

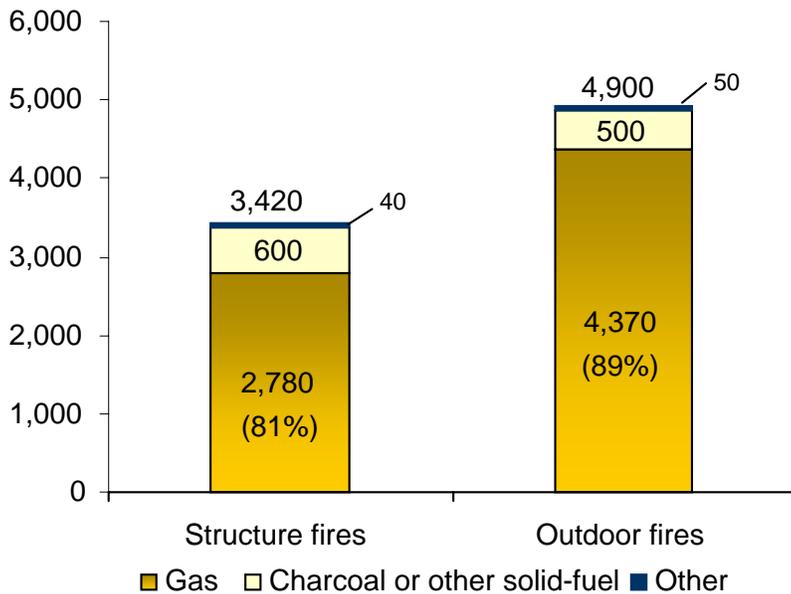


Home Fires Involving Grills

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated **8,300** home¹ fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues, including 3,400 structure fires and 4,900 outside fires. These 8,300 fires caused 10 civilian deaths (to the nearest ten), 110 reported injuries and \$137 million in direct property damage.

- Almost all the losses occurred in structure fires.
- The 3,400 home structure fires involving grills accounted for 2% of the reported home cooking equipment fires, 3% of associated civilian deaths, and 2% of associated civilian injuries, but 16% of the associated property damage.
- One-third (35%) of the non-confined² home structure fires involving grills started on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch, 18% started on a courtyard, terrace or patio, and 11% started on an exterior wall surface.

2005 Home Grill Fires by Power Type



Fires rounded to the nearest 10.

- Gas grills were involved in a total of 7,200 home fires, including 2,800 structure fires and 4,400 outdoor fires.
 - Leak or break was the leading factor contributing to gas grill fires.
 - Flammable or combustible gas or liquid was the leading item first ignited in gas grill fires.
- Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in a total 1,100 home fires, including 600 structure fires and 500 outside fires.
 - The leading cause was something that could burn being too close to the grill.
 - Structural member or framing was first ignited in one-fifth of the charcoal-or other solid-fueled grill non-confined structure fires. Exterior wall covering or finish was first ignited in another one-fifth.

An estimated 8,610 people were seen at hospital emergency rooms for thermal burns caused by grills.³ Most of these burns were due to contact with the grill, not fire.

1. Homes include one- and two-family dwellings, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.
 2. Little causal detail is required about certain categories of minor fires, identified by incident type and collectively called confined fires, by the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). See the full report for more details.
 3. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System.

Source: *Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment*, John R. Hall, Jr., NFPA, Quincy, MA, February 2008



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