

## Be Prepared for a Power Outage

A power outage can strike without warning. Sudden high winds, electrical storms or typhoons may damage power lines and shut down substations. What will you do when the lights go out?

Prevent an inconvenience from becoming a major problem by taking these simple precautions:

- a.) Set aside an emergency drawer that is easy to locate in darkness and stock it with a battery-powered radio, a flashlight and supply of fresh batteries for both.
- b.) Store a supply of candles, or an oil lamp and oil in a safe and cool place.
- c.) Assemble an emergency supply of non-perishable, easily-prepared food such as freeze-dried and canned food, and disposable eating utensils.
- d.) Keep on hand a gallon of liquid bleach to sterilize and sanitize food preparation areas, utensils and toilet facilities.
- e.) Maintain fuel levels in vehicle tanks and natural gas tanks, and stock adequate supplies of wood for wood burning heaters, cookstoves and fireplaces.

## Lights Out

You can make many preparations ahead of time to deal with a power outage. What steps can you take to ensure safety once the outage occurs?

- a.) Shut off and unplug appliances with electric motors or electric heating elements until after the service is restored. This will prevent voltage surge damage when the electricity comes back.
- b.) Keep refrigerators and freezers tightly closed to maintain the refrigerated atmosphere and preserve frozen and fresh food for long periods without power. Opening the doors rapidly will exhaust this atmosphere.



## Preventing Electrical Fires At Home

Electricity serves us well. Most often forgotten, we think of electrocution when we consider the dangers of electricity. But another hazard is electrical fires. Recent reports indicate that arcing or overloaded electrical equipment ranks second only to cigarettes as a cause of multiple death fires.

Here's what you need to know:

- a.) Circuit breakers or fuses help protect against overloads and short circuits. If the breaker or fuse blows often or repeatedly, have an electrician check it immediately.
- b.) The smell of burning plastic, warm wall receptacles and flickering or dimming lights signal serious wiring problems.
- c.) Electrical cords (especially extension cords) can be overloaded or short circuited easily.
- d.) If a cord or plug gets warm, it's overloaded.

Here's what you need to do:

- a.) Discard damaged extension cords; even slightly damaged ones.
- b.) Use only extension cords designed for outdoor use for electrical needs outside.
- c.) Don't overload circuits.
- d.) Keep appliances and motors clean and in good working condition.
- e.) Don't leave appliances such as clothes dryers running when you are away from home.
- f.) All appliances and extension cord should carry the mark of a recognized testing facility.

# Enjoy Electricity But know your...



A reminder from:  
**Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

## ELECTRICITY - Handle With Care



Faulty wiring or malfunctioning electrical appliances are major causes of residential fires. About 35% of electricity-caused fires are related to cooking equipment; 30% to components of the electrical distribution system including lighting equipment and cords; and about 20% to appliances such as clothes dryers, TVs and electric blankets.

### Accident Prevention

- a.) Read the instructions or use and care manual before operating any electrical product and follow the recommendations.
- b.) Check the electrical and extension cords regularly for signs of damage. Repair and replace any cord which is pinched, cracked, frayed or worn. Cords should not run under rugs.
- c.) Check the fuse and circuit breaker boxes to be certain that the fuses or circuit breakers are of the proper size for the house wiring.
- d.) Watch for trouble signs such as flickering lights, sparks from appliances, switches or wall outlets, circuits that do not work, and switch plates and wall outlets that are warm to the touch. If any of these conditions are found, have them repaired immediately.
- e.) Do not use any appliance that is defective.
- f.) Do not leave any appliance such as laundry equipment, running, when you are away from home. They could malfunction and cause a fire.
- g.) Overloading an extension cord can cause fires. Most extension cords are not able to carry as much current as the normal house circuits without overheating so know the rating of an extension cord.

## Water and Electricity Do Not Mix

Always remember that water and electricity can be a deadly combination. Making contact while standing in water or even on a damp floor can transform what might otherwise be a light shock into instant death. Hair dryers, power tools, TV sets, radios and small kitchen appliances have caused this kind of electrocution hazard.

- a.) Don't leave hair dryers plugged in when not being used. Even with the switch-off, a plugged-in hair dryer that falls into a bathtub will electrify the water and is likely to electrocute anyone in the tub. Unplug it especially if you have children in the household.
- b.) Don't use hair dryers when standing on a damp floor.
- c.) Don't place radios or TV sets near the bathtub or shower while bathing.
- d.) All bathroom outlets should be protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.
- e.) If an electricity-operated device that is plugged in falls into water, unplug it before you retrieve it.
- f.) Discard or have repaired any appliance that causes the slightest shock.
- g.) Be careful when using appliances around water. Never touch an appliance and a ground, such as a water faucet, simultaneously.

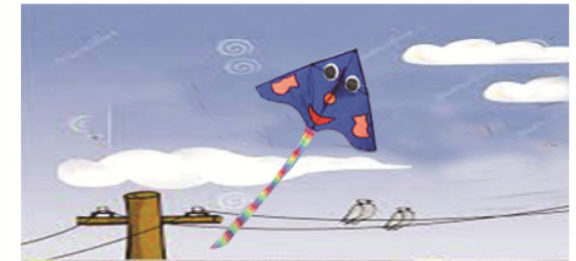


## Plug It Safely



Not even the most efficient protective device in an electrical system will do its job unless it is allowed to function as intended. Know the function and limitation of appliances and supply equipment; never operate beyond those limitations

## Flying Kites



Don't let pleasant outdoor activities like flying a kite result in an electrocution injury. Avoid contact with high-voltage power lines by choosing the right time and right place to fly a kite.

- a.) Closely supervise children when they are flying kites.
- b.) Avoid flying kites in wet, stormy weather. A wet kite string is a good conductor of electricity and may cause electrocution if it touches a power line. A metal line should never be used near power lines.
- c.) Kites should be flown only in open areas; never near power lines.
- d.) If a kite falls into a power line, abandon it. Attempting to remove it is dangerous.
- e.) Don't use metalized kites.