



The Fire 4-1-1

WINTER 2020 - 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Stay Energized with Electrical Safety!
- Revving Up Fire Safety
- Christmas Tree Disposal

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires!

More home fires occur in winter than any other season. With new or reinstated restrictions due to COVID and residents spending more time at home, it is even more important to ensure your home is safe. Whether you heat your home with a fireplace, furnace, or other fuel burning appliance, be sure to follow all recommended cleaning and inspection procedures. Also, don't forget to keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating appliances. Any home with a fuel burning appliance, portable generator, or an attached garage, should have a carbon monoxide alarm. Carbon monoxide alarms alert when fuel burning appliances are faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented. They should be tested monthly and properly maintained. As you stay cozy and warm, remember to also stay safe. Fire is Everyone's Fight!

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!

- Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.
- Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration, NFPA

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

Accidental Fire Data for FY21 Second Quarter (October-December)

Fire Cause	Total Number of Fires	Total Dollar Loss Q2
Combustibles in contact with heat source	6	\$33,700.00
Electrical	5	\$708,550.00
Mechanical Issue (Vehicle)	5	\$188,500.00
Cooking Related	3	\$203,000.00
Candle Related	2	\$279,200.00
Improper disposal of smoking materials	1	\$184,800.00
Appliance malfunction	1	\$6,000.00
Improper disposal of hot materials	1	\$80,000.00
Improper Maintenance	1	\$10,000.00
Spontaneous Combustion (organic material)	1	\$1,500.00
Total Number of Unintentional Fires	26	
Total Cost of Damages		\$1,695,250.00

*For more specific descriptions of fire causes visit loudoun.gov/5159/Fire-Safety-Newsletter.

Electrical Safety

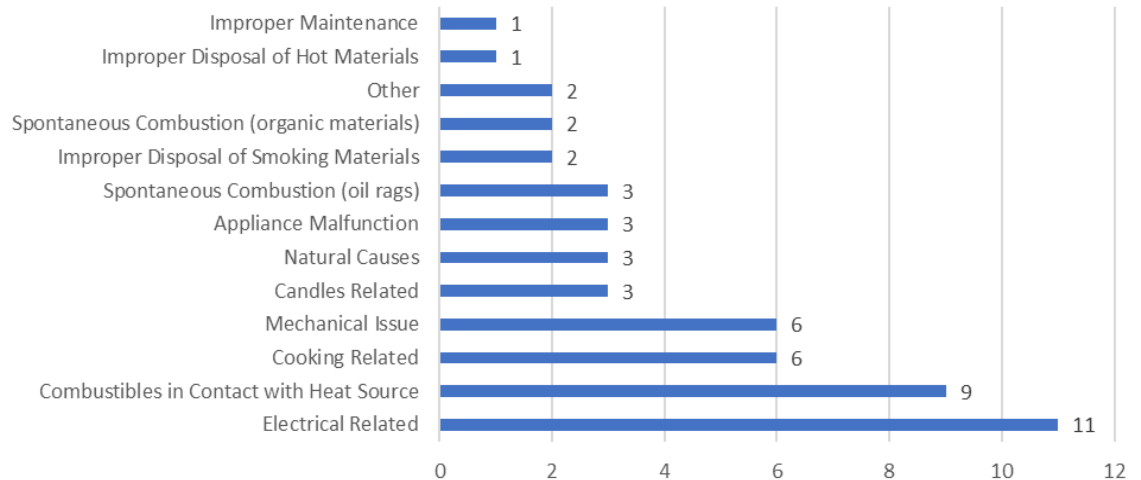
We use electricity daily to charge electronics, power appliances, and turn on the lights. The convenience of having it readily available makes our daily lives much easier but we still need to be aware of safety concerns when it comes to electricity. Use this electrical fire safety checklist to help identify possible hazards around your home:

- *There are about 2 electrical-related fires each month in Loudoun County.*
- *In Loudoun County, fires due to electrical-related issues resulted in the most significant dollar loss.*
- *According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), peak months for electrical fire deaths are November-March.*

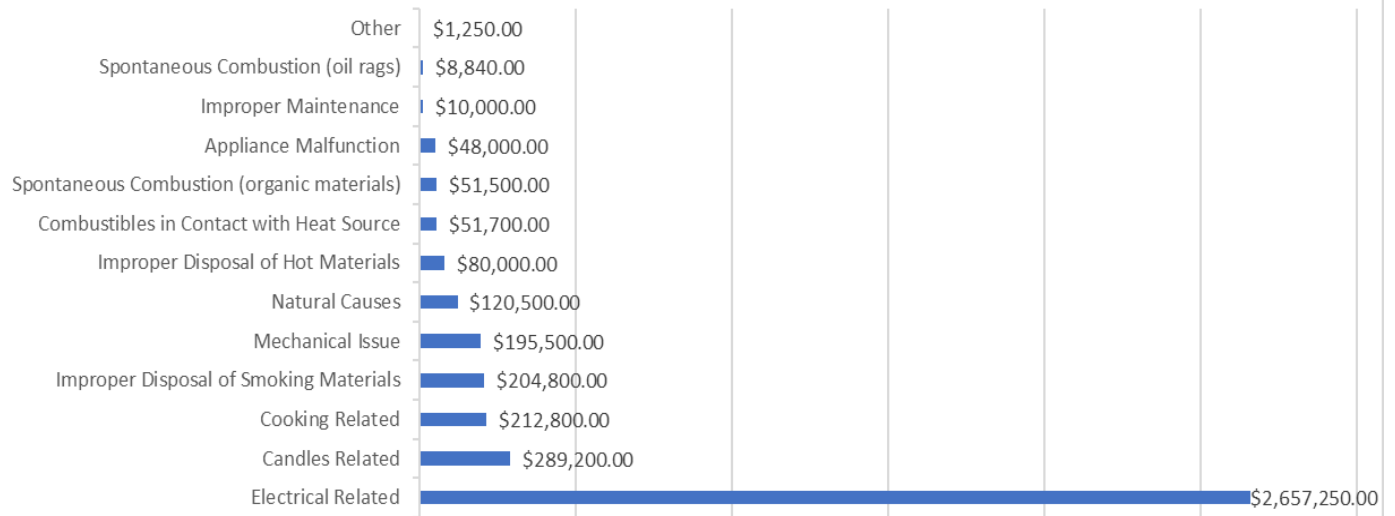
- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Check electrical cords to make sure the wires are not damaged, cracked or loose. Have a professional replace cords if needed.
- Extension cords are for temporary use. If you need a permanent solution contact a qualified electrician.
- Make sure cords are not running across doorways or under carpets. If they are, have a qualified electrician install more outlets that will better suit your needs.
- Be sure that the bulbs in your lights match what is safe for the lamp. Light bulbs can get very hot and cause a fire if something that can burn is too close.
- Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) reduce the risk of shock by shutting off an electrical circuit when the circuit could be a shock hazard. Your home should have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom(s), laundry, basement, garage, and outdoor areas.
- Heat producing appliances such as a space heater, toaster, coffee maker, iron or microwave oven draw a lot of electricity. Plug only one heat producing appliance in each outlet (even though there are two plug spaces) to prevent wiring from overheating.

THINK GREEN! Turn off lights when leave the room and unplug appliances when not in use.

Number of Accidental Fires By Fire Cause
Annual Summary (July 2020-December 2020)



Accidental Fire Dollar Loss By Fire Cause
Annual Summary (July 2020 - December 2020)



Christmas Tree Disposal

For curbside Christmas tree recycling in Loudoun County, residents should contact their homeowners association, town office, or private waste collection service for more information on what the guidelines are for this year.

If residents would like to take recycling matters into their own hands, Christmas trees can be recycled into mulch (available to Loudoun County residents for free) in Leesburg, Lovettsville, Purcellville, Sterling and South Riding. All Christmas trees should have decorations removed prior to disposal or recycling. These services are for Loudoun County residents only.

Loudoun County Landfill Recycling Dropoff Center:
21101 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg;

Game Protective Association: 16 S. Berlin Pike,
Lovettsville;

Franklin Park: 17501 Franklin Park Drive,
Purcellville;

Claude Moore Park: 46150 Loudoun Park Lane,
Sterling;

Town Hall: 43066 Center St., South Riding

Revving Up Fire Safety When on the Road

Vehicle fires are more common than we realize. Cars can catch fire for many reasons, usually due to mechanical or electrical issues. A well-maintained car is less likely to have a fire so have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. Here are a few dangers signs to watch for:

- * Cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once
- * Oil or fluid leaks
- * Oil cap not on securely
- * Rapid changes in fuel or fluid level, or engine temperature
- * Unusual sounds

If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately by pulling over and determining the cause. If you spot leaks or your car is not running properly, get it checked.

A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash or when hot materials are improperly discarded and transported in a vehicle. Always be diligent and engage in fire safe behavior.



**Loudoun County
Fire Marshal's Office**

23675 Belmont Ridge Road #150
Ashburn, VA 20148

Phone: 703-737-8600

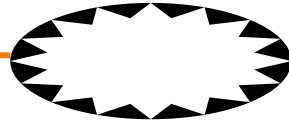
Fax: 703-737-8595

www.loudoun.gov/firemarshal

The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) seeks to provide a safe working and living environment for residents, workers, and travelers within Loudoun County. The division investigates the origin of fires, explosive related incidents, as well as investigations into hazardous materials. Furthermore, we strive to reduce the risk of fire through the abatement of common fire prevention code violations. The public fire and life safety educational programs and juvenile fire-setter intervention program are additional resources we deploy to help ensure the fire and life safety of the citizens and visitors of Loudoun County.

There are additional special operational programs, such as the Bomb Squad and the Canine Program. However, these are collateral responsibilities assigned to regular staff, which transcend section boundaries.

The FMO is comprised of a team of civilians and sworn law enforcement officers to ensure division goals are met.



Smoke alarms are one of the best and easiest safety features you can have to alert you and your family if there is a fire in your home. The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System offers free smoke alarm assessments to residents. During the visit, fire-rescue personnel ensure the home is adequately protected by working smoke alarms. They also provide valuable information on other fire safety topics. To request an assessment visit www.loudoun.gov/smokealarms and complete the online form or contact your local fire-rescue station.

