

District Injury, Accident & Liability Prevention Tips

Preventing Electrical Fires

Most of us think of electrical safety as, how do I prevent myself from being electrocuted, and that is critically important. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in roughly 70% of home fires. Many of these fires resulted in deaths. We all need to reconsider the potential cost of electrical fires.

Signs that you may have a problem that needs a qualified professional electrician:

- Frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers
- Discolored or warm wall outlets or electrical appliances
- Flickering or dimming lights
- A tingling feeling when you touch an appliance
- Sparks coming from an outlet

If you are experiencing one or more of these warning signs, then you should have them checked immediately by a qualified electrician. If you need additional assistance, have questions or simply want a walk through to look for these things, contact the risk management department riskmanagement@sdao.com or your local agent.

Here are some tips to keep in mind that will reduce the chance of having an electrical fire:

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician
- Heat producing appliances should have their own wall outlet
- Major appliances should be plugged directly into the wall outlet and not into an extension cord or power strip
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) must be installed around water or damp locations and be tested once a month
- Extension cords should be temporary, meaning they are unplugged at the end of the day. Never run them under a carpet or through a doorway.
- Power strips are plugged directly into the wall outlets, no daisy chain
- Use the correct lightbulb wattage in lamps

