

# THE SAFETY LEADER

**Prevention is the Key**

## Electrical Hazards

Home electrical safety should not be taken lightly. Each year electrical hazards cause 155,000 fires according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The tragedy is that these accidents are preventable. Below are some tips for keeping your home and your family safe from electrical hazards. If any of these warnings exist in your home, have your system inspected by a state licensed electrician.

### **Warning Signs of a Strained or Inadequate Electrical System**

- Frequent power outages or blown fuses
- Lights that flicker or dim
- Loose plugs
- Outlets that are unusually warm to the touch
- Discolored outlets
- Overheated appliances
- Suspicious sparks and buzzing sounds

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY**  
from electrical hazards by doing  
a room to room inspection.

### **Some things you can do to protect your family are:**

1. Install Ground Fault Circuit Interruption (GFCI) outlets in Kitchens and Bathrooms to protect from electrocution.
2. Make sure all electrical cords are in good condition with no exposed wires or cracked insulation.
3. Extension cords should only be used for a few hours at a time. Loop and hang them neatly when not in use.
4. Unplug appliances such as coffee pots, toasters, curling irons, and hair dryers when not in use.
5. Do not over extend an electrical outlet with power strips or plug-in adapters.
6. Make sure light bulbs are the proper wattage for each fixture.
7. Do not run electrical cords under rugs or in traffic areas.
8. Halogen lamps should have a metal protective guard.



**Abuse of an outlet is not acceptable.**

**It was the cause of the house fire on the right.**

