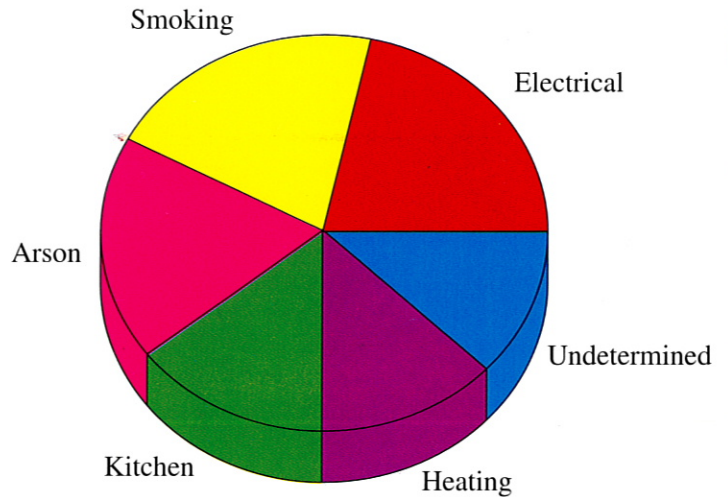


**THE LEADING CAUSES OF CHAPTER HOUSE FIRES**  
**(NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS OF 685 CHAPTER HOUSE FIRES)**

CAUSE	PERCENT
Misuse of Electricity, Over Fusing	18.8%
Careless Smoking and Match Disposal	17.9%
Incendiary or Suspicious (Arson)	16.2%
Kitchen and Cooking Hazards	12.4%
Defective Heating Devices or Chimneys	11.0%
Miscellaneous or Undetermined	10.8%
Spontaneous Ignition	6.1%
Open Fireplaces and Sparks	5.1%
Lightning	0.9%
Ignition from Adjacent Buildings	0.7%



**LIFE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**LOCAL FIRE REGULATIONS**

- Familiarize yourself with current local fire codes
- Seek fire department / insurance inspectors assistance
- Meet all fire safety recommendations without delay

**FIRE / SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

- Establish regular fire department inspections
- Perform monthly fire / safety inspections
- Familiarize yourself with safety systems each school term

**FIRE DETECTION / ALARM SYSTEMS**

- Install automatic "hard-wired" fire detection systems
- Install "central station monitored" fire alarm systems
- Regularly test and maintain all safety systems

**FIRE DOORS / FLAMMABLES**

- Install approved fire doors as recommended
- Prohibit "wedging open" of any fire doors
- Prohibit abuse of fire protection equipment
- Store flammables outside in well-ventilated areas

**LIGHTING / EXITS**

- Install automatic battery powered emergency lighting
- Install automatic battery powered lighted exit signs
- Equip all exits with emergency "crash bar openers"
- Keep all exitways clear of any storage and clutter

**REGULAR FIRE DRILL PROCEDURES**

- Conduct fire drills each school term
- Post emergency evacuation plans in each room
- Post emergency phone numbers on each phone
- Designate specific / safe outside meeting place
- Immediately account for all house occupants / visitors

**HEATING / ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS**

- Schedule professional inspections each year
- Have repairs promptly performed by professionals
- Establish regular maintenance and service contracts

**ELECTRICAL**

- Do not overload circuits / use grounded (GFIC) outlets
- Do not use multi-outlet or frayed extension cords
- Prohibit the use of halogen light fixtures

**CHAPTER HOUSE SECURITY**

- Improve chapter house locks / install exterior lighting
- Provide supervision and security during vacant periods
- Establish fire / security inspection each night

**KITCHEN / COOKING PROTECTION**

- Regular professional cleaning of cooking areas
- Install / regularly service automatic fire suppression systems
- Regularly service / maintain portable fire extinguishers

**CONTROL SMOKING**

- Establish "NO SMOKING" rules in sleeping areas
- Designated smoking areas / provide proper receptacles
- Clean / inspect for hazards immediately after functions

**SOCIAL EVENT CLEAN-UP / INSPECTIONS**

- Use non-flammable party decorations
- Clean up immediately following all social events
- Check trash disposal areas / furniture for fire hazards

**INSTALL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

- Sprinkler systems greatly reduce risks of death / injury
- Sprinkler systems reduce property damage by 50-66%
- Sprinkler systems save lives and reduce insurance costs