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ELECTRICAL FIRES - TIPS AND STATISTICS

As our history classes have taught us, Benjamin Franklin conducted countless numbers of research projects on the study of electricity, he even sold many of his possessions to fund his research. It is hard to imagine what life without electricity was like. We get to briefly experience what life is like when the power goes out in the middle of the night. You might wake up the next morning late for work, or if it is still out we might be forced to take a cold shower. Electricity has turned into a necessity and almost every house or commercial building requires it to operate. Flipping a light switch, charging your device, or plugging in the coffee pot are all a second nature to most of us. Even though electricity makes our lives easier, it is important to be cautious and keep safety in mind.

The most recent data reveals that an estimate 47,700 home structure fires are reported every year that involve some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fire resulted in \$1.4 billion in property damage and accounted for 1,570 civilian injuries. The leading cause of these fires had some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment involved in ignition. Below are some safety tips to keep in mind when it comes to electrical safety.

- √ Have your electrical system thoroughly inspected by a qualified electricians to ensure the property meet the safety provisions in the National Electrical Code.
- √ Have all electrical work done by a licensed electrician.
- √ Major appliances such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extensions cords should never be used for these items.
- √ Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.
- √ Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed by a licensed electrician.
- √ Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in wet areas, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements.
- √ Test AFCIs and GCFIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- √ Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Think about having a certified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you do not have to use extension cords.
- √ Look for telltale signs of electrical problems such as dim and flickering lights, unusual sizzling and buzzing sounds from your electrical system, insulation and circuit breakers that trip repeatedly.
- √ Install smoke detectors on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.

I am sure it is safe to say that electricity is something that many of us take for granted. It sure does help make our lives easier, but as the statistics above state, it can be very dangerous. It is important to remember that if you are having any electrical work done, that you choose a contractor that is licensed.

In the event that your property is to suffer damage due to an electrical fire or any fire for that matter, make sure and contact a trusted restoration contractor. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

March 2017

Events

March 1: IFMA Luncheon
 March 2: IREM Luncheon
 March 2: ACA Luncheon
 March 7: SAMA Luncheon
 March 8: BOMA SA Luncheon
 March 9: AAFAME/BOMA Luncheon
 March 14: SACA Luncheon
 March 15: AASMOCA Luncheon
 March 16: CAMO Luncheon
 March 16: SAABE Luncheon
 March 30: IIASA Trade Fair

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 IFMA Lunch	2 IREM Luncheon ACA Luncheon	3	4
5	6	7 SAMA Lunch	8 SABOMA Luncheon	9 AAFAME /Boma Luncheon	10	11
12	13	14 SACA	15 AASMOCA	16 SAABE Luncheon CAMO	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 IIASA Trade Fair	31	

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