



## U.S. Structure Fires in Eating and Drinking Establishment

U. S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **8,160** structure fires at eating and drinking establishments per year during 2004-2008. These fires caused annual averages of



- **3** civilian deaths
- **100** civilian fire injuries
- **\$229** million in direct property damage

Reported fires in eating and drinking establishments fell 64% from 23,300 in 1980 to 8,400 in 2008.

### Leading Causes of Structure Fires in Eating and Drinking Establishments, 2004-2008

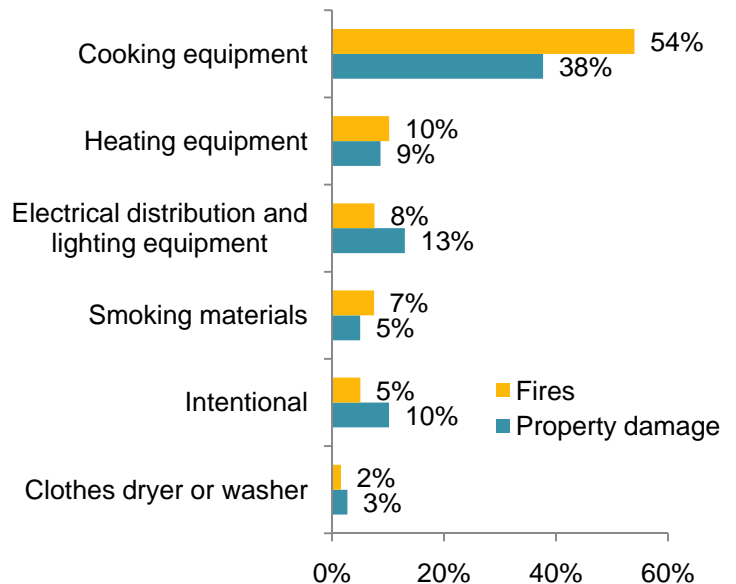
More than half of fires were caused by cooking equipment.

Heating equipment was the second leading cause.

Only 5% of these fires were intentional, but they accounted for 10% of the direct property damage.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 8% of these fires which accounted for 13% of the direct property damage.

Smoking materials were the cause of 7% of fires.



### Special Considerations for These Properties

- In eating and drinking establishments, deaths per 1,000 fires were 100% lower and property damage per fire was 73% lower when wet pipe sprinklers were present, compared with no automatic extinguishing equipment present.
- During 2004-2008, fires in eating and drinking establishments that started between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. caused nearly 4 times as much property damage per fire versus those that occurred between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m.