

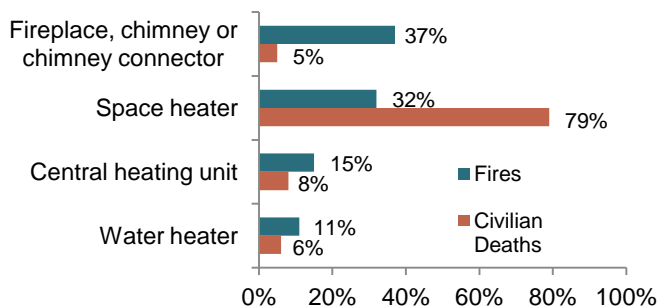


## U.S. Home Heating Equipment Fires Fact Sheet

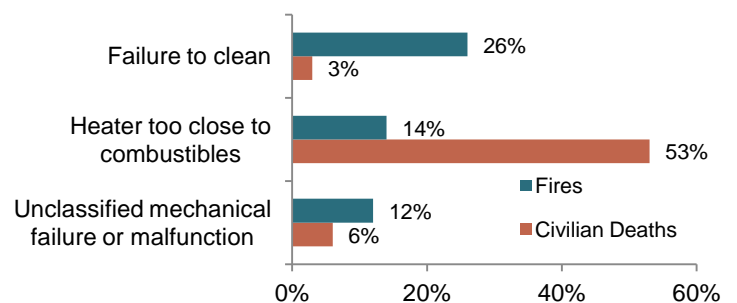
In 2009, U.S. fire departments responded to **58,900** home<sup>1</sup> structure fires that involved heating equipment. These fires caused

- 480 civilian fire deaths
  - 1,520 civilian fire injuries
  - \$1.1 billion in direct property damage
- Heating equipment fires accounted for 18% of all reported home fires in 2009 (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths.
  - In 2005-2009, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (26%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
  - The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (53%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.
  - In 2005-2009, most home heating fire deaths (79%) involved stationary or portable space heaters.
  - Half (49%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February in 2005-2009.
  - Home heating fires peak during 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and associated deaths peak during 12:00 to 2:00 a.m.

**U.S. Home Heating Fires by Equipment Involved: 2005-2009**



**Leading Factors in Home Heating Fires 2005-2009**



- Creosote is estimated to be involved in 14,190 home heating fires per year, or 22% of total home heating fires in 2005-2009.
- Creosote fires are estimated to involve 4 civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$35 million in direct property damage per year.

<sup>1</sup>Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses and condominiums.