



# Shocking!

## NEVER TAKE ELECTRICITY FOR GRANTED



According to the National Fire Protection Association, the largest share of electrical fires originate from lamps, light fixtures, bulbs, extension cords and fixed wiring.

### These items deserve your attention:

- ◆ Old wiring is a MAJOR CAUSE OF FIRES. Upgrade fuses to circuit breakers and knob and tube to modern wiring.
- ◆ Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- ◆ Major appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into the wall. Never use an extension cord.
- ◆ Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage of the lamp or light fixture.
- ◆ Electrical cords with frayed or exposed wires need to be discarded or replaced.
- ◆ Never run extension cords under carpets or across walkways. They are intended for temporary use only.
- ◆ Only plug one heat-producing appliance (like a coffee-maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into an outlet at a time. Overuse can overheat. Never use an extension cord for these appliances.
- ◆ Consider having an electrician install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) in your home. They automatically shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs.

### IF FIRE OCCURS:

- Call the fire department and shut off the main breakers to the house if possible
- If the fire is small, smother flames with baking soda or a Class C / ABC fire extinguisher (only)
- Get out of the house and stay out

## WARNING SIGNS

### Re-occurring issues with tripping circuit breakers or blowing fuses.

*Find the cause and if necessary call a qualified electrician.*

### A shock or tingling sensation when you touch an electrical appliance.

*Unplug the appliance and discontinue use.*

### Discolored or warm wall outlets or sparks from a light switch or outlet.

*Avoid using the switch or outlet, turn off the circuit breaker and call a qualified electrician.*

### Flickering or dimming lights.

*There might be a short in the wiring, arcing or an overload of your electrical system. Call a qualified electrician.*

