



RESEARCH

Non-Fire Electrical Incidents in 2014-2018

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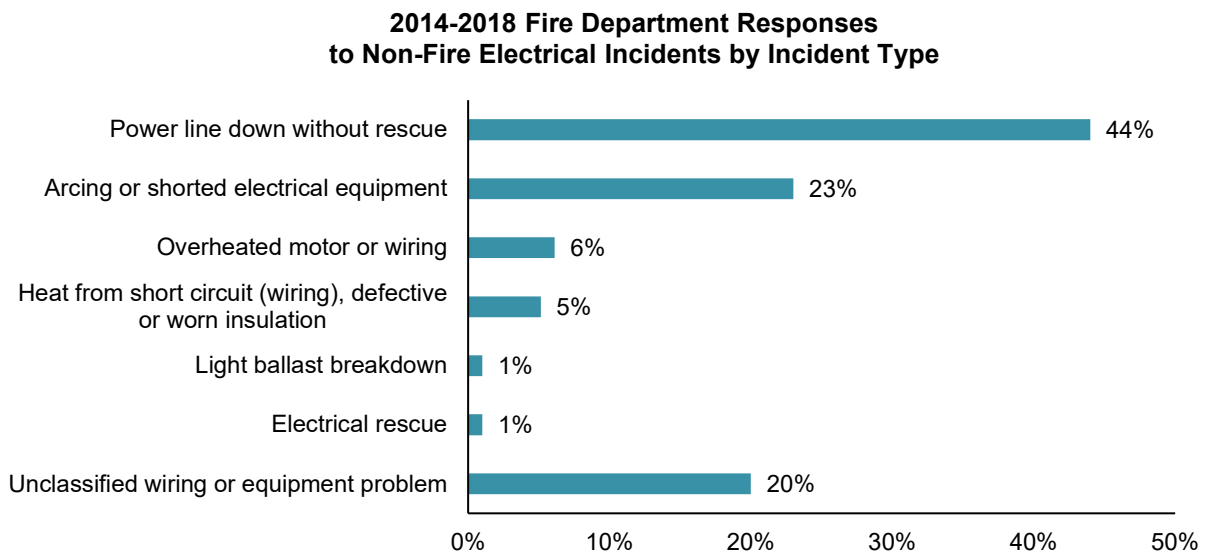
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Non-Fire Electrical Incidents in 2014-2018

During 2014-2018, local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 426,900 non-fire electrical incidents per year.

The 424,700 non-rescue electrical wiring or equipment problems and the 2,200 electrical rescue incidents accounted for 1.2 percent of the average of 34.4 million fire department incidents reported annually.

Forty-four percent of the non-fire electrical incidents were downed power lines, 1 percent were electrical rescues, and the remaining 55 percent involved some type of electrical failure.



Most types of non-fire electrical incidents were more common on outside or residential properties. Two of every five (39 percent) occurred on road or parking properties; 30 percent occurred at one- or two-family homes.

- Roughly three out of five (59 percent) incidents with downed power lines occurred on road, street, highway or parking properties while 22 percent occurred at one- or two-family homes.
- Residential properties, particularly one- or two-family homes, were the leading property types in most of the remaining types of non-fire electrical incidents.

**Local Fire Department Responses to Non-Fire Electrical Incidents
2014-2018 Annual Averages**

Incident Type	Incidents	Percent
Non-fire, non-rescue electrical incidents	424,700	(99%)
Power line down without rescue	189,500	(44%)
Arcing or shorted electrical equipment	98,400	(23%)
Overheated motor or wiring	24,300	(6%)
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective or worn insulation	21,100	(5%)
Light ballast breakdown	4,700	(1%)
Unclassified wiring or equipment problem	86,700	(20%)
Electrical rescue	2,200	(1%)
Total	426,900	(100%)

Data sources: NFIRS and NFPA's Fire Experience Survey