



U.S. Home Structure Fires

U.S. fire departments responded to **381,000** home¹ structure fires in 2005. These fires caused:



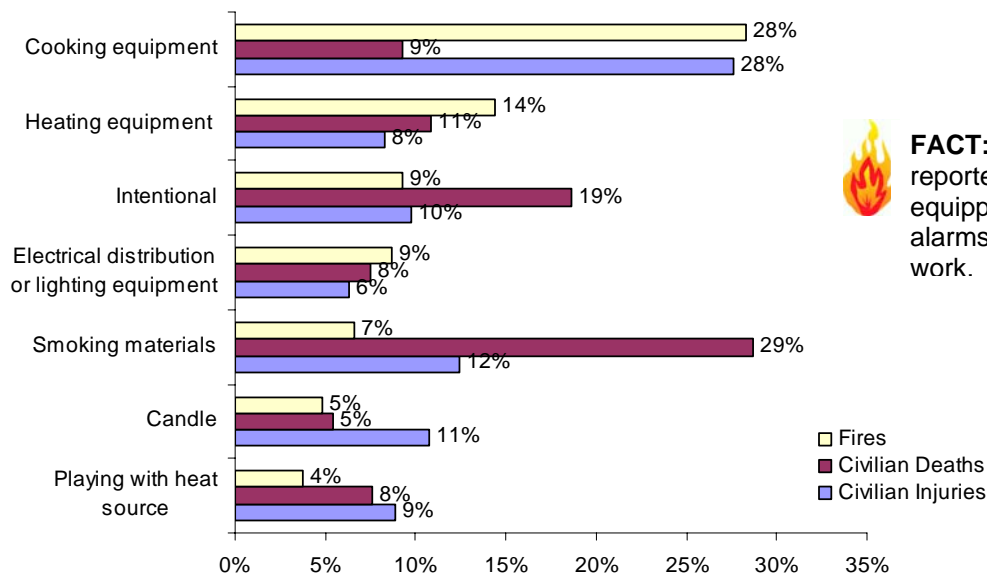
- **13,300** civilian fire injuries
- **3,030** civilian fire deaths
- **\$6.7 billion** in direct damage
- **82%** of all civilian fire deaths in 2005 resulted from home structure fires.
- Every **2 hours** and **53 minutes** a home fire caused a civilian fire death.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires

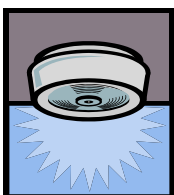
1999-2002 annual averages of the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data show:

- **Cooking** is the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- **Smoking** is the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.

**Major Causes of Home Structure Fires:
 1999-2002 Annual Averages**



FACT: In 25% of the reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work.



74% of reported home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Based on a telephone survey done in 2004, **96%** of all homes have at least one smoke alarm.

¹Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

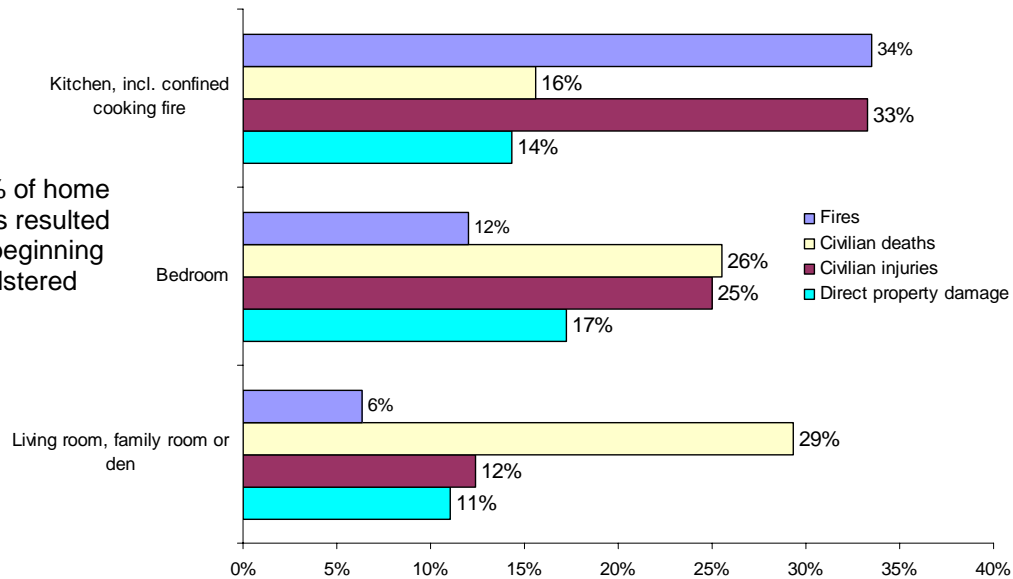
Kitchens were the leading area of origin for home structure fires (**34%**) and civilian home fire injuries (**33%**).

- Only **6%** of home fire deaths started in the living room, family room, or den; these fires caused **29%** of home fire deaths.
- **12%** of reported home fires started in the bedroom. These fires caused **26%** of home fire deaths, **25%** of home fire injuries, and **17%** of the direct property damage.



Fact: 19% of home fire deaths resulted from fire beginning with upholstered furniture.

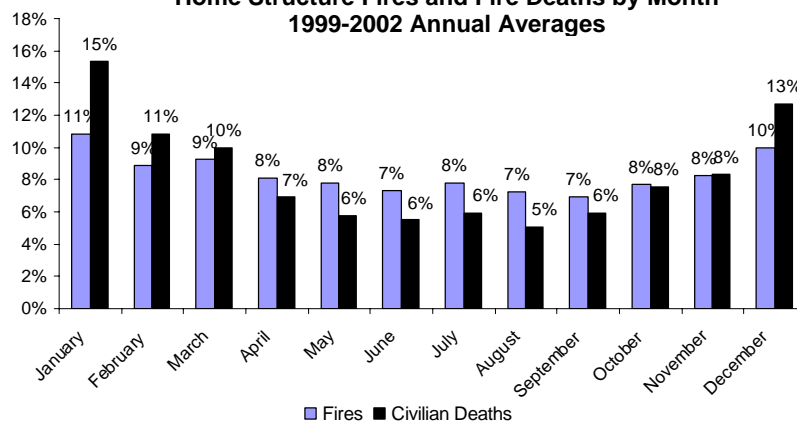
**Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Fires
1999-2002 Annual Averages**



January was the peak month for home structure fires and home fire deaths.

- Fire deaths and injuries are more common on **Saturday** and **Sunday**.
- **21%** of reported home fires occurred between **11:00 PM and 7:00 AM**; these fires caused **51%** of all home fire deaths.
- Home fires **peaked** around the dinner hour between **6:00 – 7:00 PM**.

**Home Structure Fires and Fire Deaths by Month
1999-2002 Annual Averages**



Sources: Karter, Jr., Michael J., *Fire Loss in the United States during 2005 Abridged Report*, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, September, 2005. Ahrens, Marty. *U.S. Fires in Selected Occupancies*, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, March, 2006.