

# May – National Electrical Safety Month

May 14, 2021

We depend on electricity daily to power our homes, offices, manufacturing plants, construction sites, etc. Though often we underestimate its capability of causing serious injury. Even household current (120 volts) can stop our heart. So, it is important to always be safe around electrical equipment, appliances and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and it is the perfect time to raise awareness on some of the typical electrical hazards and how to avoid them. The goal is to reduce and eliminate the potential for electrical fires, shock and explosions thereby preventing fatalities, injuries and property loss.



We underestimate electricity's capability of causing serious injury.

Listed below are a few safety tips:

Indoors:

1. Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and do not overload electric outlets.
2. Remember extension cords are intended to be temporary; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.
3. Do not run cords under carpets or rugs and do not tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
4. Keep electric appliances and tools away from water. Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
5. Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
6. Keep your home's electrical system in good repair and contact a licensed electrical contractor if you have flickering lights, sparks, non-functioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

Outdoors:

1. Never touch downed power lines!
2. Always call your local utility or 911 if you see lines down.
3. Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
4. Know what is below before you dig. At least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project, call 811, the National One Call Center, to have underground utility lines, pipes, and cables marked for free.
5. Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.

For more information on controlling electrical hazards in the workplace, please access this link:  
<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/osha3075.pdf>