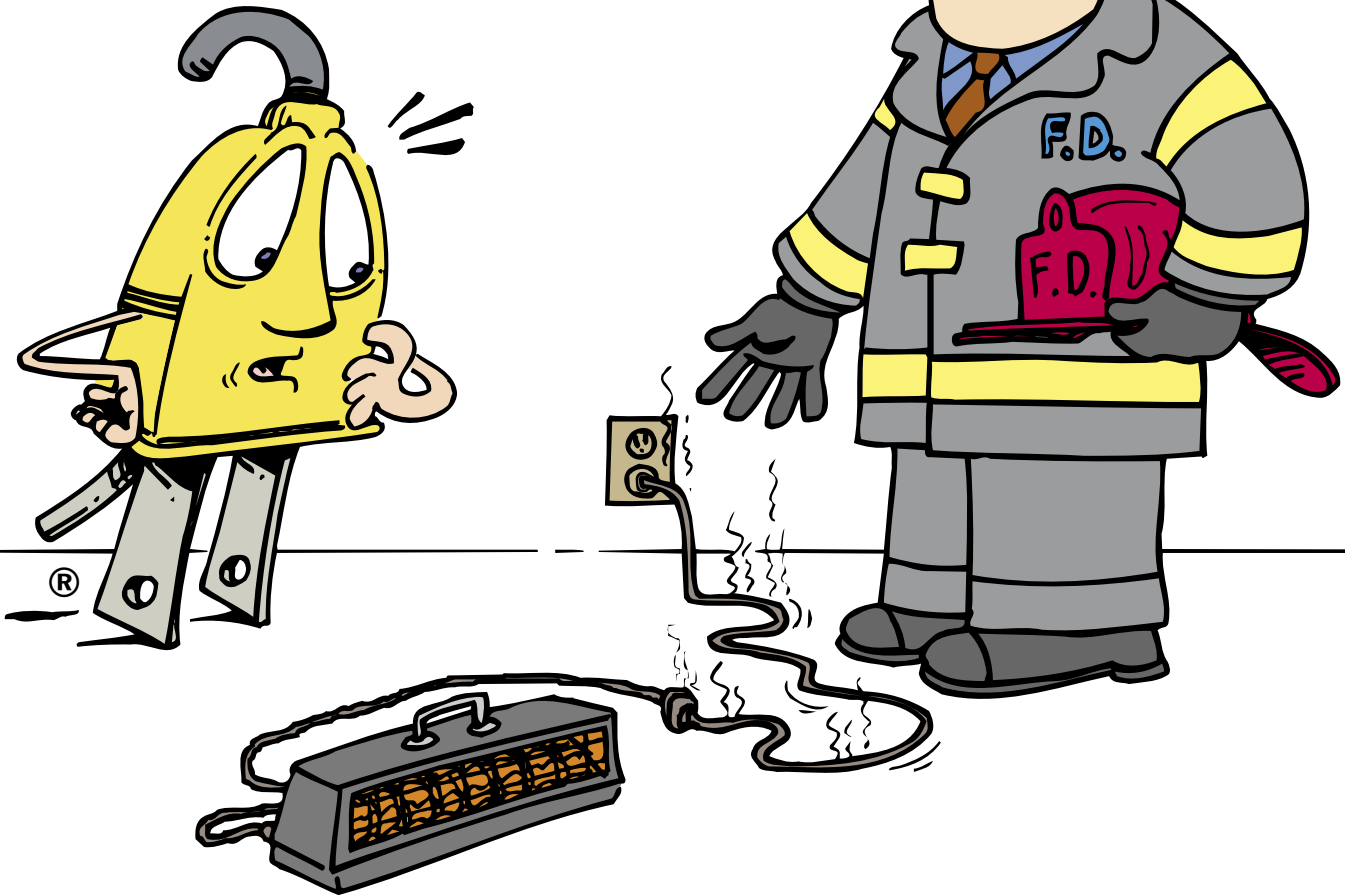


from the Electrical Safety Foundation International

May is National Electrical Safety Month

MR. PLUG SAYS...

*Make Safe Connections...
Plug into Electrical Safety*



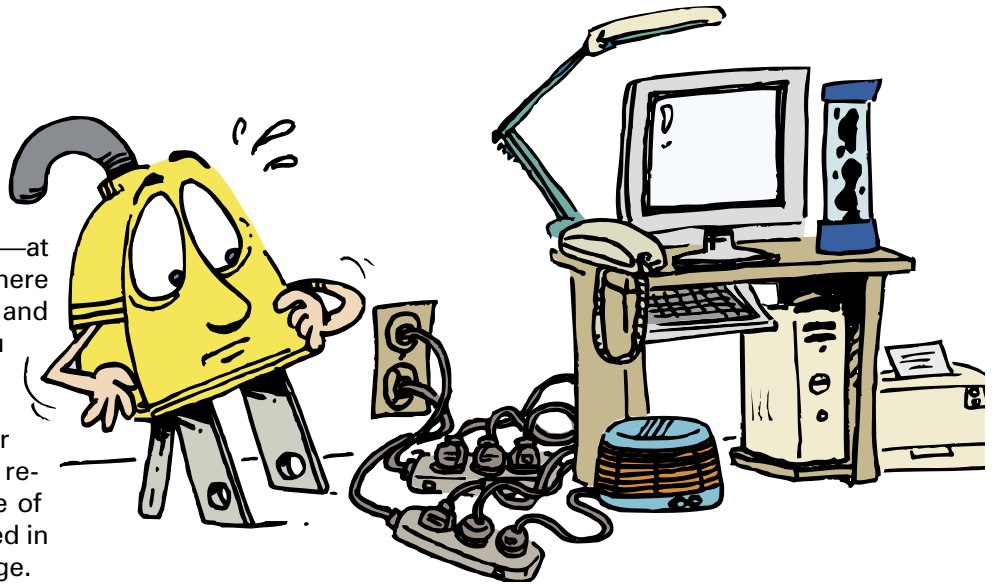
ESFi

Electrical Safety Foundation International

2005 CAMPAIGN KIT

WELCOME

Of all the hazards we face in daily life—at home, at school, and on the job—there is perhaps none quite so insidious and uniquely unforgiving as electricity. You won't see it coming, and when it strikes, it will likely strike hard, killing, disfiguring, or disabling someone, or destroying property. While electrical related fires were the third largest cause of home structure fires, those fires resulted in the greatest amount of property damage.



We hope to see electrical safety awareness increase nationwide, resulting in a downward trend of the number of deaths and injuries related to electrical accidents, whether by electric shock or electrical fire. Efforts like yours through the use of tools like this *National Electrical Safety Month* campaign kit can help. Education and awareness of the hazard are critical to avoiding and preventing electrical accidents. By continually supporting the effort to keep electrical safety top of mind, in May and throughout the year, we can together keep the numbers going down.

In this kit, you will find everything you and your organization will need to create and conduct an effective electrical safety awareness campaign, for your community, your organization, your school, or your own house. In the following pages, you'll find lots of interesting and useful facts, figures and safety tips for the home, school and workplace, plus some tools you can use to promote the month and the issue of electrical safety.

Feel free to make use of these tools, attaching your company or organization's name and spokespeople to the title and quotes. Let us know about your campaign, how you're using these materials and what more ESFI can do to help.

As always, when it comes to electricity, **better to take one too many precautions, than one too few.**

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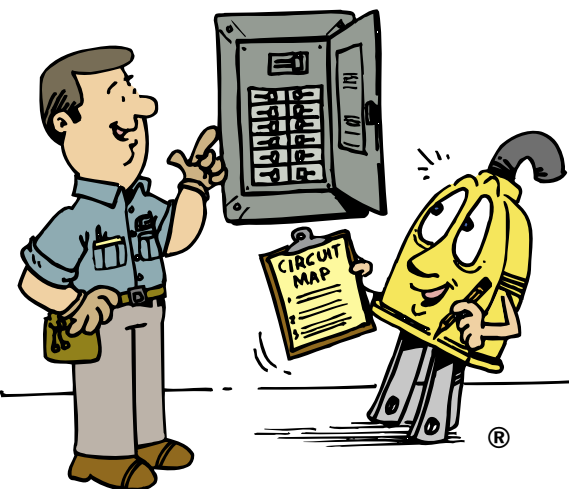
May is National Electrical Safety Month. To help you launch your own electrical safety campaign, the Electrical Safety Foundation International has developed this campaign kit that includes an action plan, facts about electrical safety, sample public service announcements, news releases and other tips. Demonstrate your commitment to electrical safety by involving everyone—customers, community and coworkers—in this public awareness effort.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN ACTION PLAN

Ways to Promote Public Awareness of Electrical Safety

- Conduct educational programs and demonstrations at your workplace or in your community.
- Provide handouts and/or paycheck stuffers to employees, and send educational bill stuffers and mailers to customers.*
- Use your web site to promote electrical safety tips and information.
- Include electrical safety reminders at the end of your email messages.
- Conduct basic electrical safety audits at your office, workplace, schools and other community facilities, checking for ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and the safe use and good condition of outlets, electrical cords and extension cords.
- Encourage the use of public service announcements (PSAs) by your local TV, radio and print media.*
- Have your top local official, mayor or governor proclaim May as Electrical Safety Month in your city, county or state.*
- Conduct mall or convention demonstrations testing electrical equipment, showing how GFCIs work and explaining the correct use of electrical and extension cords.
- Use literature, video programs and demonstrations in hardware, electrical supply and department stores or other retail outlets.
- Ask local businesses to feature electrical safety information in their windows and consumer displays.
- Develop programs for high-risk populations, such as rewiring/repair programs for senior citizens or low-income families.
- Send copies of news releases to local newspapers.*
- Submit electrical safety articles to your newsletter, newspaper or journal.
- Schedule appearances on radio or television talk shows by experts to explain how to check homes for electrical safety hazards.
- Check out ESFI's web site, www.electrical-safety.org to download free information or order material online.
- Encourage everyone you meet to order their own copy of ESFI's *Indoor and Outdoor Electrical Safety Check* booklets, the *Wired For Safety* video from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and other publications from the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). An order form is on page 23, or go online at www.electrical-safety.org to view and download free copies.

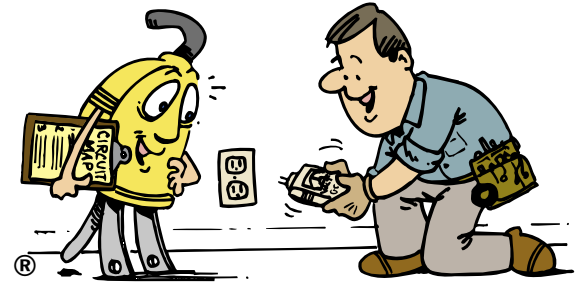
* Samples can be found in this kit



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.electrical-safety.org

Encourage Youth Organization Involvement in Electrical Safety

- ❑ Encourage your schools and teachers to access and utilize the electrical safety module of the National Fire Protection Association's RiskWatch® school outreach program, available online at www.nfpa.org.
- ❑ Conduct seminars and demonstrations on electricity and electrical safety for all age levels, in school assemblies and after-school clubs.
- ❑ Conduct contests in your schools and communities, giving awards and public recognition for the best electrical safety posters, inventions or ideas.
- ❑ Encourage youths to conduct a basic electrical safety check of their own home with family members.
- ❑ Enlist primary grade students as Electrical Safety Sleuths, "deputizing" each with a button or sticker and giving each a list of electrical hazards to identify and point out to an adult around the home and neighborhood.



Revitalize Your Campaign Each Season

- ❑ Spring: Focus on the proper preparation, use and maintenance of power tools, such as electric sanders, saws and drills, that are coming out of wintertime storage. Remind everyone to be careful of overhead power lines when carrying ladders around the home, and buried power lines when landscaping. Remind children not to play around neighborhood utility equipment such as switchgear and transformers.
- ❑ Summer: Focus on the proper preparation, use and maintenance of fans, air conditioners, electric grills, electric lawn mowers and tools, outdoor rated extension cords, safety around overhead and buried power lines, and lightning safety.
- ❑ Fall: Focus on checking and repairing home wiring, overhead power line awareness when cleaning gutters and trimming trees, and proper use of space heaters and electric blankets.
- ❑ Winter: Focus on proper use of space heaters and electric blankets, the proper preparation, use and maintenance of holiday lights, and safety around downed power lines.

Share Your Ideas and Successes

- ❑ Provide ESFI with a testimonial on your electrical safety campaign. Tell us what worked for you, including pictures, stories and program descriptions. With your written permission, ESFI may share your story with others on our website and in other ESFI publications.

Organizations to Contact for Help With Electrical Safety Awareness

Local fire department

Local utility

Local consumer affairs office

Local safety council

Local licensed electricians and electrical contractors

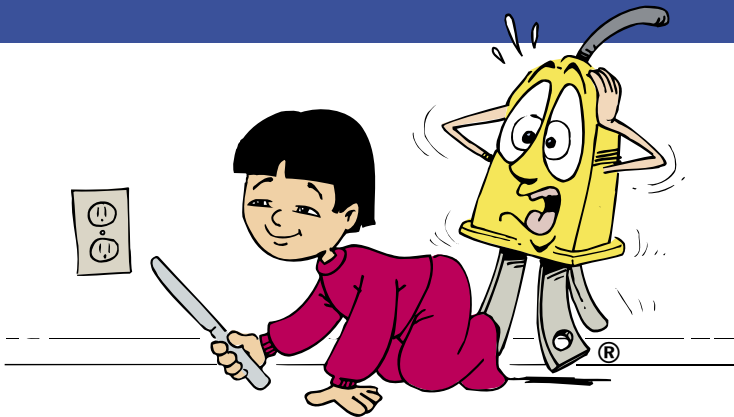
Local electrical inspectors

Local electrical retail/wholesale

Local electrical manufacturers

Local chapters of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) and National Electrical Contractors' Association (NECA)

Local offices of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), National Safety Council (NSC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Extension Service.



What are the latest statistics on residential electrical safety injuries?

The latest figures from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) indicate that there were 411 total accidental electrocutions in 2001, 180 of which related to consumer products. Thirty-four of those related to large appliances, such as air conditioners, pumps, water heaters, furnaces and clothes dryers. Another 17 involved ladders contacting overhead power lines. Seventeen involved small appliances such as microwave ovens, electric fans, extension cords and televisions, 16 involved power tools, 11 involved lighting equipment, 19 involved contact with installed household wiring. Another 34 involved a variety of other products such as sports and recreational equipment, lawn and garden equipment, antennas, pipes, poles and fences.

But that is only part of the story. The CPSC estimates there are more than 140,000 electrical-related home structure fires, which take an average of more than 500 lives, injure over 5,000 and cause nearly \$1.6 billion in property damage annually.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), estimates that every year, as many as 15,000 fires in homes in the U.S. begin with fixed wiring. These fires result in more than 100 deaths and 350 injuries annually.

How can consumers help protect themselves from electrocution and electrical-related injuries?

Consumers should check for problems with their home electrical systems, and be ever vigilant for electrical hazards around the home and the workplace, like cracked or fraying cords, overheating cords and wall plates, and the presence of overhead

and buried power lines when working outdoors. Check outlets and circuits to be sure they aren't overloaded. Make sure to use only the proper wattage light bulbs in light fixtures and lamps. Use extension cords only on a temporary basis, and be sure they are properly rated for their intended use. And always follow appropriate safety precautions and manufacturer's instructions on all electrical items.

Consumers should also remember to test their smoke alarms and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) monthly. Replace smoke detector batteries twice a year. Make sure GFCI protection covers all circuits that come near water sources, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and outdoors, and consider it for whole house coverage. Consider also having arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) installed in your home, particularly older homes.

Consumers can use ESFI's *Indoor Electrical Safety Check* and *Outdoor Electrical Safety Check* booklets to conduct an electrical safety audit of their homes. And visit www.electrical-safety.org for all these and other electrical safety tips.

If you have an old house with old wiring, how do you know if repairs are necessary? How extensively and costly can such repairs be?

Electrical systems age and deteriorate just like any man-made product, and as they get older need to be monitored more frequently. As homes grow in their dependence on electricity with the addition of rooms, appliances large and small, and entertainment and computer equipment, electrical systems designed to handle lower electrical demands expected at an earlier point in time can become overburdened and problems can develop.

The CPSC and ESFI recommend electrical inspections for houses that are:

- More than 40 years old,
- More than 10 years old that has been renovated or added a major appliance, and
- Sold, by the new owner, to provide them with a clear understanding of the home's electrical system's capacity, limitations, potential hazards and opportunities.

An “electrical inspection” is different from a “home inspection” in that it comprehensively covers only the electrical system, whereas the home inspection goes skin-deep on the structure, plumbing, electrical system and other aspects of the house. Your local city, county or state should have an electrical inspector’s office, or a qualified, licensed electrician can do the inspection.

The inspection will help identify problems like frequently blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, loose connections at outlets, older and deteriorated wiring, and outdated and overburdened electrical service. Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as the cleaning and tightening of connections or the addition of outlets, or more involved running into several thousand dollars, such as the addition of circuits and subpanels, replacement of degraded wiring, or, particularly with older homes, a “heavy-up” — that is, upgrading the electrical service from, for example, 60 amp or 100 amp service to the home to 200 amp service better able to handle today’s electric demands. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine if repairs or upgrades are necessary and can estimate the cost.

How does a three-prong plug work? What is the benefit of using it?

The third prong on a plug provides a path to ground for electricity that is straying or leaking from a product. This helps protect the equipment and can help prevent electric shock. Consumers should never remove or bend the third prong to fit a two-slot outlet. An adapter may be used safely only if the grounding wire or tab is physically connected to an electrical ground. A safer approach is to find or have installed an appropriate three-slot outlet.

How does a polarized plug work? What is the benefit of using it?

A polarized plug is a plug with one large or wide prong and one narrow one. It ensures that the plug is inserted correctly in a socket for proper flow of electric current, and reduces the risk of electrical shock. Consumers should never force a polarized plug into a non-polarized outlet, or shave the wide prong down to fit. Use an adapter or find an appropriate polarized outlet.

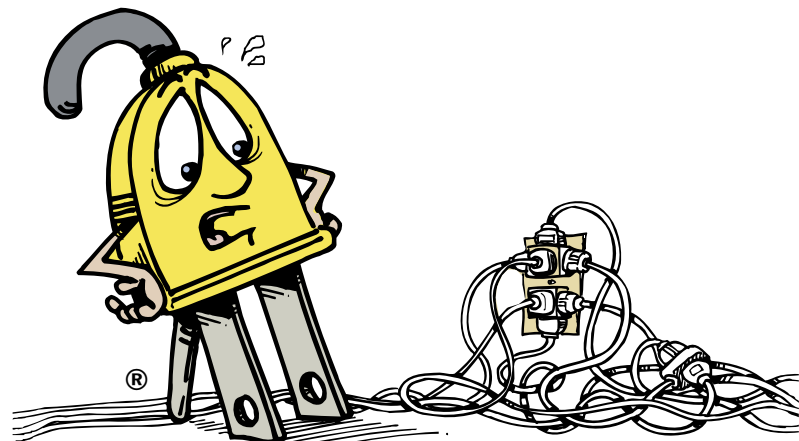
What is the device now found on the plugs of such appliances as hair dryers?

The large box-like device found on the ends of some appliance cords could be an appliance leakage circuit interrupter (ALCI), an immersion detection circuit interrupter (IDCI) or a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Though they work in different ways, they all protect the user against accidental electric shock and electrocution by acting immediately to shut off power to the appliance upon the detection of a “leak” of electric current as may happen when a hair dryer falls into a sinkful of water. Even with these devices, if that happens, unplug the device or shut off power to the circuit *before* reaching in to retrieve the appliance.

What size extension cords should a consumer use? How can you tell if an extension cord is appropriate for the intended use?

Before purchasing or selecting an extension cord for use, consumers should consider how the cord will be used. Make sure the rating on the cord is the same as or higher than the number of watts needed by the product that will be plugged into the cord. Using an improper extension cord with high wattage appliances may cause overheating of the extension cord. If you must use an extension cord, it must be marked #14 or #12 (the smaller the number, the larger the size of the wire).

Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis, and unplugged and safely stored after every use. Outside the home, use only cords rated for outdoor use, and consider using a portable GFCI.



MAKE SAFE CONNECTIONS...

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), every year, as many as 15,000 fires in US homes begin with fixed wiring. These fires result in more than 100 deaths and 350 injuries annually. As a result, the 2005 edition of the *National Electrical Code*, developed by NFPA, requires more comprehensive arc fault circuit interrupter protection (AFCIs). AFCIs represent the latest technology advancement in reducing the number of fires originating from electrical wiring. ESFI is working with NFPA to raise safety awareness related to outlets and cords by encouraging consumers to **“Make Safe Connections: Plug Into Electrical Safety.”**

“Every Firefighter’s Nightmare” One Fireman’s Account of Electrical Fires

“Our concern in Philadelphia was about the increasing numbers of electrically related fire deaths. In 2003, 16 people died because of contact with electricity, or fires due to faulty electrical equipment. During 2004, we reduced the number of such deaths to four. We partnered with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 98 to mount an aggressive educational program. We focused on mistakes of the past that are repeated through the years. Thanks to funding from Local 98 President John Dougherty, the program was extremely successful.”

Philadelphia Fire Department Captain Mike Carroll has 32 years of experience in fighting fires. Because Philly firefighters noticed that a number of fires were caused by misuse of extension cords, they developed a program to educate Philadelphia residents about the dangers of improper use.

Captain Carroll shared the following account about his experience with electrical fires; he and his colleagues continue to work to eliminate the causes of fires.

Fire in the School

Several years ago, a local school received a private grant of approximately \$4,500 to purchase three computers. The school was delighted. The only room they had for the computers had no permanent electrical source. To save money, they purchased extension cords and surge suppressors from a local discount store. Unfortunately, the equipment was not designed for that use.

The fire broke out at 8:00 AM, when school children were just beginning to arrive—every firefighters’ nightmare. Fortunately, no one had been allowed in the school and the fire was extinguished safely.

It just doesn’t make sense to anyone that you would invest thousands of dollars in computers, then try to save money by misusing the extension cords and surge suppressors. But many of us do this—we look for ways to save money. We believe that stores would not sell us a product that is not inherently safe. Extension cords are meant to be temporary. They are not designed for long-term use. When used incorrectly, their failure is inevitable. The only uncertainty is the time of their failure.

Death in the Home

Another case involved young parents and their two-week old baby living in an older home. The house was cold, so the parents bought a portable electric heater. Because the home had only one electric outlet per room, they also purchased three extension cords so that they could run an electric supply from another room in the house.

The father cut the ends of the extension cords and spliced them together to reduce the number of big lumps running under the carpets.

The fire started in the extension cord. The tragic result was the death of their baby daughter.

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PLUG INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY

As firefighters went door-to-door in the neighborhood, we found at least six of these hookups, all performed by the young man. He was attempting to help his neighbors. But the result was the potential for more electrical fires. Electricity means power. But when we bend a wire, we make more resistance and more heat. When we splice a wire, we produce more resistance and more heat. When we cover a wire, we trap the heat. Fire is inevitable.

Even certifications are no guarantee of safety if products are not used as intended. Certification means that a listed electrical device will perform as the manufacturer has stated. If we ask it to handle more than it's rated capacity, it will fail.

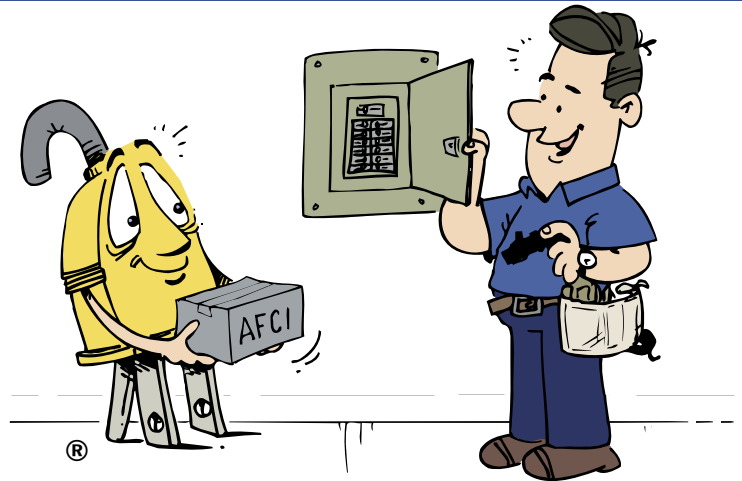
Firefighters always recommend that a licensed electrician install permanent electrical fixtures and outlets. Safety isn't cheap. But it's cheaper than the alternative.

Eliminate Electrical Safety Threats

Data from CPSC and the NFPA indicate that many electrical fires could be prevented by addressing the top electrical safety hazards. These include fires caused by aging wiring and misuse of surge suppressors and electrocutions from wiring systems and large appliances. Review this information and use it to take steps to eliminate electrical safety hazards in your home, school or work place.

GFCIs and AFCIs

Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), detect dangerous arc faults—where electricity has to jump a gap—and act immediately to shut off the circuit they protect. In that way, AFCIs deprive the hazard the opportunity to start a fire. Circuit breakers and fuses, which respond to short circuits and overloads, do not detect low-energy arcs. These arcs can trigger fire hazards and threaten life when flammable materials such as cloth, paper and wood in walls are present. They often occur behind walls at the connections in residential electrical systems at outlets and switches, or where a nail has nicked an electrical wire. Such hidden electrical fires can spread rapidly, undetected by smoke



alarms, and reduce the chances of survival. Arcing is a leading cause of electrical fires in homes, especially those with wiring over 30-years old.

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) respond to shorts or ground faults. GFCIs—which protect against accidental electric shock or electrocution by acting immediately to shut off the circuit if they sense a ground fault, or “leak” of current off the circuit—have been in homes since the early 70s on circuits that come within six feet of water. Homeowners, however, should consider having GFCI protection throughout the home with the exception of circuits that serve major appliances, such as air conditioning units, furnaces and heaters, refrigerators, dishwashers, and laundry machines. Remember also to test your GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.

Power Cords

We can sometimes get so caught up in the safety awareness of our appliances and lamps that we forget about the safety principles that relate to its power cord. An appliance can look like it's in good operating order and yet still represent a hazard if its cord is damaged. Keep the following safety tips in mind when using power cords.

- Make sure all power cords and extension cords are in good condition, not frayed, cracked or cut. If the power cord to a lamp or appliance is damaged, take the item to an authorized service center, or cut the power cord and dispose of the item safely.

- Never attempt to repair or splice a cut cord yourself. “Electrical” tape, as commonly referred to—usually black vinyl tape—is not rated for the heat generated by electricity running through wires. The tape will melt and burn.
- Make sure all electrical items, including appliances, extension cords and surge suppressors, are certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or ETL-SEMKO (ETL).
- Do not coil power cords when in use.
- Do not place power cords in high traffic areas such as doorways, or under carpets, rugs or furniture.
- Do not place or route power cords through holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
- Power cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard, or another object.
- Make sure appliances are off before connecting or disconnecting cords to and from outlets.
- Never alter the polarized blade (the wide prong) to make a polarized plug fit into a nonpolarized outlet; this could lead to electrical shock.
- Never force a plug into an outlet. Plugs should fit securely into outlets, but should not require much force to fit.
- Make sure to fully insert the plug into the outlet.
- Unplug appliances when not in use to conserve energy but also to minimize the opportunities for electric shock or fire.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being plugged into it.
- Assume 125V per amp when converting to Watts to determine if the extension cord you intend to use is properly rated for the appliance being connected to it.
- Before using a new cord, remove the packaging and uncoil the extension cord to allow for the dissipation of any heat that may be generated.
- Extension cords, like most equipment, will eventually wear out. The female end of the cord has brass contacts that will wear and expand over repeated use. Worn contacts could allow arcing, and can be a potential source of excessive heat. Cords in good condition require some effort to insert the male plug into the female end of the cord. When little effort is required, it is a good sign that the cord should be disposed of and replaced with a new one.

Extension Cords

Extension cords are temporary solutions only, and yet the majority of homes have at least one extension cord plugged in and left in place. In addition to the same safety tips that apply to power cords, keep the following principles in mind when using extension cords.

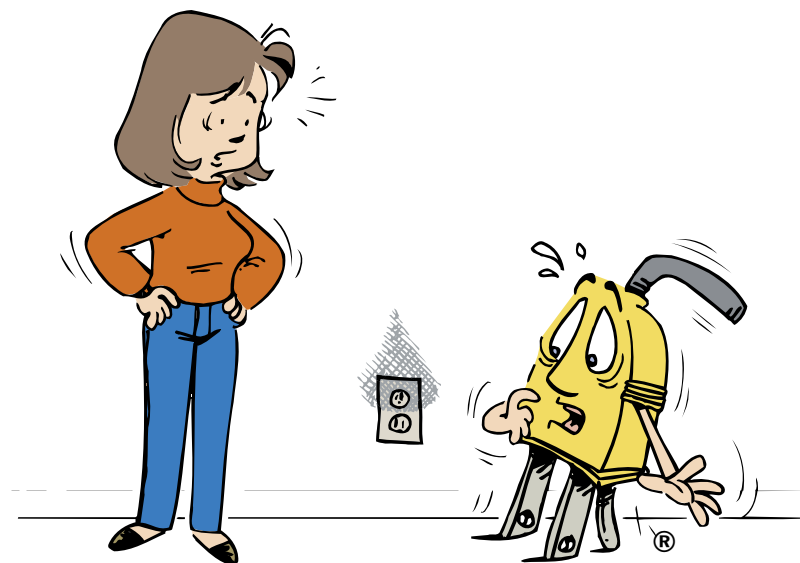
- Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.

Power Strips and Surge Suppressors

Power strips give us the ability to plug more products into the same outlet, which can be a help but also a hindrance to safety if used inappropriately. Power strips and surge suppressors don’t provide more power to a location, just more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected. The circuit likely also still serves a variety of other outlets and fixtures in addition to the multiple electrical items you might be serving with the power strip. In addition to the tips above, keep these safety principles in mind when using power strips and surge suppressors.

- Be sure you are not overloading the circuit. Know capacity of the circuit and the power requirements of all the electrical items plugged into the power strip and into all the other outlets on the circuit as well as the light fixtures on the circuit.

- A heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Understand that a surge suppressor only protects the items plugged into it, not back along the circuit into which it is connected.
- Surge suppressors can manage the small surges and spikes sometimes generated by the turning on and off of appliances. They may even protect against a large surge generated from outside sources like lightning or problems along the transmission lines to the neighborhood and house. In the event of a large surge or spike, the surge suppressor is a one-time-use protector and will likely have to be replaced. If the diagnostic indicator on your surge suppressor is off, showing a fault, or an alarm is buzzing, the surge suppressor must be replaced.
- Consider purchasing surge suppressors with cable and phone jacks to provide similar protection to your phone, fax, computer modem and cable TV or satellite television. Wires extending from a structure have the potential to carry surge equipment and cause equipment damage.
- Not all power strips are surge suppressors, and not all surge suppressors can handle the same load current or surge events. Be sure the equipment you buy matches your needs.



performed by a qualified, licensed electrician to help determine the integrity of your outlets and your entire electrical system.

- Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can lead to arcing and fire.
- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances. Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance in at a time in each.
- Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.
- Check for any hot or discolored outlet wall plates. Look from across the room; sometimes you'll see darkened area in a tear-drop shape around and above the outlet that may indicate dangerous heat buildup at the connections.
- Warm to the touch is okay, hot is not. If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot to the touch, immediately shut off the circuit and have it professionally checked.
- Replace any missing or broken wall plates.

Outlets

The outlet, or receptacle, is perhaps the most commonly used and least thought of device in the home. Every electrical appliance, tool, computer and entertainment center component we use is powered through one. We just plug in and forget about it, assuming all our power needs will be met. And that's true if we follow some simple but important safety principles.

- Check outlets regularly for problems, including overheating, loose connections, reversed polarity, and corrosion. Consider having an electrical inspection

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RESIDENTIAL SAFETY

Appliances

Use your appliances according to the manufacturers' instructions. Make sure your appliances are all certified by an independent testing laboratory such as UL, CSA, or ETL, and read and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Take damaged appliances or tools to an authorized repair center or replace them with new items. Remember to cut the cord when disposing old and damaged appliances to prevent further unsafe use.

Circuit Breakers and Fuses

Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the correct size fuse. Create a circuit map that clearly identifies all outlets, fixtures and the major appliances each circuit serves.

Entertainment/Computer Equipment

Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly. Look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs, and connectors. Make sure power strips and surge suppressors are certified by an independent testing laboratory such as UL, CSA, or ETL. Keep in mind that not all power strips are surge suppressors, and not all devices can handle the same loads. Make sure you don't overload the circuit by plugging too many cords into the outlet.

Lighting

Check the wattage of all bulbs in lamps and light fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage for the lamp or fixture. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage than recommended; if you don't know the correct wattage, check with the manufacturer. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely—loose bulbs may overheat.

Halogen lamps operate at much higher temperatures than a standard incandescent light bulb. Never place a halogen lamp where it could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials. Be sure to turn the lamp off whenever you leave the room for an extended period of time and never use torchiere lamps in children's bedrooms or playrooms.

A number of such lamps and nightlights manufactured and sold today with cartoon-like designs may look like toys. Such lights can pose safety hazards when not used properly.

Use these safety tips to avoid electrical accidents:

- Only adults and older children should operate electrical lamps and other electrical equipment. Small children should never be allowed to operate portable lamps or nightlights.
- Children should not plug in or unplug portable lamps or nightlights. Instead, remind children to ask an adult for help.
- Parents should check to make sure the proper wattage bulb is being used in lights.
- Consumers should handle nightlights carefully to ensure that the plug blades are fully and correctly inserted into the receptacle. Use caution when handling nightlights, and avoid twisting or using pressure, which can cause components to break off and expose wiring. This can result in risks of electrical shock and burns.
- Consumers should make sure the nightlights or lamps they purchase are certified by recognized independent testing labs such as UL, CSA, or ETL.



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Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire. Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock. NEVER FORCE A PLUG INTO AN OUTLET IF IT DOESN'T FIT. Plugs should fit securely into outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children. Check for any hot or discolored outlet wall plates; that may indicate dangerous heat buildup at the connections.

Make sure all power cords and extension cords are in good condition, not frayed or cracked. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard, or another object. Do not place cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs or furniture. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords and electrical products are certified by an independent testing lab such as UL, CSA, or ETL, and are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being plugged into it.

Portable space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible material such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs. Don't use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised, and remember to turn off and unplug when not in use. Plug space heaters directly into the outlet; do not use an extension cord. Use a circuit with as little else on it as possible; space heaters can take a lot of power.

Portable electric generators are a good source of power for heat, light, refrigeration and cooking during electrical outages. Improperly installed or operated, generators can become deadly. ESFI recommends following these portable electric generator safety precautions to avoid dangerous situations.

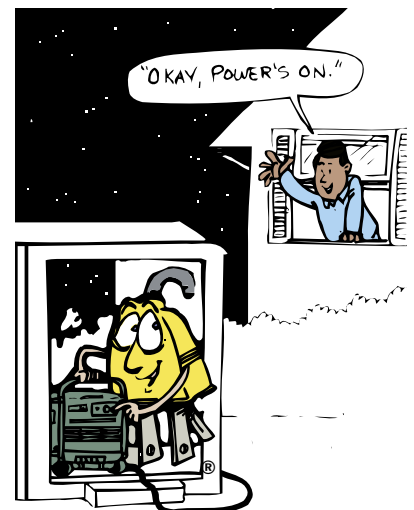
- NEVER operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including homes, garages and basements. Generators quickly produce high levels of carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, deadly gas.
- Keep the generator dry. To protect it from moisture, operate on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated in watts or amps at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your household wiring, as this can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs.
- Make sure the generator is properly grounded.
- Do not overload the generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Make sure fuel for the generator is stored safely, away from living areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. And before re-fueling, always turn the generator off and let it cool down.
- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation and maintenance.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times

Outlets and Plugs

Power Cords and Extension Cords

Portable Space Heaters

Portable Generators



Outdoor Safety

Electric-powered mowers and other tools should not be used in the rain, on wet grass, or in wet conditions. Inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers before each use for frayed power cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. If damaged, stop using it immediately. Repair it or replace it. Be sure you have GFCI protection on all outdoor outlets; portable GFCIs are available from most hardware and home improvement stores. Always use an extension cord marked for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your tools. Remember to unplug all portable power tools when not in use. When using ladders, watch out for overhead wires and power lines.

Lightning

Lightning strikes the U.S. 20 million times each year, often causing injury, death and property damage.

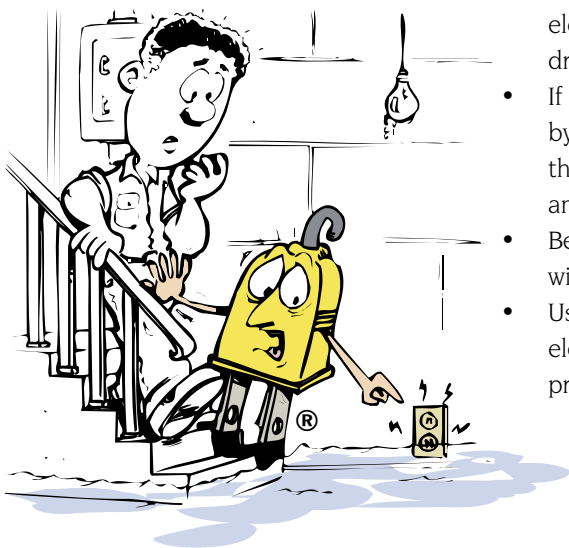
During an electrical storm, you're generally safer indoors. Do not use appliances (i.e. hairdryers, toasters, radios) or telephones (except in an emergency). Do not take a bath or shower. Keep batteries on hand for flashlights and radios in case of a power outage. And use surge protectors on electronic devices and appliances.

For areas with a high occurrence of lightning, consider installing a surge arrestor for whole house protection, or lightning protection system (lightning rods), which can direct lightning strikes safely into the ground.

Floods and Water

Whether due to severe weather or plumbing problems, water and electricity do not mix. The following safety measures can reduce accidents caused by electricity coming into contact with water.

- Don't leave plugged-in appliances where they might come into contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, NEVER reach in to pull it out—even if it's turned off. First turn off the power source at the panel board and then unplug the appliance. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repair person.
- Take care when stepping into a flooded basement, and be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may be energizing the water, a potential lethal trap.
- Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers.
- If electrical appliances have been under water, have them dried out and reconditioned by a qualified service repairman. Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances because the electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire.
- Before flipping a switch or plugging in an appliance, have an electrician check the house wiring and appliance to make sure it is safe to use.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.



- Electrical devices such as circuit breakers, fuses, GFCIs, receptacles, plugs and switches can malfunction when water and silt get inside. Discard them when they have been submerged.
- When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock.
- Do not allow the power cord connections to become wet. Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on the three-prong plug.



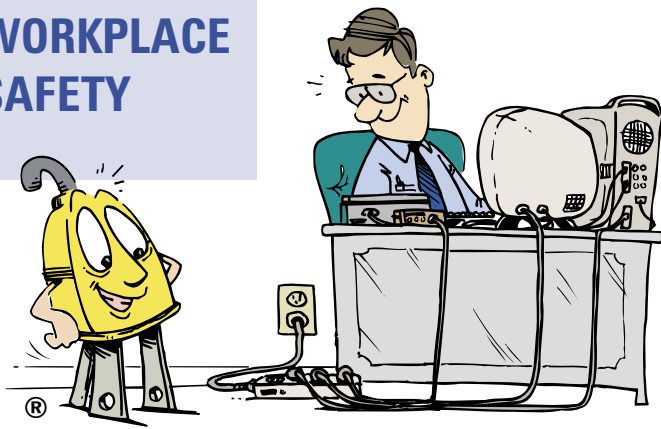
Power lines can be energized, even if they don't show signs of arcing or sparking. To stay safe, assume that all downed lines are energized power lines. Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines, since electricity can jump from a line to anyone who gets too close. Downed power lines pose additional dangers. The following tips can help you stay safe around downed power lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the chance for a human path of electric current and minimize the hazards of electric shock. Electricity can move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone-and it could do that through your body.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed power line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet or hands near water where a downed power line is located.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed power line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together to avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you reduce the risk of becoming part of the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffling away from the car is also important.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.

Power Lines

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.electrical-safety.org

WORKPLACE SAFETY



Adapt this list of reminders to your working environment. Be sure to consider company policies and local, state, and Federal codes before establishing a written electrical safety program. Following electrical safety tips can prevent work place deaths and injuries.

- Plan every job and think about what could go wrong.
- Use the right tools for the job.
- Use appropriate procedures, drawings, and other documents to do the job.
- Isolate equipment from energy sources.
- Identify the electric shock and arc flash, as well as other hazards that may be present.
- Minimize hazards by guarding or establishing approach limitations.
- Test every circuit and every conductor every time before you touch it.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as a last line of defense in case something goes wrong.
- Be sure you are properly trained and qualified for the job.
- Work on electrical equipment and conductors only when deenergized, unless procedures and safeguards have been established to ensure zero exposure for the worker and other people in the area.
- Lockout/tagout and ground (where appropriate) before working on equipment.
- Treat deenergized electrical equipment and conductors as energized until lockout/tagout, test, and ground procedures (where appropriate) are implemented.
- Use protective clothing and equipment and use insulated tools in areas where there are possible electrical hazards.
- Deenergize and visibly guard (where possible) whenever contact with uninsulated overhead power lines is possible.
- Check and double check safety regulations when a ladder or parts of any vehicle or mechanical equipment structure will be elevated near energized overhead power lines. Call your local electric utility for assistance. People standing on the ground may be particularly vulnerable to possible injury.

Cords, Equipment, and Tool Grounding

- Make sure all equipment and extension cords bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL, CSA, or ETL.
- Protect flexible cords and cables from physical damage. Check cords for cut, broken, or cracked insulation.
- Keep slack in flexible cords to prevent tension on electrical terminals.
- Make sure the insulating qualities of a splice are equal to or greater than the original cord.
- Extension cords are for temporary use. Install permanent wiring when use is no longer temporary.
- Verify that all three-wire tools and equipment are grounded.
- Water, electrical equipment, and power cords do not mix! Use GFCI protection in potentially wet or damp environments.
- Ground exposed parts of fixed equipment that could be energized.
- Use non-conductive tools whenever possible.
- Always double check the operation of your voltage testers by testing a live circuit.

Other Considerations

- Verify location of all buried or embedded electrical circuits before digging or cutting.
- Determine the reason that a fuse blew or circuit breaker tripped before replacing or resetting.
- Know where your overcurrent devices are (i.e. circuit breakers and fuses) so they can be easily and quickly reached in case of emergency.
- When replacing lamps and bulbs, verify that the replacement matches fixture requirements.

For more on work place safety, check additional organizations, including:

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) at <http://www.nfpa.org>

American National Standards Organization (ANSI) at <http://www.ansi.org>; and

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at <http://www.osha.gov>.



The message to young children is this...

Electricity's home is in the earth. When electricity is isolated from the ground, it will always look for the most direct path back to the earth. It can be through the air, a wire, a ladder, your body, or any other conductive material. Don't get in its way!

Making electrical safety fun and interesting for primary and secondary students is important. Young children can learn to respect electricity and spot potential electrical hazards anywhere they may be. University and college administrations can educate their students about electrical hazards and electrical safety, thus helping to save millions of dollars in property loss, and most important, the lives of students and faculty members.

ESFI offers several school safety programs and projects that can be implemented in your community right now. These include:

- The Mr. Plug Fun Books, coloring/activities for kids, pre-K and K-3rd grade editions
- "Oh No! Not More Rules!" college dorm safety brochure
- Radio PSAs for college students
- Home Electrical Safety Quiz Poster

All of these items are available for viewing, download and ordering from the ESFI website, www.electrical-safety.org. Other suggestions include:

- Conduct seminars and demonstrations on electricity and electrical safety for all age levels, in school assemblies and after-school clubs.
- Conduct contests in your schools and communities, giving awards and public recognition for the best electrical safety posters, inventions or ideas.
- Encourage youths to conduct a basic electrical safety check of their own home with family members.
- Enlist primary grade students as Electrical Safety Sleuths, "deputizing" each with a button or sticker and giving each a list of electrical hazards to identify and point out to an adult around the home and neighborhood.
- Contact local utility companies and electrical worker labor union locals for possible on site demonstrations of the hazards of electricity and electrical power lines.
- Teach children to look for the mark of independent testing labs such as UL, CSA, and ETL when using electrical items.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.electrical-safety.org

Now that you understand the facts about electrical safety, you can play an important role in educating your community on electricity's benefits and hazards. Here are some public awareness tools to make your job easier.

GETTING THE WORD OUT ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Public Service Announcements for Radio

15 seconds

#1—May is National Electrical Safety Month. It's a good time to look around your home and eliminate overloaded outlets, worn or damaged electrical cords, and appliances that spark. Be sure to test your GFCIs by just pushing the test button. You could save a life or your home. A message from [radio station name] and the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

#2—The Electrical Safety Foundation International reminds you that extension cords are for temporary use. Misuse of extension cords is an electrical safety hazard.

#3—The Electrical Safety Foundation International reminds you to protect your child or pet from an electrical shock. Place safety covers on unused receptacle outlets and extension cords.

#4—The Electrical Safety Foundation International reminds you that light bulbs should be the correct wattage for fixtures to prevent overheating and a possible fire.

30 seconds

#1—Electricity and toddlers don't mix. Help protect your child or grandchild from electrical shock by placing protective covers on all unused outlets within the child's reach. You can also install special devices that lock plugs into outlets so a child can't pull them out. And finally, please locate appliances so toddlers can't pull them down on themselves by grabbing the cord.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and [radio station name], along with the Electrical Safety Foundation International, urges you to protect your child by identifying and correcting the electrical hazards around your home.

#2—Guess what I'm describing. It's invisible, it's silent, it's odorless, and it's tasteless. It's powerful. It can be our greatest friend or a very dangerous enemy. Do you know yet?

Hi, this is [announcer], and I'm talking about electricity. May is National Electrical Safety Month and [radio station name] has teamed up with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to remind you that electricity deserves our care and respect. Don't become a victim of electrical shock or fire.

60 seconds

#1—Have you ever had a friend turn against you and become an enemy? It can really hurt. Electricity is a great friend, but it can hurt, too, if you don't treat it with respect.

Hello, this is [announcer] from [radio station name]. During May, we're helping to observe National Electrical Safety Month by reminding everyone about the four R's of electrical safety:

- Respect the power of electricity;
- Read and follow the operating instructions that come with every electrical product;
- Replace worn or frayed electrical cords; and
- Relocate appliance cords so they won't get walked on and children can't pull them.

Electricity can keep your home comfortable, light the path to your door, and cook your food. Or it can shock, electrocute or start a fire. Often, the choice is yours. Make electricity your friend.

This message comes to you from the Electrical Safety Foundation International and [radio station name] in the interest of helping to keep you electrically safe.

#2—Have you ever done an electrical safety check of your home? Have you made sure that your outlets are not overloaded? Are your extension cords in good shape? How about the plugs and cords on your appliances? Are you following the instructions that come with your electrical products? Are you testing your GFCIs by pushing the test button?

Hello, this is [announcer] of [radio station name] to let you know that May is National Electrical Safety Month. It's the perfect time to look around your house and teach your kids some of the basic rules of electrical safety. No one wants a shock and no one wants a fire—you play a big part in preventing accidents like these.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International has safety tips for the home, school, and workplace. Contact them at (703) 841-3229 or visit their website at www.electrical-safety.org.

This message is a public service announcement from the Electrical Safety Foundation International and [radio station name].



Michael G. Clendenin
Executive Director
(703) 841-3296

For Immediate Release:

May 1, 2005

**ESFI ENCOURAGES HOMEOWNERS
TO PLUG INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

(Arlington Va.)—According to statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), hundreds of people die or are injured annually, the result of thousands of electrical home fires. A great many of those are related to problems with old or damaged wiring and appliances, and at the outlets, power cords, extension cords and portable generators. To help reduce those numbers, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is encouraging consumers to “Plug Into Electrical Safety.”

According to the latest statistics from the CPSC, more than 143,700 electrical-related home structure fires accounted for an annual average of 510 deaths, nearly 5,320 injuries, and nearly \$1.6 billion in property damage. Each year, there are an estimated 180 accidental electrocutions related to consumer products. NFPA reports that as many as 15,000 fires in U.S. homes begin with fixed wiring, causing many of those deaths and injuries.

“The key to preventing potentially fatal, destructive and traumatic electrical fires, shock injuries and electrocution is awareness,” says ESFI Executive Director Michael G. Clendenin. “Before plugging into electricity, plug into electrical safety.”

Following are just some of the safety tips offered by the Foundation:

Wiring

- Electrical systems installed during the 1970s and earlier were not designed to handle the demand that we place on them today. To ensure the electrical safety of your home, have an electrical safety inspection performed by a licensed electrician.
- Use ESFI’s *Indoor Electrical Safety Check* booklet to make sure you’re following the tips for the safe use of electricity.

Power cords and extension cords

- Check that all electrical items, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA, or ETL.
- Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; unplug and safely store them after every use.
- Do not place power cords and extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs or furniture, and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet.
- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used.
- All electrical items and extension cords should be kept in good condition. If damage is discovered, take the item to an authorized repair center or cut the cord and dispose of it safely.

GFCIs and AFCIs

- Make sure your home includes ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which prevent accidental electrocution by shutting off the circuit if they sense a “leak” of current off the circuit, and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which help prevent fires by shutting off the circuit if they sense arcing where electricity has to jump a gap. Consider installing GFCIs and AFCIs on all circuits except those serving major appliances, which may cause nuisance tripping.
- Test your GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.

Outlets

- Have a qualified, licensed electrician inspect your outlets and electrical system.
- Plugs should fit fully and securely into outlets, but should not be forced.
- Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets to protect children.
- If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot or discolored by heat, shut off the circuit and have it professionally checked.
- Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips.

Founded in 1994 through a joint effort between Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is North America’s only non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home, school and workplace. ESFI is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by electrical manufacturers and distributors, independent testing laboratories, utilities, safety and consumer groups, and trade and labor associations. ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns and proactive media relations to help reduce property damage, personal injury and death due to electrical accidents. The Foundation does not engage in code or standard writing or lobbying and does not solicit individuals.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation’s web site at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

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1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 1847
Rosslyn, VA 22209

For Immediate Release:
May 1, 2005

Michael G. Clendenin
Executive Director
(703) 841-3296

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

(Arlington, Va.)—According to the latest statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an annual average of more than 140,000 electrical-related home structure fires account for more than 500 deaths, more than 5,300 injuries, and nearly \$1.6 billion in property damage. To help prevent more electrical-related deaths, injuries and property damage, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors and promotes May as National Electrical Safety Month.

The electrical hazard is prevalent on the job as well. Statistics from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), indicate that nearly 300 people are electrocuted on the job annually. Additionally, millions of dollars are lost in corporate and personal productivity along with the tremendous costs associated with health insurance and workers compensation claims and litigation.

"Technology can only do so much to keep us safe," said ESFI Executive Director Michael G. Clendenin. "The key element to electrical safety is awareness. If people are aware of the hazards present around them at home, at work, at school and at play, and of the many simple ways they can keep safe, those statistics can be dramatically reduced."

Visit the ESFI's web site at www.electrical-safety.org or contact the Foundation at 703-841-3229 to receive a free promotional kit to help you establish an electrical safety campaign for May or any time of year. "After all," said Clendenin, "electrical safety is 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Founded in 1994 through a joint effort between Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is North America's only non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home, school and workplace. ESFI is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by electrical manufacturers and distributors, independent testing laboratories, utilities, safety and consumer groups, and trade and labor associations. ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns and proactive media relations to help reduce property damage, personal injury and death due to electrical accidents. The Foundation does not engage in code or standard writing or lobbying and does not solicit individuals.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation's web site at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

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SAMPLE MAYORAL/GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION COVER LETTER

Dear Mayor/Governor:

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 140,000 electrical home structure fires claiming more than 500 lives, injuring more than 5,300, and causing nearly \$1.6 billion in property damage occur each year. In addition, statistics from CPSC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) show that each year approximately 180 people are electrocuted in the home and nearly 300 electrocuted on the job. Millions of dollars are lost in corporate and personal productivity and assets because of related insurance and workers compensation claims and litigation.

As part of a nationwide effort to reduce these accidents, [name of your organization] has joined with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) in a public education drive to raise awareness about electrical safety.

In May, ESFI kicks off *National Electrical Safety Month* to remind citizens of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school and play, and of the simple steps we can take to avoid the personal tragedy behind the statistics. Steps like replacing old, worn or frayed electrical cords and extension cords, testing smoke detectors and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) monthly and after every major electrical storm, and performing electrical safety audits and creating circuit maps in our homes, will save lives and prevent devastation, injuries, and property damage.

[Your organization] is proud to be an integral part of moving this important initiative forward, promoting a healthy respect for electricity and the safe use of electrical products.

Your Electrical Safety Month Proclamation will greatly enhance public awareness and participation. Please join us in this important effort.

Respectfully,

Enclosure

SAMPLE MAYORAL/GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

- Whereas,** hundreds of people die and thousands are injured each year in electrical accidents;
- Whereas,** there are, on average, 500 civilian deaths related to electrical home structure fires;
- Whereas,** nearly three people are electrocuted in the home and five more in the workplace each week;
- Whereas,** property damage due to home fires caused by electrical distribution, appliances and equipment, and heating and air conditioning systems amounts to nearly \$1.6 billion annually;
- Whereas,** following basic electrical safety precautions can help prevent injury or death to thousands of people each year;
- Whereas,** citizens are encouraged to check their home and workplace for possible electrical hazards to help protect lives and property;
- Whereas,** citizens are encouraged to test their smoke detectors and ground fault circuit interrupters monthly and after every major electrical storm;
- Whereas,** the efforts of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) promote and educate the public about the importance of respecting electricity and practicing electrical safety in the home, school and workplace; and
- Whereas,** [your organization] is actively helping to move this effort forward in order to reduce the number of electrical injuries and deaths from electrical hazards;

Now, therefore, I [Mayor/Governor's name], [Mayor/Governor] of [city/town/state/province], do hereby proclaim May as Electrical Safety Month. This month observes the importance of establishing and practicing electrical safety habits in the home, school and workplace to decrease electrical hazards, injuries, and property damage, and to prevent deaths.

I call upon the people of this [city/town/state/province] to participate in Electrical Safety Month activities and to conduct an electrical safety check of their home, school and workplace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this [number] day of [month, year].

May is National Electrical Safety Month, but electrical safety is an issue that should stay with us year round. One way to keep the message alive is to communicate with your employees and customers through bill and paycheck stuffers. Below are some samples that can be copied into your organization's format and used any time of year.

SAMPLE BILL/PAYCHECK STUFFERS

Plug Into Electrical Safety—Outlet Safety Tips

Many deaths and injuries could be prevented by taking steps to remove hazards associated with aging wiring, misuse of surge suppressors and electrocutions from wiring systems and large appliances. To help reduce those numbers, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is encouraging consumers to "Plug Into Electrical Safety."

- Be alert for hazards of old wiring. Flickering or dimming lights can be signs of electrical wiring problems. Have a licensed electrical inspector check your electrical system.
- Make sure power strips and surge suppressors are designed to handle the loads for their intended use. Avoid overloading circuits by plugging too many items into the same outlet.
- Make certain that all appliances and equipment are approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as UL, CSA, or ETL.
- Use appliances and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace damaged electrical equipment or have it repaired at an authorized repair center.

For these and other electrical safety tips, visit ESFI on the web at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

Courtesy of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)

Plug Into Electrical Safety—Power Cord and Extension Cord Safety Tips

According to a recent estimate, approximately three people die each day in residential electrical-related incidences in the home. A great many of those are related to problems at the outlets, power cords and extension cords. To help reduce those numbers, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is encouraging consumers to "Plug Into Electrical Safety" with the following safety tips:

- Check that all electrical items, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA, and ETL.
- Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; unplug and safely store them after every use.
- Do not place power cords and extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs or furniture, and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet.
- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used.
- All electrical items and extension cords should be kept in good condition. If damage is discovered, take the item to an authorized repair center or cut the cord and dispose of it safely.

For these and other electrical safety tips, visit ESFI on the web at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

Courtesy of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)

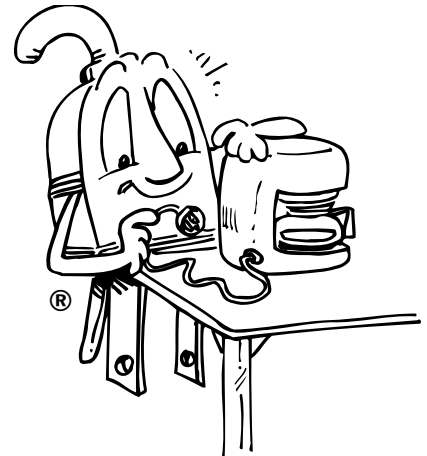
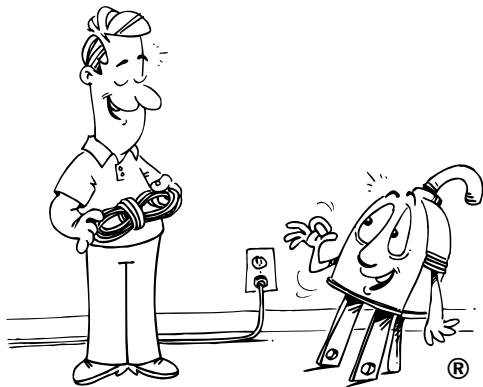
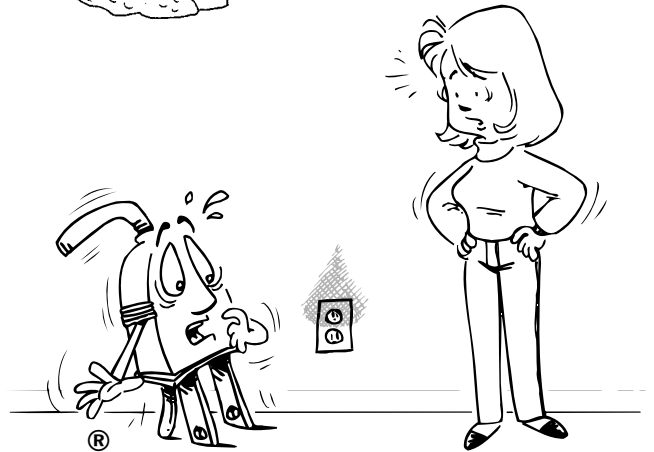
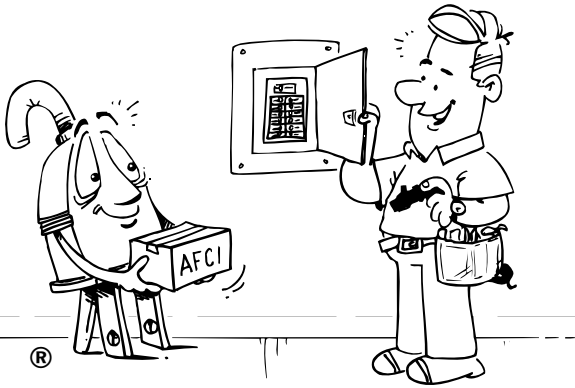
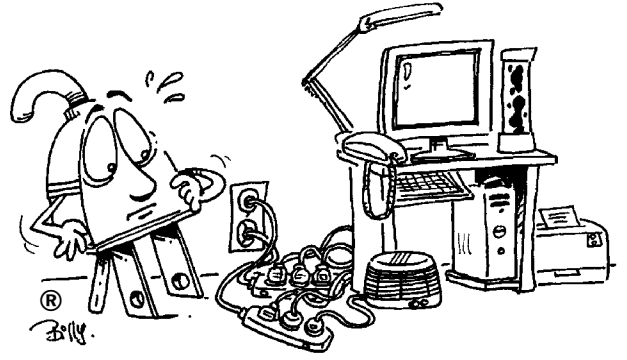
Plug Into Electrical Safety—GFCIs and AFCIs

According to a recent estimate, approximately three people die each day in residential electrical-related incidences in the home. A great many of those are related to problems at the outlets, power cords and extension cords. To help reduce those numbers, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is encouraging consumers to "Plug Into Electrical Safety" with the following safety tips:

- Make sure your home includes ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which prevent accidental electrocution by shutting off the circuit if they sense a "leak" of current off the circuit, and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which help prevent fires by shutting off the circuit if they sense arcing where electricity has to jump a gap. Consider installing GFCIs and AFCIs on all circuits except those serving major appliances, which may cause nuisance tripping.
- Test your GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.

For these and other electrical safety tips, visit ESFI on the web at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

Courtesy of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)



ORDER FORM



I'd like to order the following materials:

QUANTITY	TITLE	UNIT PRICE LESS THAN 100 COPIES	UNIT COST 100 COPIES OR MORE	TOTAL
	Indoor Electrical Safety Check Booklet (1st book free)	\$.50	\$.35	
	Spanish Indoor Electrical Safety Check Booklet (1st book free)	\$.50	\$.35	
	Outdoor Electrical Safety Check Booklet (1st book free)	\$.50	\$.35	
	Spanish Outdoor Electrical Safety Check Booklet (1st book free)	\$.50	\$.35	
	Wired for Safety Video—CD-ROM (includes 1 booklet)	\$5.00	\$5.00	
	Wired for Safety Video—VHS (includes 1 booklet)	\$5.00	\$5.00	
	Mr. Plug Fun Book—PreK (1st book free)	\$1.00	\$.50	
	Mr. Plug Fun Book—K-3rd grade (1st book free)	\$1.00	\$.50	
	Spanish Mr. Plug Fun Book—PreK (1st book free)	\$1.00	\$.50	
	Spanish Mr. Plug Fun Book—K-3rd grade (1st book free)	\$1.00	\$.50	
	"Oh No! Not More Rules!" College Dorm Brochure	\$.50	\$.35	
	"Look Up! Look Down! Look Out!" Workplace Power Line Safety brochure (1st book free)	\$.50	\$.30	
	GFCI Poster 17" X 22"	Free	Free	
	GFCI Flyer 8.5" X 11"	Free	Free	
	May is Electrical Safety Month Kit (1st copy free)	\$1.50	\$.75	
	Electrical Safety Tips Bookmarks (lots of 25)	\$4.50	\$4.50	
	Home Electrical Safety Quiz poster	Free	Free	
SUBTOTAL				
SHIPPING/ HANDLING				
TOTAL				

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Consumer Columns

Keep your community up-to-date on electrical safety throughout the year by regularly checking www.electricalsafety.org. Click on "Home Electrical Safety Tips" and scroll to the bottom of the page for informative consumer columns like these...

- Generate Safety During Outages
- Nightlights and Lamps Are Not Toys!
- Stay Safe During Changing Seasons
- Flood Victims: Beware Electrical Dangers
- AFCIs are electrical safety devices
- Halogen Floor Lamps—A Safety Reminder
- Winter Safety Tips
- Extending Electrical Safety
- Post-Holiday Safety
- Holiday Safety Tips
- An Electrical Lifesaver
- Stay Safe Around Electrical Equipment
- Trees and Power Lines: A Dangerous Duo
- Don't Let Electrical Work Become a Shock
- Safe Living Through Safe Wiring
- News About Appliances
- Teaching Children About Electricity
- Summer Electrical Safety
- Home Office Safety
- Are You Warming Up With Space Heaters
- Temporary Means Temporary
- Sending Students off to School Safely
- Lightning—Learn to Protect Yourself
- Selecting an Electrical Contractor
- Outdoor Safety
- GFCI—Helps Save Lives
- Home Safety Checklist
- Electrical Safety for Kids

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We wish you much success with your *May is Electrical Safety Month* campaign! We hope you'll build on that public awareness effort throughout the year, by focusing efforts on seasonal issues that are so important to electrical safety.

Here are a few ideas to keep electrical safety in the spotlight:

SPRING

- ❑ Focus on the proper preparation, use and maintenance of power tools, such as electric sanders, saws and drills, that are coming out of wintertime storage. Remind everyone to be careful of overhead power lines when carrying ladders around the home, and buried power lines when doing the landscaping. Remind children not to play around neighborhood utility equipment such as switchgear and transformers.

SUMMER

- ❑ Focus on the proper preparation, use and maintenance of fans, air conditioners, electric grills, electric lawn mowers and tools, and extension cords rated for outdoor use. Also stress lightning safety and testing GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.

FALL

- ❑ Focus on checking and repairing home wiring, overhead power line awareness when cleaning gutters and trimming trees, and proper use of space heaters and electric blankets.

WINTER

- ❑ Focus on proper use of space heaters and electric blankets, and the proper preparation, use and maintenance of holiday lights.

To stay current on electrical safety information, check our web site regularly at www.electrical-safety.org or contact us at:

1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 1847

Rosslyn, VA 22209

Telephone: 703-841-3229

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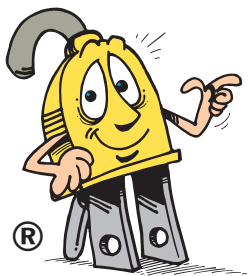
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ABOUT ESFI

The Electrical Safety Foundation International is a voluntary participation, not-for-profit organization, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) educational organization. The Foundation was created in 1994 as the National Electrical Safety Foundation and enjoys the support of, and leadership from, a diverse number of corporations, organizations, and consumer representatives.

Our mission is to promote public awareness of electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace; sponsor the month of May as National Electrical Safety Month each year; and serve as a resource for electrical safety information for the public and news media.

Corporate and organizational grants and donations are used to support the Foundation's annual operations and to build an endowment to perpetuate fulfillment of our mission.

Working together through the Electrical Safety Foundation International, our entire community of manufacturers, independent testing laboratories, utilities, contractors, work-force organizations, and consumer groups can advance the cause of electrical safety.

1300 N. 17th St., Suite 1847

Rosslyn, VA 22209

Phone: 703-841-3229

Fax: 703-841-3329

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