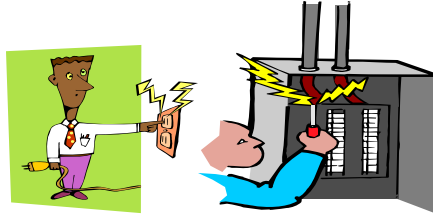




ELECTRICAL SAFETY



Electrical equipment (i.e., wiring, switches, outlets, cords and plugs, fuse and circuit breaker boxes, lighting fixtures and lamps) was the third leading cause of home fires and the second leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.

Facts and Figures

- From 1999-2003, electrical distribution and lighting equipment were involved in an estimated 19,100 reported home structure fires per year. These fires resulted in 140 civilian deaths, 610 civilian injuries and an estimated \$349 million in direct property damage per year.
- The statistics below are based on annual averages from 1999-2003:
 - Ground fault or shot circuit was the leading cause of electrical distribution fires.
 - Extension cord fires outnumbered fires beginning with attached or unattached power cords by more than two-to-one.
 - Fixed wiring caused one-third of home electrical distribution fires.
 - Cords and plugs caused 17% of home electrical distribution fires and 28% of related deaths.

Safety Tips

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, electrical outlets should have plastic safety covers.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions from plugging only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- When possible, avoid the use of "cube taps" and other devices that allow the connection of multiple appliances into a single receptacle.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.