



RESEARCH

HOME FIRES INVOLVING GRILLS FACT SHEET

In 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,900 home¹ fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 3,900 structure fires and 5,100 outside fires. These 8,900 fires caused annual averages of 10 civilian deaths, 160 reported civilian injuries, \$118 million in direct property damage.

- Almost all the losses resulted from structure fires.
- July was the peak month for grill fires but these incidents occur throughout the year.

Causes of Grill Fires

The leading causes of grill fires were a failure to clean, having the grill too close to something that could catch fire and leaving the grill unattended.

A leak or break was the leading cause for outside or unclassified grill fires. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills.

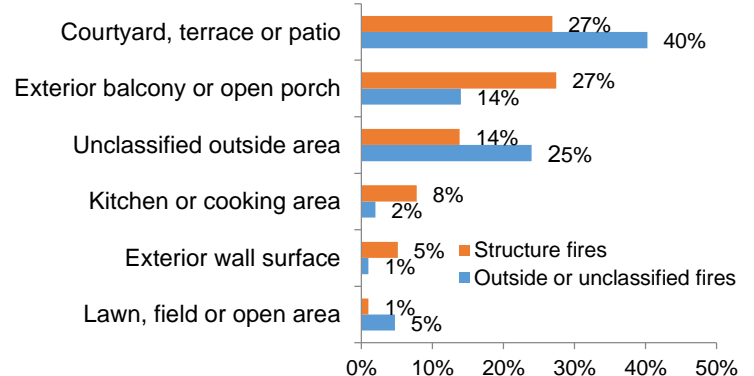
Gas vs. Solid-Fueled Grills

Five out of six (83%) grills involved in home fires were fueled by gas while 13% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

Gas grills were involved in an average of 7,400 home fires per year, including 3,100 structure fires and 4,300 outdoor fires annually.

Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,200 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 500 outside fires annually.

Home grill fires by leading areas of origin 2009-2013



One-quarter (27%) of home structure fires involving grills started on or in a courtyard, terrace, or patio, or on an exterior balcony or open porch;

- 27% started on an exterior balcony or open porch;
- 8% began in the kitchen; and
- 5% started on an exterior wall surface.

Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.²

More than half (8,700) of the injuries were thermal burns.

Children under five accounted for 1,600 or one-third of the 4,900 thermal non-fire grill burns. These were typically contact burns rather than flame burns.

¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.

²Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in March 2016

Source: NFPA, Fire Analysis & Research Division, www.nfpa.org

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