

# Homeowner's Guide Offers Six Easy Tips to Prevent Electrical Fires During National Electrical Safety Month

ARLINGTON, VA, UNITED STATES, May 14, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Each year more than 40,000 residential electrical fires occur in the U.S., resulting in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and more than a billion dollars in property damage, according to the [National Fire Protection Association](#). What consumers may not realize is that many of these fires could have been prevented by following six easy tips, now available as a free resource from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

In NEMA's online Homeowner's Guide to Preventing Electrical Fires – Keeping Your Family Safe, the emphasis is on being proactive around the home to identify any potential problems and utilizing safety measures to correct them.

"Today's modern home is equipped with electrical systems proven to accommodate the needs of a growing variety of smart devices, laptops, appliances and more found in kitchens, laundry areas and throughout the home," said Jennifer LeFevre, executive director of the Electrical Safety Foundation International ([ESFI](#)), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety at home and in the workplace. "As electrical demand is only expected to increase, homeowners must also be vigilant when it comes to safety and preventing situations that can lead to electrical arcing and sparking, a common source of



## Homeowner's Guide to Preventing Electrical Fires – Keeping Your Family Safe

More than 40,000 electrical fires occur in homes every year, resulting in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and more than a billion dollars in property damage. Electrical fires can be devastating as quite often they occur when we least expect them in locations that may be hidden from view. There are steps a homeowner can take to help mitigate the effects of electrical arcing and sparking that often cause these types of fires. This guide will help you be proactive when it comes to protecting your family from these sources of fire.

- 1. Connected Cord Inspections:** When plugging and unplugging various appliances found in your home, take time to inspect the cords. Look for any signs of damage due to wear and tear. Sometimes plugs can be smashed between furniture and the wall, weakening the conductor insulation. Cords can also be damaged through abuse by improperly removing them from the receptacle outlet, being stepped on, or placed under the legs of chairs or other types of furniture.
- 2. Extension Cords:** Look through your home for locations where extension cords are not being used properly like being run underneath carpets or area rugs. These cords are not designed as permanent wiring for appliances in your home and you may be exceeding the ratings of these products. When you misapply electrical products in this manner, the heat that may be generated and/or arcing and sparking that result could start a fire. Electrical ratings of the product should be reviewed to ensure the cord is sized properly for the application.
- 3. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter\* Protection:** Updating the circuit breakers in your home from standard breakers to those that are designed to detect arcing and sparking that may cause electrical fires provides that additional level of protection against arcing faults. Many new homes may have these advanced arc fault circuit interrupters in place, but even new homes will have opportunities to increase the level of protection. See additional information in the box on how to determine if your circuit breakers are Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters.
- 4. Appliances:** When using your appliances, look for signs of damage. Ensure you are using the appliance in the manner it was intended to be used. Consult the manufacturer if needed.
- 5. Hire a Professional:** It is always best to hire an electrical contractor to help you perform a safety check in your home. Hiring a professional trained in electrical safety is a good start to help protect your safety as well as that of your family.
- 6. Listed Products:** Always look for the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory (e.g. UL) to be certain that your products comply with requirements of national safety standards.

\*AFCIs are available as circuit breakers (CB) and receptacles (Outlet Branch Receptacles - OBC). CB AFCIs are tested and listed to UL 1699 requirements. OBC AFCIs are tested and listed to UL 1699A requirements. Both types can be installed per the 2023 National Electrical Code\*. This paper addresses CB AFCIs.

Low Voltage Distribution Equipment Section  
[www.afcisafty.org](http://www.afcisafty.org)

### Are Your Breakers AFCIs?

To determine if your existing circuit breakers are Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters, you can do the following:

- Locate your circuit breaker box and open the door.
- Look at the circuit breakers in the panel.
- Standard thermal-magnetic circuit breakers make up the majority of break switches found in most homes.



- A test pushbutton near the handle of the breaker will be an indication that the breaker is not a standard thermal-magnetic circuit breaker. It could be a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI Protection) or arc fault circuit interrupter.



- Your immediate opportunity for action is breaker marked with a 2A and 20A and do not have a push to test button. An evaluation of those in your panel that do have a push to test button should be conducted by your electrical contractor.
- Hiring an electrical contractor to perform this and other safety checks in your home is advisable.

NEMA

## NEMA's online Homeowner's Guide to Preventing Electrical Fires – Keeping Your Family Safe

electrical fires. NEMA's Homeowner's Guide provides simple ways to keep families safe."

Tips from the Guide and more information on AFCI devices can be downloaded at [afcisafety.org](https://www.afcisafety.org), and include:

- Connected Cord Inspections – When plugging or unplugging electrical cords inspect for damage. If problems, replace immediately.
- Extension Cords – Check for damaged cords under carpets, chairs and tables or plugged into overloaded outlets, and replace.
- Arc Fault Circuit Protection – Make sure AFCI breakers are installed in your home. They detect and stop dangerous arcing/sparking in damaged wiring behind walls, electrical cords and more.
- Appliances – Check for damaged devices and power cords and make sure they are working properly.
- Hire A Professional – Bring in a licensed, certified electrical contractor who can quickly pinpoint and resolve any concerns.
- Listed Products – Make sure your appliances are approved by a national testing authority to make sure they comply with national safety standards.

###

#### About NEMA

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) represents over 300 electrical equipment and medical imaging manufacturers that make safe, reliable, and efficient products and systems. Together, our members contribute 1% of U.S. GDP and directly provide nearly 460,000 American jobs, contributing more than \$250 billion to the U.S. economy. Learn more at [makeitelectric.org](https://www.makeitelectric.org).

Brian Knox

Laughlin Constable

+1 414-870-6581

[bknox@laughlin.com](mailto:bknox@laughlin.com)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/812575909>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.