

Electrical fires – real life examples

Portable electrical equipment which is not used correctly, is faulty or has damaged electrical connections can overheat or spark. Electrical fires are the most common cause of fire in the modern world. Electrical fires have the potential to be life threatening and can cause extensive damage to University and personal property. Portable appliance testing and in particular simple visual checks when equipment is purchased or moved to a different location can help to prevent electrical fires.

Here are some examples to illustrate the reality of how dangerous electrical fires can be:



The cause:

Faulty electrical equipment



The cause:

Incorrect battery fitted to laptop



The cause:

A lamp fitted with a paper lampshade. Wattage rating of bulb too high causing lampshade to overheat and catch fire.

Note: the mattress where the occupant was sleeping is not in the picture but the outline is



The cause:

Faulty switch causing bread in toaster to burn and catch light