



U.S. Stores and other Mercantile Property Structure Fires

U. S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **16,360** structure fires on stores and other mercantile properties per year during 2004-2008. These fires caused annual averages of

- **13** civilian fire deaths
- **242** civilian fire injuries
- **\$648** million in direct property damage

Fires in this occupancy group fell 57% from 37,500 in 1980 to 16,200 in 2010

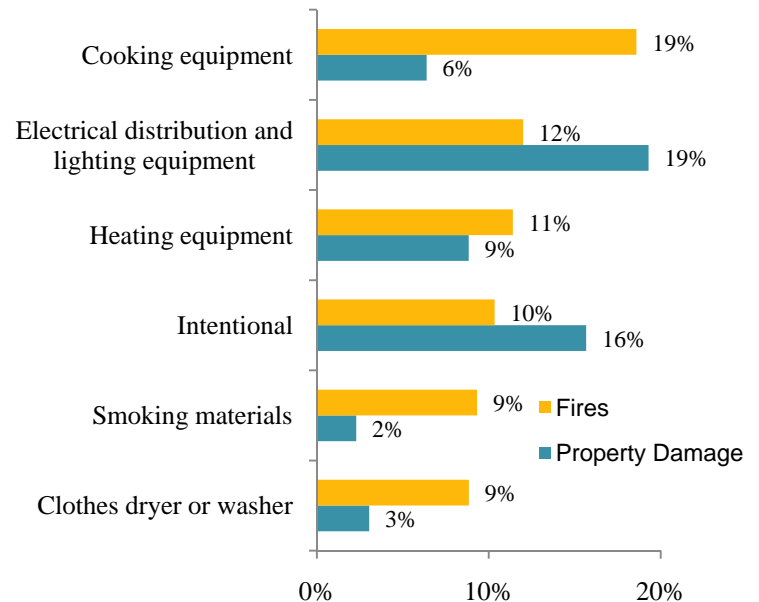
Leading Causes of Structure Fires in Stores and Other Mercantile Properties, 2004-2008

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

Electrical distribution and lighting was the second leading cause.

10% of these fires were intentional, but they accounted for 16% of the direct property damage.

Smoking materials caused 9% of the fires, as did clothes dryer or washers.



- During 2004-2008, fires that occurred between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. caused an average of \$75,000 of property damage each, while those occurring between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. caused an average of \$29,000 of property loss each.
- The presence of wet pipe sprinklers in stores and other mercantile properties reduced property loss per fire by 31%