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Tip of the Month

Protect your home against ground faults with the correct installation of GFCIs. GFCI protection is required for certain outlets, including garages and bathrooms.

What's Current

MAY 2023

NEW RATE FOR EV OWNERS MAKES 'E-MOBILITY' MORE AFFORDABLE

May is Electrical Safety Month, sponsored by the nonprofit Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). The theme for this year is "Electrification: E-Mobility," and celebrates the rapid advancements made in emerging technology, including electric vehicles.

Earlier this year, the NOVEC Board of Directors approved a new rate under a Virginia law that allows electric cooperative boards to offer a voluntary rate for customers with EVs. NOVEC's qualifying residential customers may now request to switch from the co-op's regular residential rate to the new EV-1 rate, a slightly lower rate that would apply to all of their electricity consumption.

NOVEC designed the EV-1 rate to encourage customers to charge their EVs during off-peak hours — 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. — when there is less demand on the grid and electricity costs are lower.

"Customers who sign up for the rate should save money if they charge their electric vehicles during off-peak hours," said Howard Spinner, NOVEC's manager of regulatory affairs.

To qualify for the rate, a customer must certify in writing to NOVEC that they will be charging one or more licensed EVs at their home. For more information contact NOVEC Business Development at 703-392-1503, or businessdev@novec.com.

CHECKLIST FOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HOME

- ✓ **Smoke alarms** – Install the right number of smoke alarms for your home. Ensure they are spaced out to cover all areas of the home, and that they are all working.
- ✓ **Switches and outlets** – An electrical outlet should be checked by a qualified technician if it is making a crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sound or if it is warm to the touch.
- ✓ **Electric cords** – If cords are fraying or cracking, pinched or pierced, replace them immediately.
- ✓ **Lamps** – Use light bulbs that are the recommended wattage for each lamp.

FIRE PREVENTION

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS



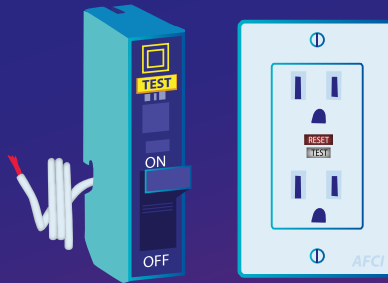
From 2010 to 2014, the National Fire Protection Association estimated an average of **45,210 home fires** caused by **electrical failure** or **malfunction**, resulting in an estimated 420 **deaths**, 1,370 **injuries**, and \$1.4 billion in **property damage** each year.

PREVENTION

15



The National Electrical Code has had **15** revisions since 1974, the year the average home was built. **Is your home adequately protected?**



AFCI breakers and receptacles **protect** against arc faults and can **prevent** the majority of electrical fires.

52%

of electrical fires are caused by an **arc** or **short circuit**.

1999

Was your home built before **1999**? Call an electrician to ensure your home has **AFCIs**.



Any electrical maintenance should be performed by **qualified electricians** to ensure proper **NEC** and **fire prevention standards**.

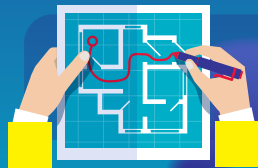
DURING A FIRE *EVERY SECOND COUNTS. PLAN 2 WAYS OUT.™*

In a fire, **seconds count**. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

Test **monthly**, change battery **yearly**, replace alarm every **10 years**.



Have at least one **smoke alarm** on every level, outside each sleeping area, and in every bedroom.



Draw out a **fire escape plan**.



Conduct a **fire drill** twice a year, once in the day, once at night, with everyone in your home, and practice using **different ways out**.

Have **two ways out** of every room and make sure they're always **easily accessible**.



Have a designated **meeting space** outside your home and **never reenter a burning building**.



For more fire prevention tips visit **ESFI.org**



Please share this free resource to save lives

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www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

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