

## MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has designated the month of May as National Electrical Safety Month. The purpose of this month is to bring attention to the dangers of electricity; create awareness and prevent accidents, injuries, shocks, electrocutions, and fires.

There were 136 fatalities, 2,210 nonfatal injuries, and 1,330 shocks from electrical incidents in 2017. Home electrical fires account for 440 deaths, 1250 injuries, and 1.3 billion dollars in property damage in 2018.

The improper use of extension cords is a leading cause of fires in homes and at work. Using extension cords in place of permanent building wiring, running cords under carpets, not inspecting cords for insulation damage, and missing ground prongs are all dangerous conditions. In all of the above situations, the cords need to be removed from service.

Power strips are designed for small electrical loads including phone chargers, pencil sharpeners, desk lamps, computer monitors, etc. One power strip should never be plugged into another power strip, also known as daisy chaining.



Large appliances and equipment including printers, copy machines, shredders, coffee pots, microwaves, refrigerators, portable heaters, etc. should always be plugged directly into a receptacle and never into a power strip.

Home electrical systems need to be inspected and maintained. If there are lights flickering, non-functioning receptacles, sparks coming from devices, or upgrades need to be performed, contact a Licensed Electrical Contractor.

Electrical safety is everyone's responsibility. It should be a culture, part of your daily routine.

For more information, go to <https://www.esfi.org/>.

Respectfully Submitted,

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