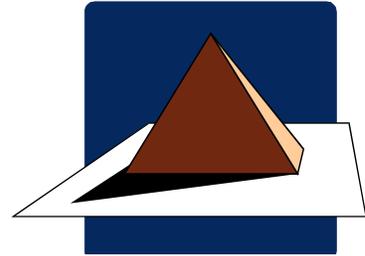


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“Service Measured To The Standard”

~ HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY ~

Do you apply the same safety awareness and attitudes on the job that you would use at home? At work, we are required to lockout equipment before commencing repairs; yet, at home, do we take the time to unplug the garbage disposal before sticking our hands into it? We inspect a ladder or read a scaffold tag before climbing; yet, do we repair a cracked step on our home ladder before painting the ceiling? With seasonal outdoor decorating, do we give the cords and plugs the same detailed inspection for potential failures as at work? It will not be OSHA that we answer to for an accident at the home, but our loved ones.

Regarding home safety, the *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission** reported that there are about 40,000 residential fires annually due to electrical wiring failures. These incidents claim more than 350 lives and result in thousands of injuries from electrical shocks and burns. Improper use of electric cords and plugs account for 7,100 annual fires. More importantly, annually about 115 individuals die as the result of cord and plug fires. Lamps and light fixtures were involved in about 8,900 fires with about 60 deaths. Moreover, about 3,600 individuals, someone's family member, were treated for injuries associated with extension cords.

* U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 12/99

A simple home audit can reduce the potential for your family from becoming a statistic.

- ▶ Inspect cords and plugs for burnt, broken, or crushed insulation.
- ▶ Inspect home-repaired plugs for loose wire termination screws or less than minimal wire wrapped around screws.
- ▶ Inspect three-pronged plugs for missing third (ground) prong for all non-double insulated tools and equipment and their extension cords.
- ▶ Inspect and test GCFI prior to using and do not use electrical equipment while standing in water.
- ▶ Relocate extension cords and lamp cords from underneath rugs.
- ▶ Do not operate home receptacles or extension cords at more than 90% of their current rating.
- ▶ Do not operate breakers or fuses at more than 90% of their current rating.
- ▶ Investigate the reason that breakers trip and fuses blow prior to resetting the circuit.
- ▶ Consider using larger gauged wire in the extension cords when two or more lengths of cords are required to reach the job.
- ▶ Do not use an extension cord as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- ▶ Finally, teach your family proper use of home electrical equipment.

Disclaimer

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