

DALLAS • FIRE • RESCUE

INSPECTION AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

In 2006, an estimated 52,500 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition.

These fires resulted in 340 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$1,447 million in direct property damage.

{ SAFETY TIPS }

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- When possible, avoid the use of "cube taps" and other devices that allow the connection of multiple appliances into a single receptacle.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.