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MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Electrical Safety Awareness

May is National Electric Safety Month and a good time for everyone to review electrical safety practices. It is estimated that electricity causes 140,000 fires each year, causing death and injury and costing billions of dollars in property damage. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety at home and in the workplace, has issued electrical safety tips to help avoid these tragic and costly injuries. They include:

- ◆ Use appliances and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions
- ◆ Replace damaged electrical equipment or have it repaired at an authorized repair center
- ◆ Make sure power strips, cords and surge suppressors are designed to handle the loads for their intended use
- ◆ Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection when working where water is near electricity
- ◆ Avoid contact with power lines by being aware of the location of power lines and keeping a distance of at least 10 feet between you and power lines to avoid arcs
- ◆ Make certain all products and equipment are approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

For additional electrical safety information, visit the ESFI's website at www.electrical-safety.org

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