May is National Electrical Safety Month

Dear Family,

Using electricity is something we take for granted, but using it safely is very important. An estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in U.S. homes each year. Most of these can be avoided by taking simple safety precautions.

This May, please don't take electrical safety for granted. Use this information from ESFI to help make your home safe from electrical dangers.

Taking a few small steps can help make a big impact for your family's safety.

Sincerely,
ESFI



Keep Your Family Safe

Make sure your children know these important electrical- and fire-safety tips:

- Never play with electrical cords, light switches, or outlets.
- Never leave a child unsupervised while cooking or when a stove is within reach.
- Don't allow children to play with electrical toys near water and make sure they know water and electricity do not mix!
- Keep liquids and drinks away from electronics such as computers, video games, and TVs as liquids could spill and cause shock or fire.
- Do not use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised and make sure the heater is at least three feet from any combustible.
- Never rest anything, like clothing or toys, on top of a lamp. Placing flammables near lightbulbs is a fire hazard.

About ESFI

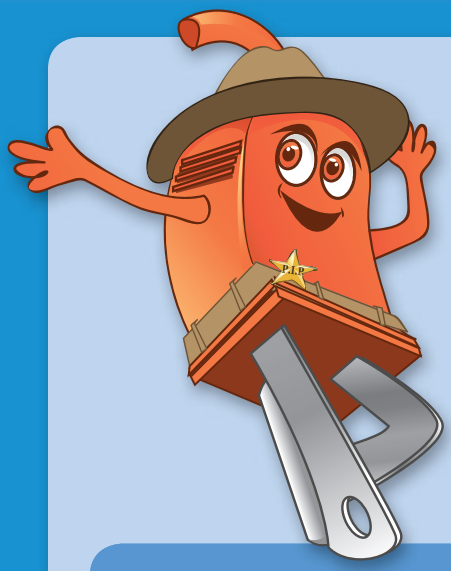
The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety at home and in the workplace.

Our mission is to reduce the number of injuries, fatalities, and fires caused by electrical accidents each year.

To learn more, please visit our Web site: www.esfi.org

Turn the page for home-safety reminders.

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Home-Safety Reminders

Use this sheet to introduce your kids to the safety features of your home. Then plan a family fire drill so the whole family knows what to do in case of a fire. Go to www.esfi.org for a detailed fire-safety checklist and more home-safety information.

Smoke Alarms

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside each bedroom.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button on the alarm.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, the whole family should follow your escape plan and meet at your outside meeting place.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

- Have working CO alarms on every level of your home and inside each bedroom.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If the CO alarm sounds, the whole family should follow your escape plan and meet at your outside meeting place.

Fire Extinguishers

- Only use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire or contain it until the fire department arrives. Fires can spread quickly, so the main priority should be getting everyone out safely.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher before a fire breaks out.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit so you can make an easy escape if the fire gets out of control. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Have an Escape Plan

- Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two ways out of each room in your home.
- Choose an outside meeting place where everyone will go in case the smoke or CO alarm sounds.

Practice Your Escape Plan

- Hold a family fire drill once a month. Be sure everyone knows what to do in case of a fire.

