



## Home Fires Involving Grills

In 2003-2006, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 7,900 home<sup>1</sup> fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year, including an average of 2,900 structure fires and 5,000 outside fires. These 7,900 fires caused annual average of 10 civilian deaths (to the nearest ten), 120 reported injuries and \$80 million in direct property damage.

- Almost all the losses occurred in structure fires.
- June and July are peak months for grills fires but these incidents occur throughout the year.

### Gas vs. Solid-Fueled Grills

Four-fifths (81%) of the grills were fueled by gas and 16% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

**Gas grills** were involved in 6,400 home fires, including 2,100 structure fires and 4,300 outdoor fires.

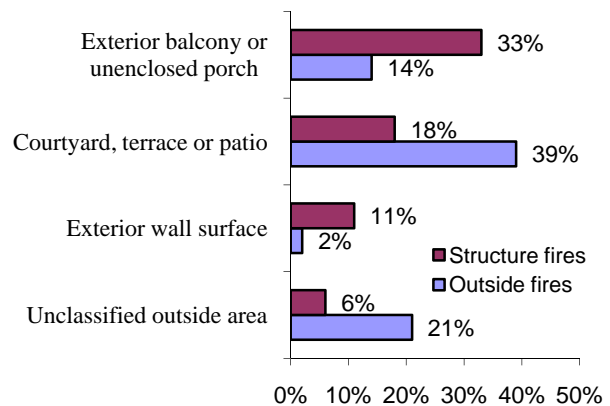
- Leak or break was the leading factor contributing to gas grill fires.

**Charcoal or other solid-fueled** grills were involved in 1,300 home fires, including 600 structure fires and 600 outside fires.

- The leading cause was something that could burn being too close to the grill.

Although gas grills are used roughly 1.5 times as often as charcoal grills, they were involved in five times as many fires.

### Home Grill Fires by Leading Areas of Origin 2003-2006



One-third (33%) of the home structure fires<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

In 2007, 18,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.<sup>3</sup>

Roughly half (9,600) of the injuries were thermal burns.

- Children under five accounted for roughly one-quarter, of the thermal grill burns. These were typically contact burns rather than flame burns.
- Roughly one-third of the gas grill injuries were burns incurred while lighting the grill.
- Gasoline or lighter fluid was a factor in roughly one-quarter of the charcoal or wood burning grill burns.

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). Causes and area of origin omitted these fires.

3. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System.