



## WORKING FROM HOME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

THE HASTINGS HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO YOUR PART TO MINIMIZE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTRICAL FIRES BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE FIRE SAFETY TIPS...

# PREVENT HOME ELECTRICAL FIRES

## WHAT'S THE RISK?

- Electrical distribution equipment is the **fourth leading** cause of home fires.
- The average dollar loss per electrical fire is **\$73,000**.
- In 71% of home electrical fires, the cause is **electrical failure of the equipment**.

Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. GFCIs should be installed in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. Always use a licensed electrician.

Statistics for Ontario between 2010-2014.  
Provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal and  
Emergency Management

## HOW DO I PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES?

- Check cords for damage such as fraying or nicks. A damaged cord can expose the wires and result in the potential of shock or fire.
- When charging laptops, tablets, cell phones and other devices place them on a hard surface. Don't leave them on the couch or bed and never charge devices under a pillow or blanket.
- Only use approved charging cables recommended and provided by the device manufacturer.
- Avoid overloading a circuit with "octopus" outlets. If additional outlets or circuits are required, have them installed by a licensed electrical contractor.

