

## Electrical Fires

### **Be prepared to act fast:**

Develop a plan of response in case of a fire so you and your family can move quickly if one happens.

### **Call for help first:**

Always call 9-1-1 for help before trying to extinguish a fire yourself, even if it seems small and nonthreatening.

- ◆ If electrical appliances or equipment are involved, unplug it if you can do it safely, or turn the power off at the main switch.
- ◆ Don't throw water on an electrical fire because water conducts electricity and this can cause the fire to get larger. It can also create shock hazard as the electricity can flow up the stream of water to you. Always use a fire extinguisher instead.
- ◆ If someone is burned call 911. Unless you are sure that the victim is safely away from the fire and/or no longer in contact with electricity, do not administer first aid.



**Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. (VEC)** is a member owned electric distribution cooperative headquartered in Johnson, Vermont. The Co-op was founded in 1938 in Eden Mills, Vermont to serve residents in parts of rural Lamoille County who had been bypassed by investor-owned utilities. Early service extensions continued in to Chittenden and Franklin Counties. From the 1940's until the early 1960's, the service territory continued to expand in Northern Vermont through the construction of new lines and the acquisition of small private companies. In 1969, VEC expanded into Southern Vermont through a merger with Halifax Electric Cooperative. In 1970, VEC acquired the International Electric Company serving the Derby Line area located along the Canadian border. On April 1, 2004, VEC completed the acquisition of Citizens Communications Company's Vermont Electric Division, more the doubling the membership base to 37,000. More recently, on December 8, 2006 VEC sold its Southern District in the Windham and Windsor counties to Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS). This district was comprised of 2,770 members. VEC's Southern District also included twelve members in three towns in Massachusetts on the Vermont border. On December 8, 2006 VEC sold these members to Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO).

Today VEC serves approximately 34,000 member-customers in 78 towns throughout Northern Vermont.

**Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

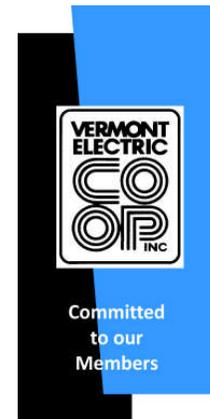
42 Wescom Road

Johnson, VT 05656

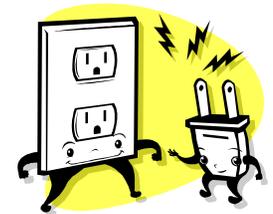
Phone: 800-832-2667 or 802-635-2331

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[www.vermontelectric.coop](http://www.vermontelectric.coop)



## Plug in for Safety tips



Each year, electrical hazards claim lives and result in injuries such as shock and burns ~ most of which could be prevented. Understanding your home's electrical system and safety around electric power lines can help keep you and your family safe.



## Electric Safety in the Home

To protect yourself and your family make electrical safety in your home a priority.

- Make sure plugs fit securely into outlets. Don't force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Unplug appliances before cleaning.
- Never put metal objects in live parts of appliances or outlets.
- Check outlets and extension cords so they are not overloaded. Overloaded circuits can cause a fire.
- Always pull on the plug and not the cord.
- Examine electrical cords to be sure they aren't frayed.
- Never place electrical cords across traffic areas or under carpets. Don't pinch electrical cords behind or under furniture.
- Never use extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Use heavy-duty three-prong extension cords for tools with three-prong plugs. Never remove the third prong.
- Make sure you're using quality electrical equipment such as Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) in places where electricity and water can come in contact.
- Use proper wattage light bulbs in light fixtures and lamps.

## Kid's Corner



### Indoor Safety

- ⇒ Electrical outlets and extension cords are not safe to play with. Use appropriate safety plugs and teach kids that these items are not for play.
- ⇒ Using electrical appliances such as radios, television, or blow-dryers near water can be dangerous.

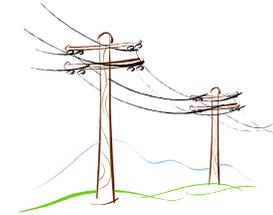
### Outdoor Safety



Teach your children how to play safely outside. They should know that overhead power lines are not insulated. Touching a power line or anything in contact with a line can severely hurt and even kill them.

- ⇒ Never fly a kite near power lines. Always be sure to fly it in wide-open spaces such as a field so it cannot come in contact with a power line.
- ⇒ Never allow kids to climb trees near power lines.
- ⇒ Warn children never to go inside a substation and to stay clear of them. Substations have fences around them and are designed to keep people out.
- ⇒ Teach your children how to identify electrical lines, pad-mount transformers, and substations so they don't play near them.

## Safety Around



## Electric Power Lines

**Look up ↑ Look down ↓**  
**Look out!**

Overhead distribution power lines are live and carry high voltage electricity which can kill instantly upon contact.

- If you come across a downed power line keep clear from that line and any debris that may be on the line. Immediately call your utility to report a downed power line.
- Be aware of power lines when doing routine outdoor tasks such as cleaning a pool, using a ladder, pruning trees, or installing or removing an antenna.
- Use properly grounded tools while working outside or near water.
- Before digging or excavating call Dig Safe at 1 888 DIG SAFE so a representative can clearly mark any underground electric cables.
- Portable generators can serve a great emergency need among those who rely on a steady power supply. But generators can only meet these needs if they are connected safely and used properly. Contact your electric utility for more information prior to installation and use.