

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- October is Fire Prevention Month
- Cooking Up Safety in the Kitchen.
- Close Be fore You Doze!

The Fire 4-1-1

FALL 2019

Not Every Hero Wears a Cape!

While fire safety is a year round effort, in October the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and firefighters team up to promote Fire Prevention Month. This year's theme is "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" The campaign works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. NFPA statistics show that in 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,630 fire deaths and 10,600 fire injuries. "These numbers show that home fires continue to pose a significant threat to safety," said Linda Hale, Loudoun County Chief Fire Marshal. "In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving enough time for everybody to get out." Be your family's hero, create a home escape plan and ensure all your smoke alarms are working properly. Fire is Everyone's Fight.



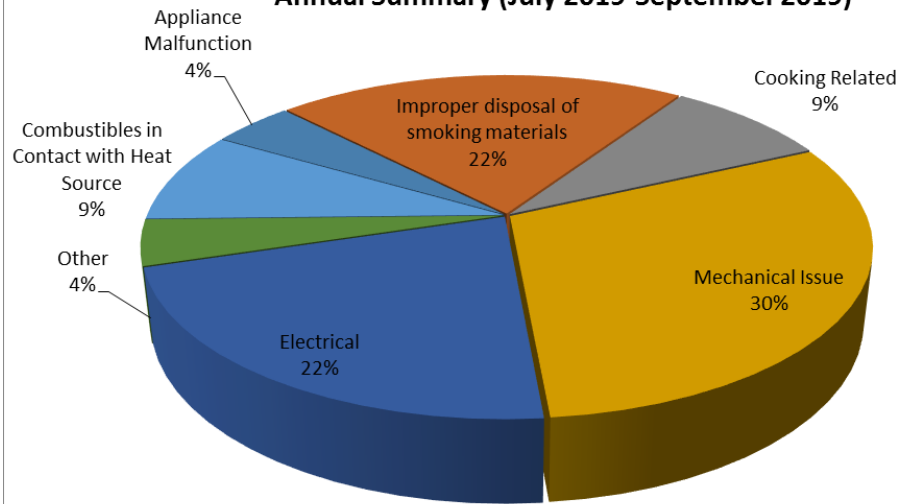
Accidental Fire Data for Fiscal Year 2020 First Quarter (July-September)

Fire Cause	Total Number of Fires Q1	Total Dollar Loss Q1
Electrical	5	\$58,000.00
Cooking Related	2	\$22,500.00
Improper disposal of smoking materials	5	\$716,400.00
Combustibles in contact with heat source	2	\$10,000.00
Other	1	\$0.00
Oil rags (spontaneous combustion)	2	\$1,626,000.00
Appliance malfunction	1	\$1,000.00
Mechanical Issue	7	\$69,000.00
Improper disposal of hot materials	3	\$751,200.00

Total Number of Unintentional Fires
28
Total Cost of Damages
\$3,254,100.00

*For more specific descriptions of fire causes visit www.loudoun.gov/firerisk.

Frequency of Accidental Fires by Fire Cause Annual Summary (July 2019-September 2019)



Fire Safety While Driving

Vehicles can catch fire for many reasons. While mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause, a vehicle can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you suspect any issues, pull over immediately.

In Loudoun County this quarter:

- 7 accidental fires were a result of mechanical issues with a vehicle
- They caused \$69,000 in damages.

If your car is on fire, pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, turn off the engine, exit the vehicle, and call 9-1-1.

To prevent a car fire:

- 🚗 Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, get it checked.
- 🚗 If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- 🚗 Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.
- 🚗 Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- 🚗 Drive safely to avoid an accident.



Know the danger signs:

- 🚗 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 **

This vehicle fire originated near the fuel tank and caused \$20,000 in damages.

**Safety information provided by the National Fire Protection Association.

Whatcha Got Cooking?

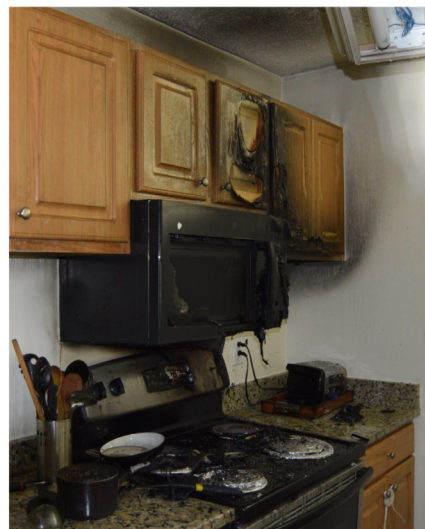
The holidays are just around the corner and the kitchen is the heart of the home. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially during the holidays when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Keep these fire safety tips in mind during your celebrations:

- 🔥 Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- 🔥 Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- 🔥 Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- 🔥 Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- 🔥 Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kid's toys or other items.

- 🔥 Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- 🔥 Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- 🔥 Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- 🔥 Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- 🔥 Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them monthly by pushing the test button.

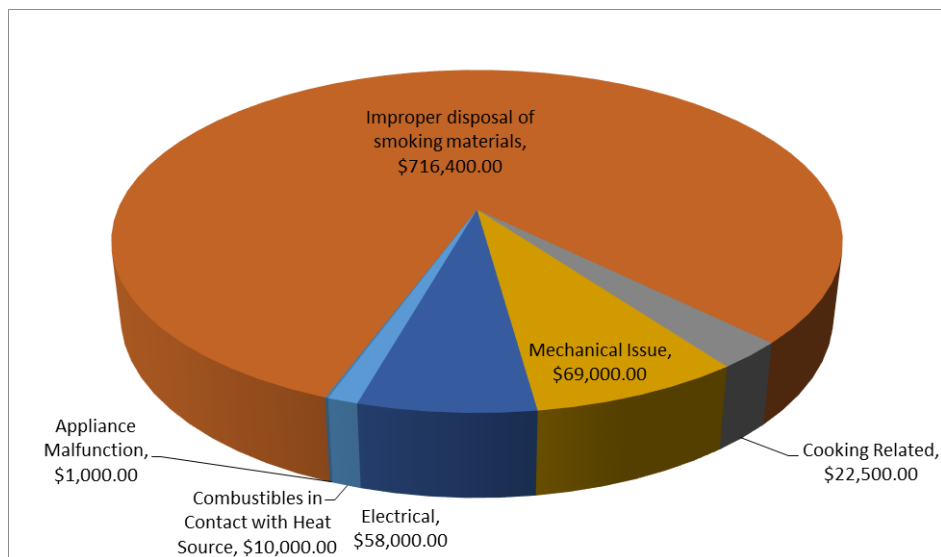
Pro Tip:

- 🔥 Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.**



This kitchen fire was a result of unattended cooking and caused \$22,000 in damages.

Accidental Fire Dollar Loss By Fire Cause Annual Summary (July 2019-September 2019)



Close Before You Doze!

Fire is getting faster because of synthetic materials, furniture, and construction in homes. Forty years ago, you had about 17 minutes to escape if you had a home fire. Now, you only have about 3 minutes. By taking a few safety precautions you can protect your family in the event of a fire:

- ⇒ Test your smoke alarms monthly to ensure they are working properly. Follow manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.
- ⇒ Create a home escape plan with your family. Know two ways out of each room and have an outside meeting place.
- ⇒ Close the bedroom door when you go to sleep. This will slow the spread of fire and limit the smoke that can enter the room.

Visit <https://closeyourdoor.org/> for more information.



**Loudoun County
Fire Marshal's Office**

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Ashburn, VA 20148

Phone: 703-737-8600

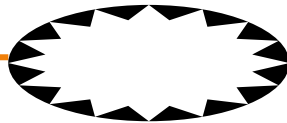
Fax: 703-737-8595

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 firesetter 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.

