

# Electrical Hazards



Community Fire Safety Operational Guide

Participant Guideline

## Types of Electrical Hazards Related to Fires

According to the US Fire Administration, electrical fires claim almost 500 American lives each year and injure five times that number. Some electrical hazards include:

- Frayed electrical cords
- Improperly sized outlets and circuits
- Home appliances in need of repair
- Overloaded electrical cords or outlets
- Dryers needing cleaning and repairs
- Seasonal decorations



## Five Quick Tips

- 1.** Never overload an electrical outlet.
- 2.** Use only grounded cords and appliances.
- 3.** If light switches are hot to the touch and the lights flicker, have them checked by a professional.
- 4.** Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring for damage.
- 5.** Never use electrical appliances around water.

## Electrical Hazard Information

Electrical problems account for over 65,000 fires a year. Most of these problems could have been prevented. In case of an electrical emergency:

- Call 9-1-1.
- Know where to shut off the main power in case an electrical emergency occurs.
- If an appliance is smoking or arching, unplug it if it can be done safely.
- Never touch or try to move an energized bare wire or energized appliance.
- Never insert or use a metal tool in an electrical appliance while energized.

## Electrical Information

- When remodeling or building follow the National Electrical Code and install adequate or extra outlets.
- Make sure you have ground fault receptacles in the kitchen, bathrooms, and outside areas.
- Make sure when using extension cords that the cord is rated to handle the electrical load you are trying to use.
- Following manufacturers' instructions for seasonal lighting.

**Never purchase an electrical appliance that does not have the FM or UL listing label.**

**"Smoke Detectors and Exit Drills in the Home...A Plan You Can Live With"**