

# Prevention Connection



Safety resources to protect your world

## How you can prevent electrical fires

If you own an older home, you could have inadequate electrical wiring, such as wiring tears, poorly done repairs, outdated electrical systems, and improper installation. Follow these tips to help prevent an electrical fire.

### Call a licensed electrician to inspect wiring if you notice:

- Lights that flicker or are dim.
- Cracked or broken insulation.
- Any unusual sounds coming from your electrical system.
- Sparks that come from anywhere in your electrical system.
- Overheated wires that have an odor of hot insulation
- Electrical shocks.
- Heat plates that are discolored from heat buildup or hot to the touch.
- Circuit breakers that trip often.

### Tips for connecting computers and other electronics in your home

- Use a surge protector.
- Don't overload a wire; it may overheat and cause a fire.
- Don't run several pieces of electrical equipment on a single circuit.

Find more safety tips like these on SECURA's *Prevention Connection*.

### Did you know?

- Home electrical problems account for nearly 68,000 fires and more than \$850 million in property losses in the United States annually.
- Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 485 Americans and injure 2,305 each year.
- December is the most common month for electrical fires.
- Most electrical fires are caused by the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

*The information and recommendations contained in this material have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. However, SECURA accepts no legal responsibility for the accuracy, sufficiency, or completeness of such information. Additional safety and health procedures may be required under particular circumstances.*