



Safety and Savings

A R O U N D Y O U R H O M E

Safety is not something that just happens. It is a way of life. Everyday we read about accidents that happen in the home. Many of these accidents could be avoided if a little time was spent looking for potential problems. With electricity it is the same thing. A quick 30-minute walk through your home could mean the difference between living safely or just waiting for the next accident to happen. Let's take a walk through your home and see how many potential safety problems are there.

First let's start in the **Laundry Room**. If it is like most laundry rooms there are piles of clothes placed in front of the washing machine or dryer. Sometimes they are piled high against the fuse box. Can you get to the fuse box if you have to hurry? Are some of the clothes actually up against the fuses? Don't ever reach for that fuse box to change a fuse without making sure the power is off! Never use a penny to "bridge" a fuse just because you can't find the right size fuse in the middle of the night! Water on the floor is another potential problem for both slips and where electricity is involved. If you are considering purchasing a new washing machine consider buying a front-loading machine. By using less water, less detergent, less energy to heat the water and less energy to operate, the savings could be as much as \$100 a year.

The **Kitchen** is our next area. There are a lot of potential problem areas here. How many appliances are plugged in to that one receptacle? Don't stand on that chair to change the ceiling light! In the kitchen, water is a constant problem. Be aware of water and the fact that it conducts electricity at all times. Under your sink, where all the cleaning agents are stored, is usually a hazardous waste area. Never mix two cleaning agents together to get "a stronger mix!" Clean those refrigerant tubes on the back of the refrigerator, but not before you unplug it!

The **Living Room or Den** areas are where the fewest problems are located. Throw rugs are always a potential problem. Make sure your fireplace screen is properly fitted in front of the fireplace. One major electrical problem is the plugging in of several appliances into one outlet. Ever hear about an "octopus outlet?" Do you have one? An octopus outlet is where you plug several appliances into one plug unit and then plug it in to the wall. Also be on the look out for frayed electrical cords. They present a problem for both electrical contact and potential fires.

Next are the **Bedrooms**. Not many potential problems here EXCEPT the bathroom area. Don't leave appliances such as curling irons on all the time. The elements could short out and cause a fire. Never put a radio or any other electrical equipment near the bathtub!

The next area is the **Garage**. It seems harmless enough, until you look at what you usually have stored in some corner. Usually, under the workbench is where all the chemicals used for your lawn and other applications are stored. There are many possible poisons that could be spilled or opened by a child. Also careful storage of gasoline and other combustible materials should be taken. Even when you pull your car into the garage you should think about the hot engine and what might possibly happen. Under your car is a natural area to find oils and greases on the floor, wipe it up immediately!

And finally, **Outside Your Home**. What does that service entrance wire look like that comes from the transformer on the pole into your home. Frayed wires or dead limbs on your service entrance cable – call Randolph EMC and ask us to check it out next time we are in the area. Do you see any fluid leaking from your transformer? That doesn't happen often, but it might. Never have any construction work done on your home or in your yard until you know where the power lines are located, they might be under ground. If it is an underground service don't dig until you call Randolph EMC.

These are just a few of the potential safety problems around the house. **Now, go out and see if you can find others that were not mentioned!**

