

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 19, 2010
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Don't Get Shocked – Be Smart about Electrical Fire Safety

Electricity has become one of our basic needs and the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office is encouraging you to get grounded in the basics of electrical safety.

"The best way to keep the home safe from electrical hazards is to take good care of appliances and to use all electrical equipment properly," said Acting State Fire Marshal Paul Perz. "Respect for electricity and the power it provides must occur every day throughout the year."

By reviewing the electrical safety tips below and taking action, Washington residents can help reduce electrical fires:

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely and do not overload them.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special attention to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- When buying electrical appliances look for products that are evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Do not allow children or pets to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons and hair dryers.
- Keep clothes, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Never overload extension cords or wall sockets. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker. Use safety closures to child-proof electrical outlets.
- Check your electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If the cords are frayed or cracked, replace them. Replace any tool if it cause even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

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PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!

