

# Electrical System

## Fuse or circuit breaker

The fundamental safety problem with electricity is the overloading of wires, extension cords, circuits or fuses. Hazards are best left to licensed electrical professionals with special knowledge and training.

- Make sure combined amperage of appliances does not exceed capacity of circuit breaker or fuse.
- Inspect and test the breaker panel periodically.
- If a tripping condition persists or if there is discoloration or overheating, call a licensed electrician.

## Misuse, overuse of extension cords; faulty or damaged extension or power cords.

- Reposition appliances to minimize the need for extension cords.
- Only use properly rated extension cords.
- Reposition appliances to minimize the need for extension cords.
- Only use properly rated extension cords.
- If a cord is hot to touch, unplug it immediately.
- Never run an extension cord under a rug.
- Never use an extension cord or appliance whose cord is worn frayed or damaged.

## Portable Electric Space Heater

- Move the heater a safe distance (minimum 3 feet) from upholstered furniture, drapes, curtains, bedding or other combustible materials.
- If the manufacturer warns against using extension cords, remove the cord.
- Turn off and unplug heater before going to bed or leaving the house.

## Cooking

Over twenty-five percent of residential fires start in the kitchen. A stove introduces open flame or intense heat into your family's living space.

- Remove flammable liquids (ex. Solvents or cleaners) or combustible items (ex. Towels, pot holders, curtains) from above or near the stove.
- Do not use the stove as a counter space.
- Remove candy, cookies or other items attractive to children from above or near the stove.
- Never leave a stove unattended.
- Never use the stove burners or oven as supplemental room heating.

- Never leave a stove or other heat producing appliance on when you are away from home.
- Keep a pot lid nearby to smother grease or oil flare-ups. Then turn off the burner.

## **Candles**

- Extinguish or remove candles near an open window or in an area subject to drafts.
- Move candles a safe distance away from upholstered furniture, drapes or other combustibles.
- Secure candles in proper holders in safe location away from traffic areas.

## **Cigarette Lighters, Matches and Smoking**

- Keep lighters and matches in a childproof location.
- Teach children that lighters are tools not toys.
- After parties, check behind seat cushions and under furniture for ashes or under extinguished cigarettes.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Make sure all smoking materials are extinguished before emptying ashtrays.

## **Flammable Liquids and Combustible Debris**

- Improper storage of flammable liquids (ex. Gasoline, alcohol, paint thinner, turpentine, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid) or oil or greasy rags
- Accumulation of combustible debris or rubbish (ex. old newspapers) near house or near sources of heat or ignition.
- Remove and relocate flammable liquids away from the sources of ignition; store in properly labeled, tightly sealed metal containers out of reach of children. If possible, store outside of the house.
- Remove paint rags and oily cleaning rags from the house.
- Remove and relocate combustible debris a safe distance away from the house. Properly dispose of material as soon as possible.
- Relocate common combustibles stored near a hot water heater, furnace or other sources of heat or flame.

## **Smoke Detectors Save Lives**

**Here are some actions you can take to be “Safe at Home”.**

- Properly install, according to the manufacturer’s instructions, at least one audible smoke detector on every floor in the house near and in bedrooms.
- Test detectors monthly.
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions to clean the detector. Accumulated dust or grease may cause malfunction.
- Change the batteries twice a year when you change your clock for Daylight Savings Time.
- Develop a home escape plan and have periodic escape drills involving all the members of the family, including small children.
- Include a safety meeting place outside of the house to check that everyone got out safely.
- Post the fire department number on or near every telephone.
- If a fire occurs, get out of the house.
- Once out of the house, do not go back inside. Call the fire department from the neighbor’s house.