



The Fire 4-1-1

SUMMER 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Electrical Safety
- Fireworks Disposal Safety Tips

Close Before You Doze!

Fire is fast! In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get out of control and turn dangerous. Fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick.

Fire is hot! Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. If you inhale this super-hot air, it will scorch your lungs.

Fire is dark! Fire starts bright, but quickly makes black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around your home.

Fire is deadly! Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape.

Working smoke alarms and having a home escape plan are basic fire safety essentials but there is more you can do! Close before you doze! Closed doors can reduce fire growth, limit damage to your home, keep temperatures down, and can even save your life if you become trapped. For more information, visit <https://closeyourdoor.org/>.



Accidental Fire Data for Fourth Quarter (April—June) Fiscal Year 2021

Fire Cause	Total Number of Fires	Total Dollar Loss Q4
Appliance malfunction	9	\$908,099.00
Cooking Related	3	\$179,736.00
Improper disposal of smoking materials	5	\$1,177,141.00
Mechanical Issue	5	\$306,500.00
Electrical	4	\$894,839.00
Improper disposal of hot materials	1	\$2,500,000.00
Other	1	\$ -
Combustibles in contact with heat source	2	\$58,300.00
Spontaneous combustion (organic material)	4	\$1,689,271.00
Total Number of Unintentional Fires	34	
Total Cost of Damages		\$7,713,886.00

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

Stay Powered Up!

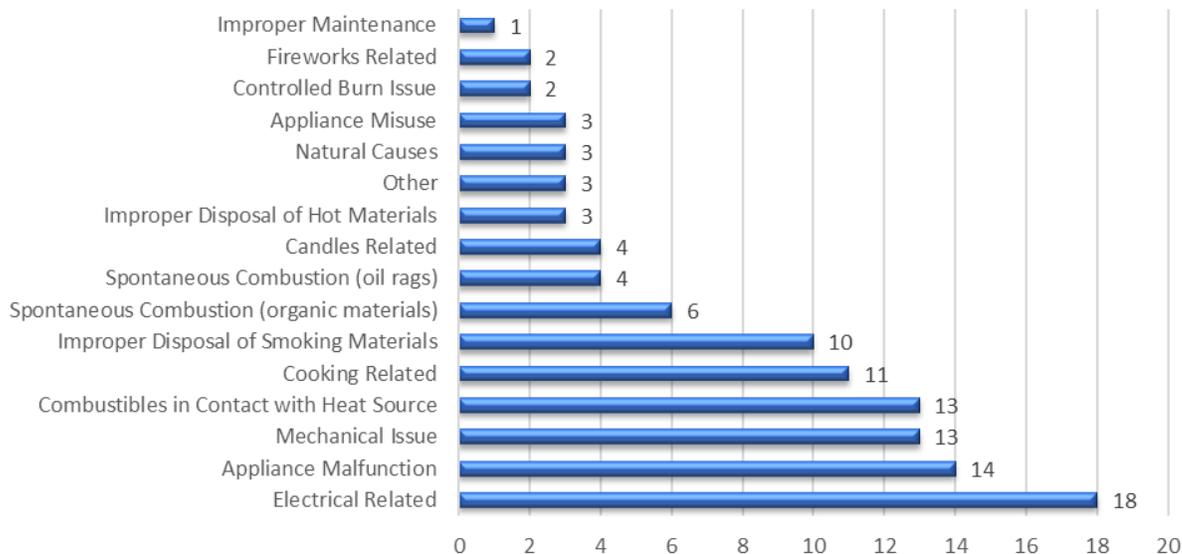
Electricity powers each day whether it is our coffee pot in the morning, drying our laundry, or a battery keeping our cell phones alive. While electricity makes our life easier, that kind of power needs to be used safely so we can keep taking on the day. Take care when energizing your day and follow a few simple safety tips:

- ✦ Use devices and appliances that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- ✦ Use devices and appliances according to the manufacturer's instructions. This includes proper use, charging (if necessary), and maintenance.
- ✦ Unplug devices once fully charged and unplug small appliances when not in use.
- ✦ Ensure all devices, appliances, and their accessories are in good condition. Take any damaged items to a qualified repair center or safely dispose of the item and purchase a new one.
- ✦ Stop using the device or appliance if you notice an odor, change in color, too much heat, or odd noises.



This fire was a result of a failure of lithium batteries in a laptop. It caused \$111,947 in damages.

Number of Accidental Fires By Fire Cause Annual Summary (July 2020-June 2021)



Accidental Fire Dollar Loss By Fire Cause Annual Summary (July 2020 - June 2021)



Outdoor Fire Safety Mulch Edition

When the weather is hot and dry, organic materials such as mulch can generate enough heat to ignite without an outside source. Because of this, a large or compacted area of mulch can create sufficient heat to spontaneously combust and start a fire. Fires that start in landscaping mulch or other organic planting materials can spread quickly into shrubbery, up exterior walls and into the home or building. To help prevent mulch fires at your home or business, please follow these safety tips:

- ⇒ Keep landscaped mulch beds moist if possible.
- ⇒ Recognize that hot and dry spells, along with windy conditions allow mulch fires to start more readily.
- ⇒ Use non-combustible materials such as river rock, pea gravel or crushed rock for the first 18" around the base of a building with combustible siding and around gas and electrical meters.
- ⇒ Consider using brick or non-combustible exterior siding when building or renovating a structure.
- ⇒ Use only approved receptacles to dispose of matches, cigarettes, and cigars such as sturdy metal or ceramic containers filled with sand, located away from the structure.
- ⇒ Immediately report any smoke or fire by calling 9-1-1.

Proper Disposal of Fireworks

While attending a public fireworks display put on by professionals is the best way to enjoy fireworks, many residents may have chosen to purchase some at a local stand. If using consumer fireworks, dispose of them properly. Never pick up fireworks that were "duds" or did not fire. Wait 20 minutes and treat as spent fireworks, soaking overnight and placing in a metal container with a lid, away from any structure. Used fireworks should be placed in a metal container, soaked with water, and allowed to cool overnight in a location that is at least 15 ft. away from any building or structure. Re-check the container in the morning to ensure nothing is smoldering, then dispose of the wet materials.



**Loudoun County
Fire Marshal's Office**

23675 Belmont Ridge Road #150
Ashburn, VA 20148

Phone: 703-737-8600

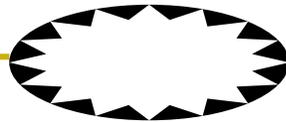
Fax: 703-737-8595

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.

