

### LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

**Valdosta Fire Department** 

Volume 4, Issue 5 May 2019

# **Electrical Safety in the Home**

### **Electrical facts:**

In 2012-2016, electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 35,100 reported home structure fire, on average, per year.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment ranked first in direct property damage, and third among the major fire causes in the number of home fires, and tied for third in home fire deaths and home fire injuries.

#### **Local Statistics:**

In 2018, VFD responded to a total of 50 electrical related incidents that involved short circuiting, arcing, and other wire-related problems.

### Electrical Safety Checklist:

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers,
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance,
- Discolored or warm wall outlets,
- A burning or rubbery smell

coming from an appliance,

- Flickering or dimming lights, or
- · Sparks from an outlet



Inspect your home for hidden electrical hazards.

Check electrical cords to make sure the wires are not damaged, cracked or loose. They need to be repaired by an electrician or replaced if damaged.

Never run power cords under rugs or carpeting.

Make sure that all receptacle

outlets and switches have faceplates.

Never put more than one plug in each receptacle. An outlet may have one or more receptacles — one to receive each plug.

Be sure that the bulbs in your lights match what is safe for the lamp. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage for the light bulb — such as use maximum of a 60 watt bulb.

Buy only appliances that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Keep ladders away from overhead power lines, including the electrical service into your home.

## National Fire Protection Association

https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/ Files/Public-Education/Resources/ Community-tool-kits/electric-kit/ Electrical\_Safety\_Checklist.pdf

#### Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

RUN AWAYME Hammer In

In

Answers to last month's wuzzles are right under the nose and high rise apartment.

### Fire Safety Quiz

- Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) reduce the risk of shock by shutting off an electrical circuit when the circuit could be a shock hazard.
- A. True
- B. False
- 2. Powered cords placed in the mouth can cause
- A. A burn
- B. A scar
- C. Electrocution
- D. A broken bone

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. A. & 2. B.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief

# What would you call a power failure? \*\*A current event.\*\*

Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) protect against fire by monitoring the electrical current in a circuit and shutting off the circuit when unintended arcing occurs. AFCIs should be installed in your home by a qualified electrician.

Light bulbs in the living area of your home, including closets, should have a shade or globe for protection. Light bulbs can get very hot and cause a fire if flammable material is too close.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to:

valdostafire@valdostacity.com