



## *What is electrical safety?*

Did you know that May is National Electrical Safety Month? Yes! We have a whole month devoted to raising awareness about electrical safety. That's good, right? Hmm, that may be a tough question to answer and here is why.

It IS good we take the time to learn MORE about electrical safety and we are reminded about this topic every year in May. Yet, it is only "good" if we do something.

- 1) **Read the material.** Many sources provide safety messages about electrical safety and the only way to learn is to read the material provided. We see messages on our cooperative's website, read about it in the newsletters, learn more on social media, etc. We also have safety messages on our electrical tools, appliances, and devices. Some common messages we read are stated below. Make it a point to be "safety smart" when it comes to electricity – read the materials!
  - Look up for overhead power lines
  - Call 811 before you dig
  - Do not use this device near flammable items.
- 2) **Take action.** Once we are "safety smart" then we need to do something with this knowledge. It won't help us if it just sits in our brain. So, being safe has two parts – knowing what is safe or unsafe and then putting that knowledge into motion. Heed the warnings on electrical devices and follow the instructions. And, if you need help to remember, use sticky notes or get stickers. The point is to REMEMBER your actions have consequences and taking the time to be safe will always pay off in the long run.
- 3) **Tell others what you learn.** So, you have knowledge about electrical safety, you practice electrical safety, but what about those people around you? Take the time to share this information with your family, friends, co-workers, and it probably wouldn't hurt to share it with your enemies, too. We want to protect those people around us, too, and would never want something bad to happen to them. One effective way to teach is to simply be a role model. Practice what you tell people and show them how to be "safety smart". Our actions are often more powerful than our words.
- 4) **Be electrically safe all year long.** I like that we can take one month and focus on a specific topic for there are many topics to share when it comes to safety. Yet, it can't mean we forget about it the other eleven months of the year. Being "safety smart" and practicing safety requires being 100% commitment. One shortcut or one miss-step could result in a terrible accident.
  - Never take a short cut.
  - Discuss a job before you do with those around you.
  - Follow safety instructions and rules.
  - Wear your personal protective equipment.
  - Always ask yourself what COULD go wrong and then take measures to prevent it.
  - Stop and look for overhead power lines and know where underground lines are located.

Safety takes a commitment, a personal action for you to pause and think about safety and then to move forward and act safely.

For information on electrical safety, check out this website – [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org). I have also attached their 2021 message for National Electrical Safety Month.



# CONNECTED to SAFETY

## Making your Home Safe and Efficient

Whether you're **working** from home, **learning** from home, or just **spending more time** at home, it is important to make sure your home is electrically safe, secure, and efficient. Learn how the **internet of things** and **smart devices** can improve your quality of life and **make your home safer**.

### Home Energy Use



AIR CONDITIONING

17%



SPACE HEATING

15%



WATER HEATING

14%

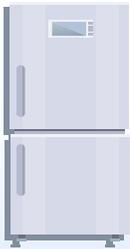


LIGHTING

10%

AVERAGE YEARLY ENERGY USE BY ITEM \*source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2015 Residential Energy Consumption Survey

### Energy Efficiency Through Smart Devices



Smart refrigerators to **optimize** temperature



Optimize wash/dry times for **lowest** energy costs



Automated HVAC controls



Automated lighting



Remote / automated outlet controls

### Prepare your Home for Safe and Efficient Energy Use



Use a **smart plug** or **power strip** to turn off power when devices are not in use



**LED light bulbs** last longer than traditional bulbs and use 25-80% less energy



Heat only the area you're in with **energy efficient** space heaters



Utilize **home automation** to control HVAC and lighting systems while not at home



Have an electrician **inspect your electrical system** every 10 years to avoid overloads

### Home Electrical Safety Devices



**AFCI breakers** and outlets protect against arc-faults which could lead to fires



**Grounded outlets** protect against electric shocks



**GFCI outlets** and breakers are required where water and electricity may come in contact and protect against ground-faults



**Surge protectors** protect against damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment

Please **share** this **free** resource to save lives