

Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 10
October 2023



Compliance & Safety Services 2023

Fire Safety – Electrical Fires

Every year home electrical fires account for an estimated 51,000 fires, nearly 500 deaths, more than 1,400 injuries, and \$1.3 billion in property damage.

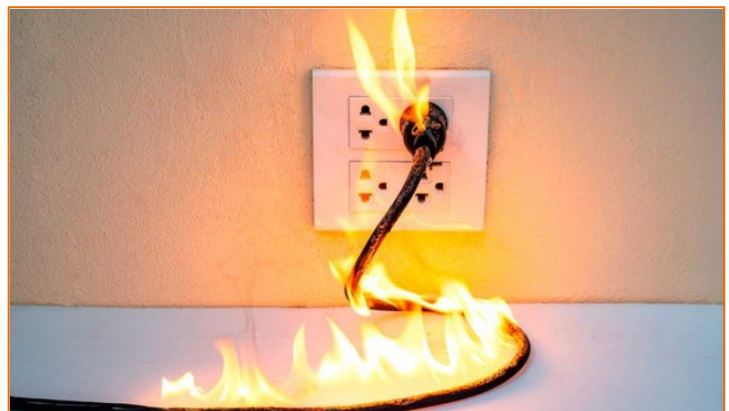
Facts and Statistics on Fires:

- Each year in the United States, arcing faults are responsible for starting more than 28,000 home fires, killing and injuring hundreds of people, and causing over \$700 million in property damage.
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that electrical receptacles are involved in 5,300 fires every year, causing forty deaths and more than 100 consumer injuries.
- Fires in homes with no working smoke detectors account for 65% of home fire deaths.

Fire Safety Tips:

Follow the electrical and fire safety tips below to help prevent a fire in your home or other property structures.

- Have your home electrical system thoroughly inspected by qualified electricians to ensure that all electrical work in the home meets the safety provisions in the NEC.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- Ask a qualified electrician if your home would benefit from arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protection, especially during inspections of older homes or upgrades to electrical systems. These advanced new safety devices recognize dangerous conditions that are not detected by standard breakers.
- Test smoke detectors and AFCIs monthly to ensure that they are working properly.
- Establish an evacuation plan that can be used in case of an emergency, and practice with your family.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the light fixture.
- In homes with young children, install tamper resistant receptacles to prevent electrical shocks and burns.
- Conduct a basic assessment of your home electrical system, electrical cords, extension cords, power plugs, and outlets.
 - Look for telltale signs of electrical problems such as dim and flickering lights, unusual sizzling and buzzing sounds from your electrical system, insulation and circuit breakers that trip repeatedly.
 - If you find electrical problems, contact a qualified electrician immediately.
- Only use extension cords temporarily, and never use to power space heaters or air conditioners.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician as needed.



Sources: <https://www.esfi.org/home-electrical-fires/>

Photo: <https://mccarrickelectric.com/blog/how-put-out-electrical-fire/>