ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY

Home electrical fires are responsible for an estimated 51,000 fires and $1.3 billion in property damage each year (Electrical Safety Foundation International, 2015). Protect your family and your home by following these electrical safety tips.

**Appliances**
- Always plug major appliances directly into wall outlets.
- Unplug small appliances when they are not in use.
- Check electrical cords on all appliances regularly. Replace any cracked, damaged, or loose cords. Never try to fix them yourself.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn. Always use bulbs that match the recommended wattage for each lamp or fixture.

**Outlets**
- Never overload wall outlets.
- Insert plugs fully into sockets.
- Install tamper-resistant electrical outlets if you have young children.

**Extension Cords, Power Strips, and Surge Protectors**
- Replace worn, old, or damaged extension cords right away.
- Extension cords are meant for short-term use only. If necessary, have a qualified electrician add more outlets to prevent long-term use.
- Do not run electrical cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Do not overload power strips.
- Use surge protectors, not power strips, with electrical devices that require a lot of electricity to operate.

**Electrical Fire Warning Signs**
- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery odor coming from an appliance
- Flickering lights
- Sparks from an outlet

Inspections by qualified electricians reduce fire risk and are required by many home insurance policies.

Orange County Fire Authority
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