

Electricity

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

Mishap Data

- ※ An estimated 600 people die every year of electrical causes. Most of these accidents involve low voltage (600 volts or less) .
- ※ An estimated 3,600 people suffer disabling injuries from contact with electricity each year in the U.S.
- ※ Electrical fires in homes kill an average of 485 Americans each year and injure more than 2,300.
- ※ Most electrical accidents are caused by misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.
- ※ During a typical year, home electrical problems account for 67,800 fires.

Do's and Don'ts

- ※ Insulation is a primary protection against electric shock, but it can get worn or cracked. Inspect it regularly. Look for frayed cords on power tools.
- ※ Replace damaged electrical equipment or have it repaired at an authorized repair center. Replace frayed cords, broken plugs or cracks that could cause hazards; cut and throw out damaged cords.
- ※ Plug grounded (3-wire) tools only into grounded outlets.

www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx



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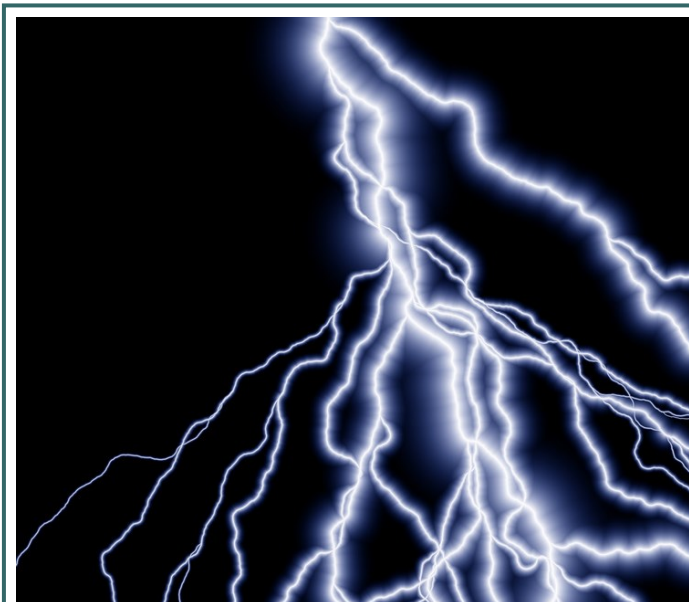
- ※ Don't pick up power tools by their power cords.
- ※ Read and obey all signs and posted warnings. Don't let these important sources of information become an unnoticed part of the landscape.
- ※ Don't work with electricity in the rain, and don't work with it while you're standing in water. Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection when working where water is near electricity — in areas such your kitchen, laundry room, bathroom or outdoors — to protect against electric shock.
- ※ Leave technical, complicated or confusing tasks involving electricity to electricians and other specialists. A little knowledge can definitely be a dangerous thing when it comes to wiring, troubleshooting and repairing electrical devices and circuits.
- ※ If you are working with someone who gets shocked, first make sure you shut down the source of the current. If the victim appears to still be touching the source of the shock, move him or her away using something made of wood or plastic.
- ※ Make sure that all appliances and equipment are approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- ※ For appliances and equipment, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ※ When using a generator, plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord that is free of cuts and tears and has a 3-prong plug.

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- ※ Make sure power strips and surge suppressors are designed to handle the loads for their intended use. Don't overload circuits by plugging too many items into the same outlet.
- ※ Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.
- ※ Don't run electric cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.
- ※ Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

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