



NURSING HOME FIRES FACT SHEET

During 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 2,620 fires per year in nursing homes. These fires caused annual averages of:

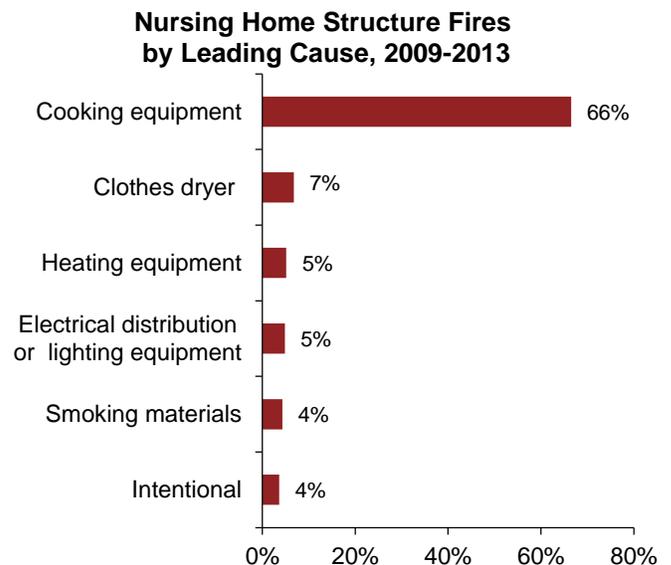
- 3 civilian deaths,
- 101 civilian injuries, and
- \$8.9 million in direct property damage.

Nursing home fires were more common on Saturday and Sunday than the rest of the week. The peak time periods were 9:00 a.m. to noon and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. They were least common between midnight and 6:00 a.m.

Cooking equipment was involved in two-thirds (66%) of nursing home fires, clothes involved in 7%, heating equipment in 5%, electrical distribution and lighting equipment in 5%, and smoking materials in 4%. Another 4% of fires were intentionally set.

Two of five (42%) of the fire injuries and one – third of fatalities (36%) resulted from the 7% of fires that started in a bedroom or resident’s room.

Eighty-eight percent of the nursing home fires in 2009-2013 were confined to the object of origin. Fire spread beyond the room of origin in only 3% of the fires.



John Hall’s report [U.S. Experience with Sprinklers](#) indicates that in 2007-2011, some type of automatic extinguishing equipment was present in three-quarters (75%) of these fires, and sprinklers were present in two-thirds (69%).

The deadliest nursing home fire in U.S. history was the 1963 Golden Age Nursing Home fire in Fitchville, Township, Ohio that claimed 63 lives. This report and other investigations into nursing home fires are available at [Fire Investigations Health Care Facilities](#).

Source: NFPA, Fire Analysis and Research Division.