



# FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

## U.S. Home Fires Involving Grills

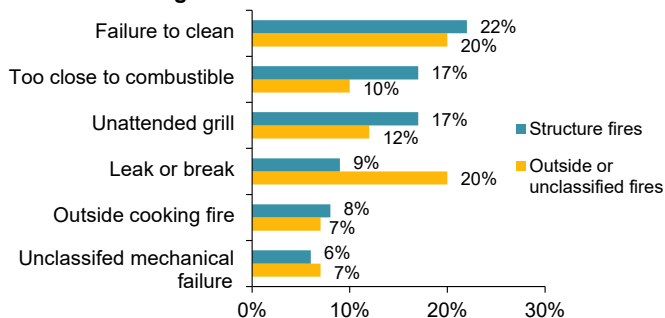
From 2011–2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 9,600 home<sup>1</sup> fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year. That number included an average of 4,100 structure fires and 5,500 outside or unclassified fires. These 9,600 fires caused annual averages of 10 civilian deaths, 160 reported civilian injuries, and \$133 million in direct property damage.

- ▶ Almost all the losses resulted from structure fires.
- ▶ July (17%) was the peak month for grill fires, followed by May (14%), June (14%), and August (13%). Three percent of the fires occurred in each of the winter months of December, January, and February.

### Causes of Grill Fires

- ▶ In roughly one of every five fires, the grill had not been cleaned. To prevent fires, keep the grill clean.
- ▶ Position the grill away from the home and from other things that can burn.
- ▶ Eleven percent of home grill structure fires began when an outside wall caught fire. Six percent began with some type of structural member or framing.
- ▶ Cooking requires attention, and barbecuing is no exception.

Leading Causes of Grill Fires 2011–2015



### Gas vs. Solid-Fuel Grills

Five out of six (82%) grills involved in home fires were fueled by gas, while 14% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

**Gas grills** were involved in an average of 7,900 home fires per year, including 3,300 structure fires and 4,700 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Twelve percent of gas grill structure fires and 24% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.

**Charcoal or other solid-fuel grills** were involved in 1,300 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 700 outside fires annually.

### Fire and Non-Fire Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

From 2012–2016, an average of 16,600 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.<sup>2</sup>

Half (8,200 or 49%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including burns both from fire and from contact with hot objects. About 4,500 of the thermal burns were caused by such contact or other non-fire events.

Children under age 5 accounted for an average of 1,600 or one-third (35%) of the contact-type burns. The burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched, or fell on the grill, grill part, or hot coals. Keep children away from the grill.

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

<sup>2</sup> Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in April 2016.

Source: NFPA Research: [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research)  
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