

Electrical safety awareness helps prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. Here are some general tips to keep you and your family safe:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.
- NEVER touched downed power lines.

What about Storm Safety?

If you're inside when severe weather strikes:

- Avoid contact with corded phones, electrical equipment and plumbing.
- Don't use your cell phone during a thunderstorm.
- Don't wash your hands, take a shower, wash dishes or do laundry.
- Stay away from windows, doors and concrete items.

If you're outdoors when severe weather strikes:

- Seek shelter when you first see dark clouds, lightning or hear thunder.

- Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.
- Get out of water and avoid metal. They both can carry an electrical current.
- Get inside a completely enclosed building immediately if one is accessible.
- Don't go into a carport, open garage or covered patio.
- If you can't find a completely enclosed building, find a hard-topped, all-metal vehicle.
- Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.
- Stay away from tall, isolated objects.
- If you're driving during a thunderstorm, get off the road. A lightning bolt could strike your car and temporarily blind you.
- If you're boating or swimming, get to shore immediately.