Non-Fire Electrical Incidents in 2014-2018

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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

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

Data sources: NFIRS and NFPA’s Fire Experience Survey