



Home Fires Involving Grills Fact Sheet

In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,200 home¹ fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 3,400 structure fires and 4,800 outside fires. These 8,200 fires caused annual average of 15 civilian deaths, 120 reported civilian injuries, and \$75 million in direct property damage.

- Almost all the losses resulted from structure fires.
- July was the peak month for grill fires but these incidents occur throughout the year.

Gas vs. Solid-Fueled Grills

Five of every six grills involved in home fires (84%) were fueled by gas while 13% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

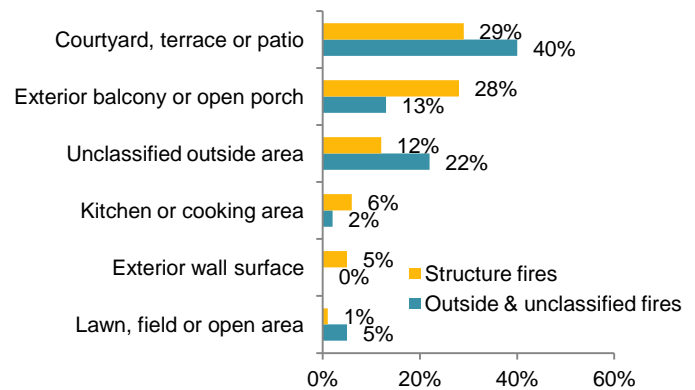
Gas grills were involved in an average of 6,900 home fires per year, including 2,600 structure fires and 4,300 outdoor fires annually.

- Leak or break was the leading factor contributing to gas grill fires.

Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,100 home fires, including 600 structure fires and 400 outside fires.

- The leading cause of these structure fires was something that could burn being too close to the grill.

Home Grill Fires by Leading Areas of Origin 2005-2009



- More than one-quarter (29%) of the home structure fires involving grills started on a courtyard, terrace, or patio;
- 28% started on an exterior balcony or open porch;
 - 6% began in the kitchen; and
 - 5% started on an exterior wall surface.

Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

In 2009, 17,700 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.²

Roughly half (9,400) of the injuries were thermal burns.

- Children under five accounted for almost one-quarter (22%) of the thermal grill burns. These were typically contact burns rather than flame burns.
- Roughly one-third of the gas grill injuries were burns incurred while lighting the grill.
- Gasoline or lighter fluid was a factor in roughly one-quarter of the charcoal or wood burning grill burns.

¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.

²Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in August 2009.