



U.S. STORES AND OTHER MERCANTILE PROPERTY STRUCTURE FIRES FACT SHEET

U. S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **13,570** structure fires on stores and other mercantile properties per year during 2009-2013. These fires caused annual averages of

- **12** civilian fire deaths
- **299** civilian fire injuries
- **\$604** million in direct property damage

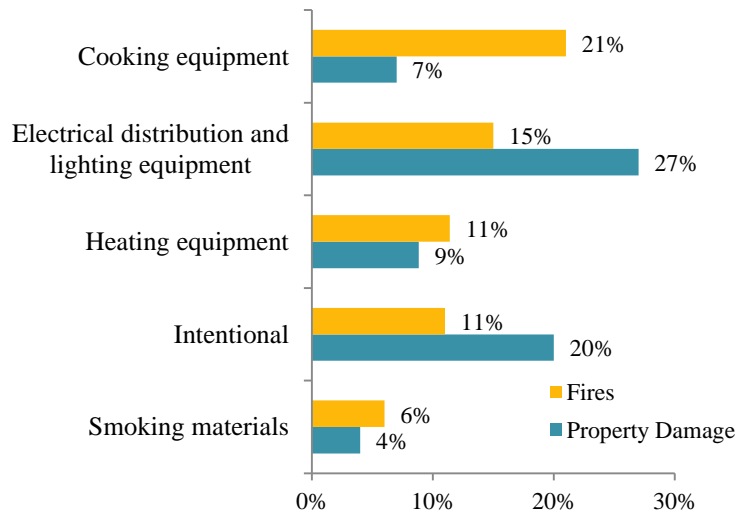
Leading Causes of Structure Fires in Stores and Other Mercantile Properties, 2009-2013

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

Electrical distribution and lighting was the second leading cause.

11% of these fires were intentional, but they accounted for 20% of the direct property damage.

Smoking materials caused 6% of the fires.



- Heat sources too close to something can burn were a factor in 9% of the fires, but these fires accounted for 40% of civilian deaths.
- During 2009-2013, fires that occurred between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. caused an average of \$73,800 of property damage each, while those occurring between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. caused an average of \$33,900 of property loss each.

