



## U.S. Home Structure Fires Fact Sheet

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 371,700 home structure<sup>1</sup> fires per year during 2006-2010. These fires caused an annual average of

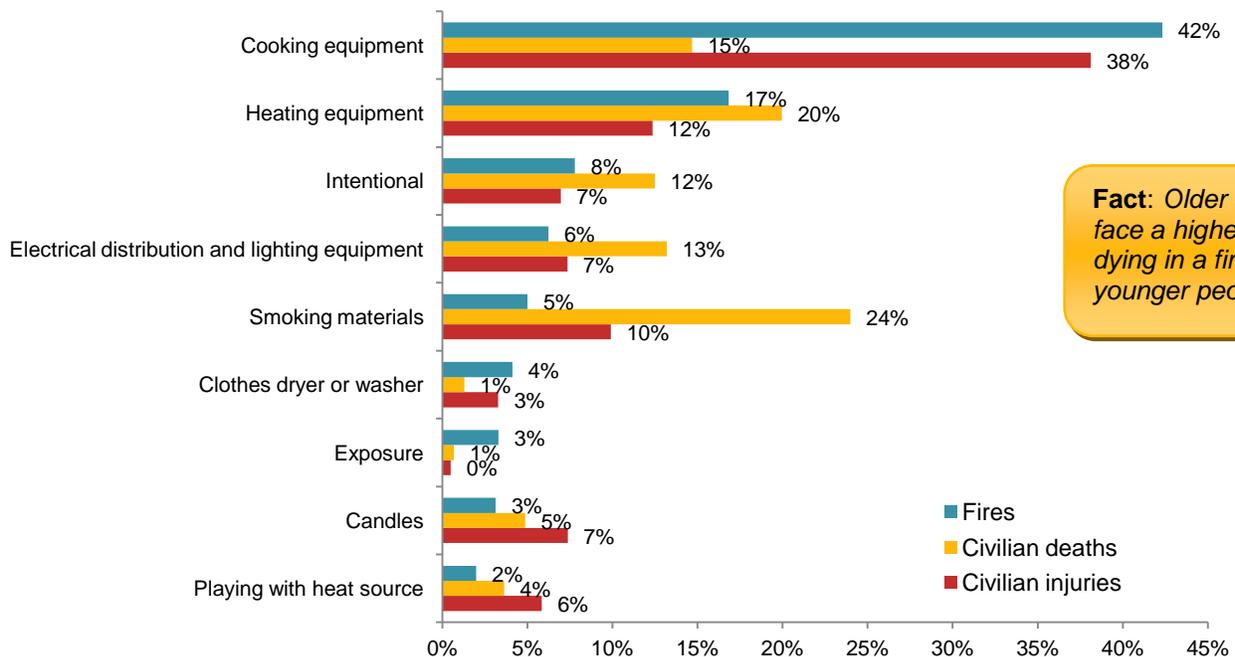
- 2,590 civilian fire deaths,
  - 12,910 civilian fire injuries, and
  - \$7.2 billion in direct damage.
- 92% of all structure fire deaths resulted from home fires.
  - On average, seven people died in U.S. home fires per day.

### Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2006-2010:

- Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking was the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Heating equipment was the second most common cause of home fire fatalities.

#### Leading Causes of Home Structure Fires: 2006-2010



**Fact:** Older adults face a higher risk of dying in a fire than younger people.

Almost all homes have at least one smoke alarm, but almost two-thirds of home fire deaths in 2006-2010 resulted from fires in homes in which no smoke alarm was present or at least one was present but none operated.

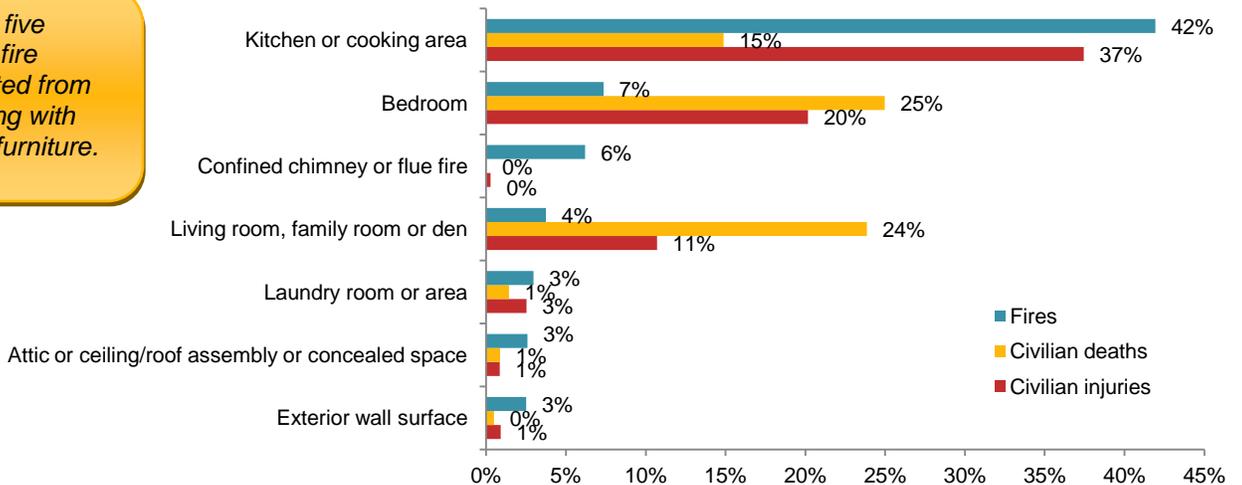
<sup>1</sup>Homes include one- or two-family homes, manufactured homes, as well as apartments or other multi-family housing. In general, any fire that occurs in or in a structure is considered a structure fire, even if the fire was limited to contents and the building itself was not damaged.

### Where do home fires start?

- Two of every five (42%) reported home structure fires started in the kitchen. These fires caused more than one-third (37%) of civilian home fire injuries.
  - 15% of home fire deaths also resulted from kitchen fires.
- Only 7% of reported home fires started in the bedroom, but these fires caused one-quarter (25%) of home fire deaths and one in five (20%) home fire injuries.
- Just 4% of home fires started in the living room, family room, or den but these incidents caused one-quarter (24%) of home fire deaths and 11% of the home fire injuries.
- Fires confined to chimneys or flues accounted for 6% of all reported home fires. These fires caused very few casualties.

**Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Fires: 2006-2010**

**Fact:** One in five (19%) home fire deaths resulted from fires beginning with upholstered furniture.



### Home fires and home fire deaths peak in the cooler months. Patterns for time of day are different for fires than for deaths.

- Home structure fires peaked around the dinner hours between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.
- Only one in five (19%) reported home structure fires occurred between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. These fires caused half of all home fire deaths.

**Home Structure Fires by Month: 2006-2010**

