



Prevent Electrical Fires...Know how to stay safe

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, electrical fires account for 6.3 percent or nearly 24,000 fires annually. This number is much higher in Hanover Park. Since 2014, 18% of all structures fire were caused due to an electrical problem. This makes electrical issues our leading cause of fires.

Here are four most common causes of electrical fires.

1. Faulty outlets, appliances

Most electrical fires are caused by faulty electrical outlets. Other fires are started by faults in appliance cords and switches. Never use an appliance with a worn or frayed cord or one that has experienced problems with the on/off switch.

2. Light fixtures

Lamps and light bulbs are another common cause of electrical fires. Always check the maximum recommended bulb wattage on any lighting fixture and never go over the recommended amount.

3. Extension cords/Power Strips

Appliances should be plugged directly into outlets and not plugged into an extension cord or power strips. Only use extension cords as a temporary measure.

4. Wiring

If a home is over 20 years old, it may not have the wiring capacity to handle today's electrical demands. Computers, wide-screen televisions, video and gaming players, microwaves and air conditioners all place a high demand on electrical wiring. Electrical breakers should be triggered when circuits get overloaded, but outdated breakers often have worn connectors that do not work correctly and can cause the system to overheat and start a fire. If you experience frequent electrical breaker tripping, call a licensed electrician to investigate and make needed repairs.

The Hanover Park Fire Department's goal is to keep you informed and help you protect your families.

If you have questions about electrical concerns, give us a call at 630.823.5800...we are here to help.



Photo comes from a fire in Hanover Park. The remnants of an electrical cord plugged into one of the socket positions is visible and noted by the arrow. Worn or faulty appliance plugs can fail, heat up and cause fires. When not in use, it always best to unplug appliances such as hair dryers, curling irons, power tools and similar.