

# Electrical Safety for You and Your Family

*We want you and your family to play it smart around electricity. Here you'll find tips pertaining to electrical safety that will help you stay safe.*

**Don't ever touch or go near a fallen wire,** even if you think there is no electricity. Don't touch anything (like a car, etc.) that the wire touches. Call the utility company right away. Keep curious children and pets away. Electricity can pass through objects, people and animals to reach the ground - injuring or killing you.

**Never allow children to fly kites or a remote control plane near power lines.** Choose an open place. If a kite gets caught in a power line, Leave it there and ask the utility company to get it down.

**If your children like to climb trees,** check first to make sure there are no power lines going through the tree. Trees contain enough moisture to conduct electricity and touching a limb that's in contact with a power line could injure you.

**When carrying tall objects such as poles or ladders** - look up! Be cautious with swimming pool tools, long boards, metal pipes and ladders. Watch out for electric wires running overhead. Hitting a power line with a pole could allow dangerous current to pass through the pole and throw you to the ground.

**Never try to fix an appliance by inserting a metal object into it without unplugging it first.** Metal conducts electricity very well and will shock you.

**Don't overload a socket or plug with too many plug-ins or with several high wattage appliances.** Overloaded circuits can overheat and cause a fire. Find an empty socket or have more outlets installed by an electrician.

**If you see smoke or fire coming from wires,** electric motors or appliances, disconnect the power source and call the fire department.

**Never throw water on an electrical fire.** Electricity can pass through the water (an excellent conductor) to shock you.

**Never use any electric appliance in the tub or shower or touch any cord or appliance with wet hands.** Electricity can pass through you to the grounded plumbing fixtures in your home.

**If you see worn wires, sparks or smoke from an appliance, don't touch it** - the appliance is damaged. There could be exposed wires or short circuits that could shock you. Disconnect the power source by tripping a breaker or fuse.

**Don't touch a person who is being shocked.** The current can pass through them and shock you, too. Disconnect the power source inside before touching the person. Call 911 and the power company right away.



*The Heart of Energy*<sup>SM</sup>

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**Review this information with your family to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of an electrical emergency.**