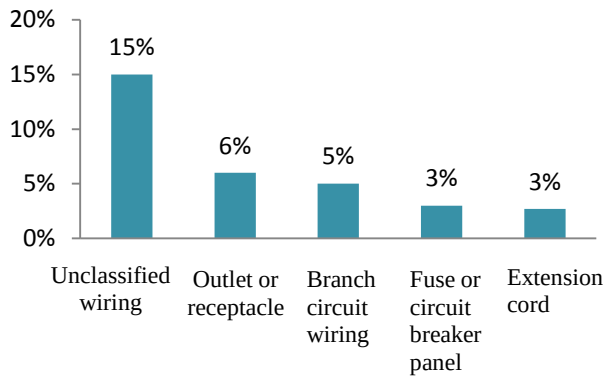
NFPA Fire Analysis &Research

Home Electrical Fires Fact Sheet

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 47,820 reported U.S. home[1] structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction in 2007-2011. These fires resulted in 455 civilian deaths, 1,518 civilian injuries and $1.48 billion in direct property damage.

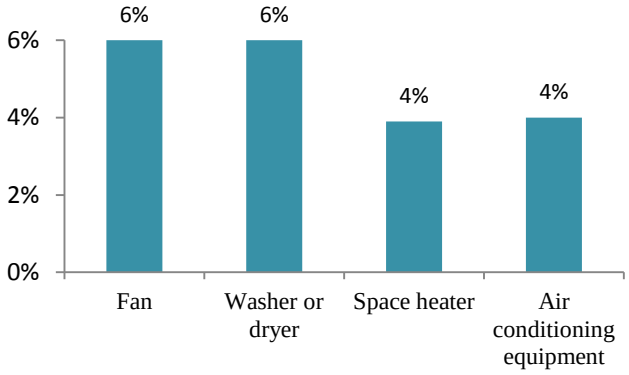
Roughly half of home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment in 2007-2011.

Leading Types of Electrical Distribution or Lighting Equipment Involved in Home Electrical Fires, 2007-2011



Nearly half of home electrical fires involved other known types of equipment in 2007-2011.

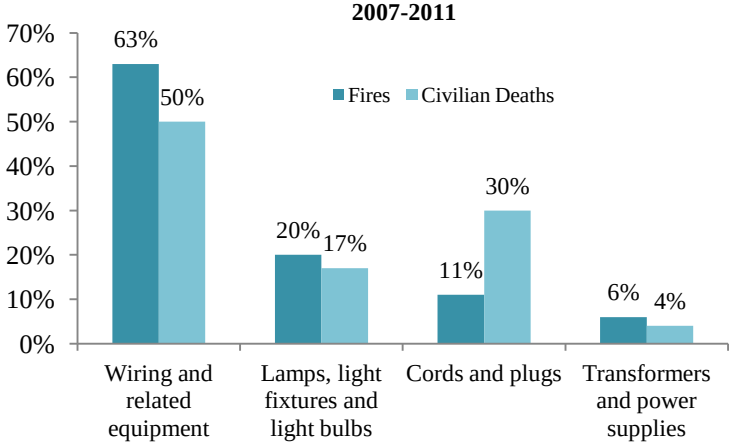
Leading Other Types of Equipment Involved in Home Electrical Fires, 2007-2011



Home Fires Involving Electrical Distribution or Lighting Equipment

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 22,410 reported U.S. non-confined home structure fires involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment in 2007-2011. These fires resulted in 325 civilian fire deaths, 950 civilian fire injuries, and $817 million in direct damage.

Home Fires Involving Electrical Distribution or Lighting Equipment, by Major Equipment Group 2007-2011



In 2007-2011:
Some type of electrical failure or malfunction was cited as factor contributing to ignition for 74% of electrical distribution or lighting equipment home structure fires.

Nearly half (44%) of civilian deaths in these incidents began in the living room, family room or den, or bedroom.

Wire or cable insulation is what ignited first in 32% of electrical distribution or lighting equipment home structure fires.

[1]Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, and rowhouses.

Source: *Home Electrical Fires*, John R. Hall, Jr.,
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