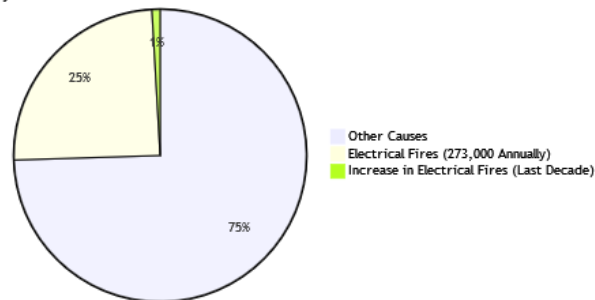


# Electrical Fire Safety: An Urgent Call for Modernization and Awareness

## Introduction

As the International Fire Association (IFA), we are at the forefront of advocating for fire safety across the globe. Recent statistics within the European Union have triggered an urgent need to address a specific threat - electrical fires in domestic environments. With an alarming account of 25-30% of all household fires attributed to electrical faults, reflecting a rise of 5-10% over the past decade, the issue at hand is not just prevalent but also escalating. Approximately 273,000 fires of electrical origin are reported annually, leading to devastating outcomes including loss of life, injuries, and significant economic burdens.

Key Statistics on Electrical Fires in the EU



## The Double-Edged Sword of Electrical Advancements

Over the past 120 years, electricity has woven itself into the fabric of daily life, becoming indispensable. While it has revolutionized comfort, safety, and communication, it brings dangers, particularly within aging infrastructures prevalent in the European Union. The low renovation rates of dwellings and their electrical systems pose a grave concern, compounded by the ever-expanding and diversifying use of domestic electricity.

## **Aging Systems: A Silent Peril**

The crux of the issue lies in the obsolete electrical installations still operational in countless homes. These antiquated systems, characterized by deteriorating components, neglectful maintenance, and unsuitable usage, are accidents waiting to happen. While the risks of electrification and electrocution have been mitigated over the years, electrical fires remain a pressing concern, demanding immediate and comprehensive action.

## **IFA's Stance: Proactive Measures for a Safer Future**

As IFA, we champion the modernization of electrical installations and the education of the public on safe electrical practices. Our initiatives aim to:

1. **Promote Awareness:** Launch comprehensive educational campaigns highlighting the risks associated with outdated electrical systems and the importance of regular maintenance and inspections.
2. **Advocate for Policy Change:** Work closely with policymakers to enforce regulations mandating the upgrade of electrical installations in residential areas, particularly aging constructions.
3. **Encourage Technological Innovation:** Foster partnerships with industry leaders to develop advanced electrical systems that prioritize safety and adapt to the evolving consumption patterns of modern society.
4. **Facilitate Knowledge Exchange:** Organize forums, workshops, and training programs, empowering professionals and homeowners with the latest in electrical fire safety.