

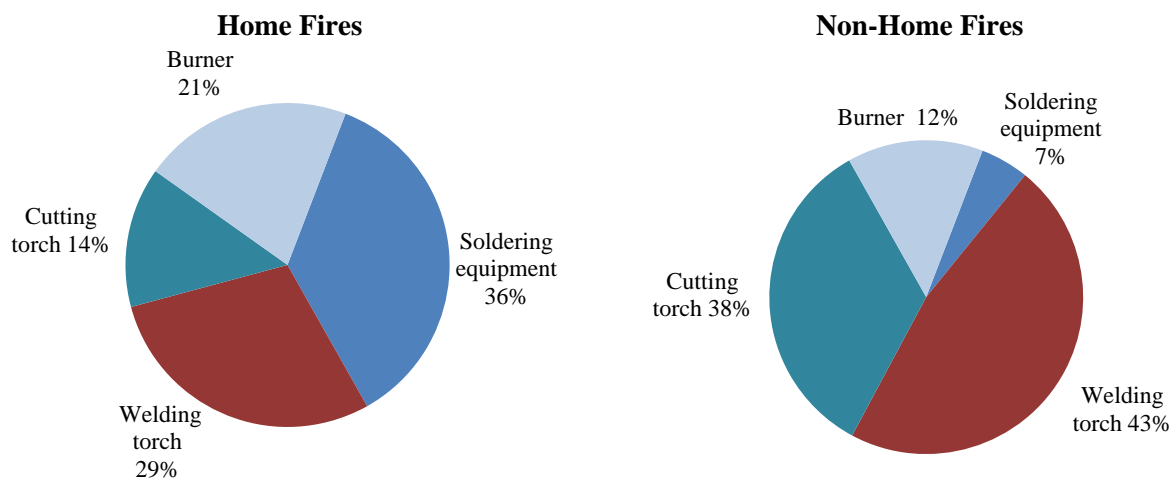


## Torch, Burner, and Soldering Equipment

In 2003-2006, an estimated 5,580 reported U.S. structure fires per year 2,210 homes\* and 3,370 in non-homes involved torches, burners or soldering equipment. These Fires resulted in:

- 22 civilian deaths per year, 7 in homes and 15 in non-homes.
- 223 civilian injuries per year, 119 in homes and 103 in non-homes.
- \$208 million in direct property damage per year, \$110 million in homes and \$98 million in non-homes.
- 760 of these fires per year were reported as confined fires, 250 in homes and 510 in non-homes.

### Fires Involving Torches, Burners, or Soldering Equipment by Type of Equipment Annual Average of 2003-2006 Structure Fires Reported to U.S. Fire Departments (Including Fires Reported as Confined Fires)



- Soldering equipment was the leading equipment involved for home fires involving torches or burners.
- Welding torch was the leading equipment involved in non-home fires involving torches or burners.
- Heat source too close to combustibles and cutting or welding too close were the most frequently cited factors contributing to ignition in both home and non-home non-confined torch and burner structure fires.

\*Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

Estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Version 5.0 and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey.

Reporting of most incident details is optional for confined fires, which is why separate analysis of them involves allocation of a large number of unknowns.