Dormitory, Fraternity, Sorority and Barrack Structure Fires

In 2003-2006, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,570 **structure fires** in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks that resulted in 7 civilian deaths, 54 civilian fire injuries, and $29.4 million in direct property damage, annually.

Estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Version 5.0 and NFPA’s annual fire department experience survey

**Leading Cause of Fires, Civilian Injuries, and Direct Property Damage in Structure Fires Involving Dormitories, Fraternities, Sororities, and Barracks, 2003-2006 Annual Averages**

- **Cooking Equipment**: 75% fires, 41% civilian injuries, 35% direct property damage
- **Contained Trash or Rubbish**: 6% fires, 4% civilian injuries, 0% direct property damage
- **Intentional**: 6% fires, 11% civilian injuries, 35% direct property damage
- **Heating Equipment**: 3% fires, 3% civilian injuries, 30% direct property damage

- **Smoking materials** caused 2% of structure fires in these properties, but resulted in 39% of the deaths.
- **75%** of the reported structure fires **involved cooking equipment**. 72% of fires were specifically reported as contained or confined to cooking equipment.
- **Structure fires** in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks are **more common during the evening hours** between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., and on weekends.

Source: *Dormitories, Fraternities, Sororities and Barracks* Jennifer D. Flynn, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research Division, Quincy, MA, August 2009.