



## Week 3: Educating Your Children

# OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOR KIDS



Using electricity is something we take for granted, but using it safely is very important.

An estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in U.S. homes each year. Most of these can be avoided by taking a few simple safety precautions.

Electricity is very powerful, and can be extremely dangerous if it is not used safely. Outside, power lines and substations are the main sources of electricity, bringing it to our houses and communities.

Electrical shock or electrocution can be caused by many circumstances including:

- Power lines that run through trees, or power lines that have fallen down due to storms.
- Being in water during a storm (lightning).
- Being in water that is found near electrical devices.
- Being outside when you see lightning.
- Coming into contact with substations located around the house/neighborhood/school.

## You're In Charge!

The good news is that by understanding where electricity comes from and how it travels, you can help to safely prevent electrical fires and accidents.

You can avoid these dangers by following these important safety tips whenever electricity is near:

- **Leave Power Lines Alone.** Power lines create a huge electrical circuit around communities, bringing electricity to homes, schools, and buildings.
- **Keep away from power lines that have fallen down.**
- **Avoid playing in or around trees with power lines running through them.**

Substations and power transformers are Shocking. Much like power lines, substations provide houses and communities with electricity. They look like giant harmless boxes, but what's inside is very dangerous.

- **Heed warning signs and stay away from substations and power transformers.**

**Water and Electricity Don't Mix.** The human body is made up mostly of water – so, swimming in water while being struck by lightning isn't the only way to experience shock or electrocution. Touching electricity directly or touching water that is in contact with electricity will also result in a shock or electrocution. In fact, this is the case for all liquids, not just water.

- **Do not swim during a storm.**
- **Keep any electrical devices away from water or other liquids.**

Call 9-1-1 if someone gets hurt, or there is a fire.

# INDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOR KIDS



## You're In Charge!

You can avoid these dangers by following these important safety tips whenever electricity is near:

**Respect the Cord.** Electrical cords have wires inside them, carrying electricity from the wall socket to the TV, microwave, or other electrical product - so it's important to handle cords properly.

- Ask an adult if you want something plugged or unplugged.
- If given permission, only connect or disconnect a cord by the plug.
- Tell an adult when a cord is bent, cracked, or frayed.

**Water and Electricity Don't Mix.** The human body is made up mostly of water – so, swimming in water while being struck by lightning isn't the only way to experience shock or electrocution. Touching electricity directly or touching water that is in contact with electricity will also result in a shock or electrocution. In fact, this is the case for all liquids, not just water.

**Stop the Shock.** Stay away from electrical outlets, even when they're not in use.

- Keep electrical objects away from water, and water away from electrical objects.
- Keep away from cords when they're in use.
- Tell an adult when too many things are plugged into one outlet.
- Use only the plug part of a cord when plugging in or unplugging.

**Fight Fires Before They Start.** Tell an adult when something is too near a lamp, heater, or other hot surface.

- Keep water/drinks away from electrical outlets.
- Tell an adult when a cord is frayed, broken, or smoking.

**Get Out, Get Help and Call 9-1-1.** Use your escape route to get out of your home, school, or building.

Electricity is very powerful, and can cause fires, electrical shock and burn injuries if it is not used safely.

An estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in U.S. homes each year. The good news is that most of these can be avoided by taking a few simple safety precautions.

Electrical fires and electrical shock and burn injuries from can be caused by many circumstances indoors, including:

- Frayed cords or fabrics and paper products placed too close to electrical heaters, lamps, and other hot surfaces
- Touching electrical sockets or frayed cords
- Unplugging an electrical device by pulling on the cord itself
- Touching water that is exposed to electricity
- Keep anything that uses electricity away from water and other liquids.
- Avoid showering/bathing during a storm. Electricity from lightning can travel through the water pipes.

# ELECTRICAL AND FIRE SAFETY FOR YOUR FAMILY

Using electricity is something we take for granted, but using it safely is very important. An estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in U.S. homes each year. Most of these can be avoided by taking simple safety precautions.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and a great time to review important electrical and fire safety practices with your children and family to help keep your home safe from electrical dangers year-round!

## Electrical Safety Tips

- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as TVs, video game consoles, and computers. They could spill and cause dangerous shocks or fires.
- Never play with electrical cords, light sockets, or electrical outlets.
- Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
- Never yank on the cord to unplug an appliance. Hold on to the plug itself.
- If you see a broken electrical cord in your house, tell an adult. The adult should replace the cord. Never try to repair it.
- Do not play or fly kites near power lines. If your kite gets caught in a power line, let go of the kite.
- Stay away from big metal electrical boxes in your neighborhood. They're not safe to play around or sit on.
- If there is lightning, do not stand near trees. Go inside right away.
- If you drop an appliance in water, do not try to get it. Have an adult shut off the power supply to your home before retrieving the item.

## Fire Safety Tips

- Have smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside each bedroom. Test your smoke alarm batteries every month.
- Make sure you have at least two ways out of each room.
- Have a family escape plan for what to do in case there is a fire.
- Hold a family fire drill twice a year.





## ESFI and [Your Company Name] Offer Important Electrical and Fire Safety Tips for Families

**For Immediate Release**  
[Date]

**Contact:** [Your Name]  
[Your Phone Number]

**Arlington, VA** – From game consoles to computers to cell phones, electricity is an increasing presence in our modern lives. More electricity usage means more potential electrical hazards. As our reliance on electricity grows, so does the importance of electrical safety awareness for the entire family. You are never too young to start learning to use electricity safely.

An estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in homes each year. Most of these can be avoided by taking simple safety precautions.

“Using electricity is something we take for granted, but using it safely is very important,” says ESFI president Brett Brenner. “By understanding how electricity works and where it is found, we can each do our part in preventing electrical dangers no matter where we are.”

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and [Your Company Name] is teaming up with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to launch a public awareness campaign to promote the importance of electrical safety and educate key audiences about the steps that can be taken to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities in the home and the workplace.

Help keep your children safe from indoor and outdoor electrical dangers by making sure they are familiar with these important electrical and fire safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as TVs, video game consoles, and computers. They could spill and cause dangerous shocks or fires.
- Never play with electrical cords, light sockets, or electrical outlets.
- Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
- Never yank on the cord to unplug an appliance. Hold on to the plug itself.
- If you see a broken electrical cord in your house, tell an adult. The adult should replace the cord.
- If you drop an appliance in water, do not try to get it. Have an adult shut off the power supply to your home before retrieving the item.
- Never play near power transformers or substations.
- Don't play or fly kites near power lines. If a kite gets caught in a power line, let go of the kite.
- When there is lightning, stay away from trees and get inside.
- Have smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside each bedroom.
- Make sure you have at least two ways out of each room.
- Have a family escape plan for what to do in case there is a fire.

To learn more about ESFI and electrical safety, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).

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[Insert Company/Organization Boilerplate]

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.