Electrical Fire Safety

Follow these electrical safety tips to help keep your home fire safe.

Outlet safety

- Do not overload outlets.
- Insert plugs fully into sockets.
- Never force a three-prong cord into a two-slot outlet.
- Install tamper-resistant electrical outlets if you have young children.
- Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit snugly.

Extension cords, power strips and surge protector safety

- Do not overload power strips.
- Use power strips that have internal overload protection.
- Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug.
Appliance Fire Safety

Follow these appliance safety tips to help keep your home fire safe.

- Always plug major appliances — refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers — directly into a wall outlet.
- Never use an extension cord with a major appliance. The extension cord can overheat and start a fire.
- Unplug small appliances when you are not using them.
- Keep anything that can burn away from lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- If the appliance has a cracked, damaged or loose cord, replace the appliance.

For more information, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.