Grand Island Fire Department

Electrical

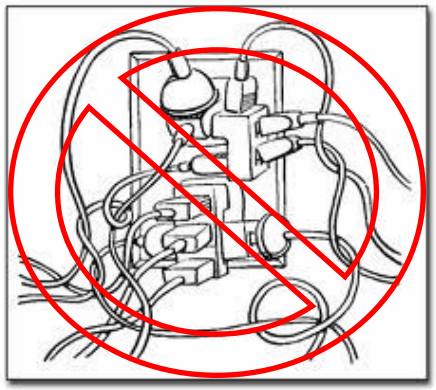
Safety Tips

FIRE SAFETY
We all take part

Electrical Fire Safety Tips

When an electrical short or spark does happen, it is vital to understand what to do to prevent or put out an electrical fire and to keep the damage and devastation from spreading. You should, of course, **CALL 911 immediately** in case of electrical injury or fire. Following are some tips for preventing accidental electrical fires.

- Do not allow children to play in proximity of any electrical appliances.
- Replace any tools that put off even mild electric shocks.
- Replace any light switches or fixtures that have a tendency to flicker.
- Replace any switches that are hot to the touch.
- Avoid overloading extension cords, sockets and plugs.
- Know where your fuse boxes and circuit breakers are located as well as how to properly operate them.
- Do not put water on any electrical fire; use a properly rated fire extinguisher or dry baking soda instead.
- Observe all safety measures when using electricity to keep yourself - and your family safe.



Electrical Safety

Electrical hazards can cause burns, shocks and electrocution (death).

- Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.
- Never touch a fallen overhead power line. **Call 911** to report fallen electrical lines.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead wires while attempting to prune or clean up branches and similar activities. If working with ladders or handling long objects, survey the area for the presence of overhead wires before starting work.
- If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not exit your vehicle. Do not touch metallic surfaces inside the vehicle and warn people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. **Call 911** or ask someone to call 911 to dispatch the electric utility company and emergency services.
- Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water.
- Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized.
- Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that has gotten wet **BEFORE** you plug it in.
- If working in damp locations, inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects.

SAFETY AT HOME

On any given day, it's likely that most people use several different electrical appliances. With electrical appliances being so common in modern homes, it's easy to forget that there are very real risks and hazards associated with their use. Take the time to brush up on the principles of safe operation - and make sure that everyone in your home is aware of them - in order to prevent unnecessary exposure to hazards and safety risks.

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified electrician.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- It's essential to ensure that any appliances you purchase are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or other reputable consumer laboratory.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Appliances that generate heat such as lamps, televisions, computers and monitors should be given clearance all around for good air circulation and cooling. Do not drape clothes, toys or other items over warm appliances.
- Always follow appliance instructions carefully and do not attempt amateur repairs or upgrades.
- Keep all electrical appliances away from water such as sinks, bathtubs, pools or overhead vents that may drip.
- Do not operate any electrical appliance with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home. Use a qualified electrician.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure that they are working properly.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. They can become a trip hazard, and covering a cord may cause heat buildup in the cord.
- Electrical extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so that you don't have to rely on extension cords.
- Check electrical cords and extension cords regularly for frays, cracks or kinks, repair or replace them immediately.
- Do not make modifications to a cord's plug at any time. Do not clip off the third prong or attempt to file down a wider plug to fit into a different outlet.
- Use the proper weight (gauge) and length of extension cord for the appropriate task, and be sure the cord is rated for indoor or outdoor use, whichever is required
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or light fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

Grand Island Fire Department

100 East First Street, Grand Island, NE 68801
308-385-5444, Ext. 220

- **Station 1**
  409 E. Fonner Park Rd. 385-5300
- **Station 2**
  1720 N. Broadwell Ave. 385-5310
- **Station 3**
  2310 S. Webb Road 385-5337
- **Station 4**
  3690 W. State St. 385-5387