



## Vehicle Fires in the U.S. in 2003-2007

U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 287,000 vehicle fires per year in 2003-2007. These fires caused an average of 480 civilian deaths, 1,525 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage.

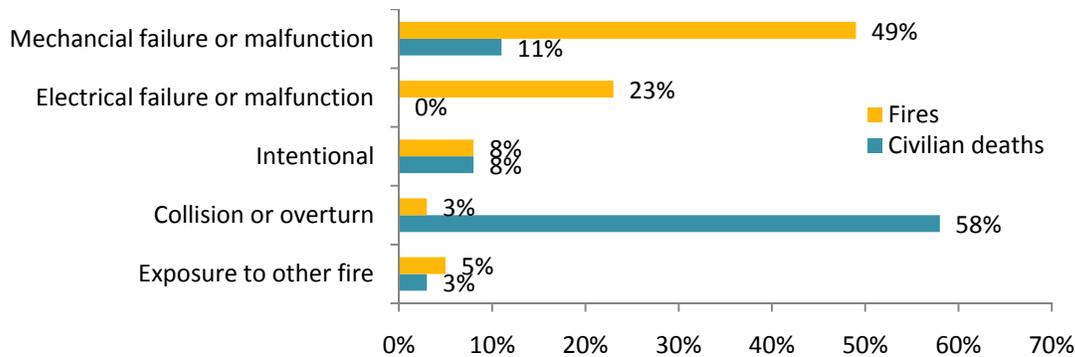
- Highway vehicles<sup>1</sup> accounted for 267,600 (93%) of the reported vehicle fires and 441 (92%) of the associated deaths.
- Aircraft fires accounted for less than 1% of the vehicle fires, but 6% of the associated deaths.
  - The majority of aircraft fire deaths (4% of all vehicle fire deaths) resulted from fires in personal, business, or utility aircraft.
  - Aircraft fires were the only type of vehicle fires with more civilian deaths than civilian injuries.

### Highway Vehicle Fires

Overall, highway vehicle fires were involved in 17% of reported U.S. fires, 12% of U.S. fire deaths, 8% of U.S. civilian fire injuries, and 9% of the direct property damage from reported fires.

- On average, 31 highway vehicle fires were reported per hour. These fires killed one person a day.

#### 2003-2007 Highway Vehicle Fires and Deaths by Fire Causal Factors



- Mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in roughly three-quarters of the highway vehicle fires.
- Collisions and overturns were factors in only 3% of highway vehicle fires, but these incidents accounted for 58% of the associated deaths.

<sup>1</sup> Highway vehicles include cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, and other vehicles intended for road use. "Highway vehicle fire" describes the type of vehicle. It does not mean the fire occurred on a highway.