



Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

In the last five years, 30% of the fires that have happened in domestic properties within the Cove area were caused by electrical faults. An interesting fact is that unlike the majority of other Grampian areas, unattended cooking wasn't the most common source of ignition, although there were still a few of these incidents attended by Grampian Fire within the Cove area.

The main cause of fire in some of the cases was attributed to damaged electrical wiring or a fault with an electrical appliance.

There are various ways in which electrical fires can be prevented. Electrical cables that are attached to household items should be checked to see they are in good condition, showing no visible damage and the correct rated fuse is in the plug.

Electrical repairs should be carried out by a qualified electrician and large appliances such as washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers should never be left on a cycle before going to bed or leaving the house.

If a problem does occur with an electrical appliance it usually results in a smell of burning that the occupier might detect or it may put off a smoke alarm. The item may start making an unusual noise. When this happens a fire is normally prevented by switching off the appliance and getting it checked out. If nobody is around to notice these signs, the problem can escalate and result in a serious house fire.

Another indication that an appliance may be faulty is when an RCD switch keeps tripping off on the electrical consumer unit. This should be checked out by an electrician if this is happening.

In order to achieve a better understanding about domestic electricity this link provides excellent advice:

www.dontgivefireahome.com/fire_safety/1351.html

Lastly, the loading placed on a socket can cause a fire if the demand is overdrawing the supply. Look for this image at the above link and use it to calculate what is safe to be plugged in together and find out the appliances that need a socket solely for themselves.

We hope this information is useful to you but please remember that it is essential to have working smoke detectors, which should alert you in the very early stages of a fire, enabling you to escape to a place of safety.

