

# Electrical fires UNPLUGGED



## PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

### WHAT'S THE RISK?

Electrical distribution equipment is the **fourth leading** cause of home fires.

The average dollar loss per electrical fire is **\$73,000**.

In 71% of home electrical fires, the cause is **electrical failure of the equipment**.

The **leading causes** of heating equipment fires are: circuit wiring (copper); cord/cable for appliances; distribution equipment (e.g. panel boards, fuses, circuits).

Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. GFCIs should be installed in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. Always use a licensed electrician.

### How do I prevent an electrical fire?

- ❖ Check cords for damage such as fraying or nicks. A damaged cord can expose wires and result in a potential shock or fire hazard.
- ❖ Avoid running cords under rugs, which can damage the cord and cause a fire.
- ❖ Extension cords should be used only as a temporary connection. If permanent wiring is required, have additional outlets installed by a licensed electrician. Extension cords should not be linked together - use an extension cord that is long enough to do the job.
- ❖ Air conditioners and other heavy appliances should be plugged directly into an outlet.
- ❖ Avoid overloading a circuit with “octopus outlets”. If additional outlets or circuits are required, have them installed by a licensed electrician.

Statistics for Ontario between 2010-2014. Provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management.



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