operate, the system had been shut off.
- Impact from forklifts, other large vehicles, and large doors were common factors associated with damaged warehouse sprinkler system components in non-fire sprinkler activations.