



Newsletter

MAY 2010

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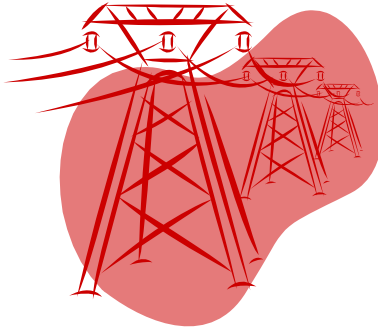
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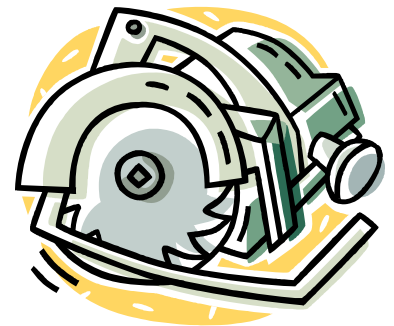
May is Electrical Safety Month



In today's modern life, we rely on electricity more and more at work and at home. Along with that trend comes increasing electrical safety hazards. The National Fire Protection Association reported an average of more than 53,000 electrical home structure fires every year between 2002-2006; these fires claimed more than 450 lives, injured more than 1,400 people, and caused more than \$1.4 billion in property damage. In addition, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

show that nearly 400 people are electrocuted each year in homes and workplaces. It's clear that this issue is worthy of our attention.

Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors Electrical Safety Month every May. You can educate yourself and others by visiting www.esfi.org and downloading the 2010 Electrical Safety Month Campaign Toolkit. Included in the toolkit are fact sheets about *power tool safety*, *surge protector and power strip safety*, and *indoor and outdoor electrical safety for kids*, among other great tips.



Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

CONGRATULATIONS to the Hagerstown Safe Communities Coalition!



After an extensive, 2-day site review last month by representatives from the Safe Communities International Certification Center, Hagerstown's application was approved and forwarded to the World Health Organization for the final steps in the certification process.

We're proud of you, Hagerstown!

2010 Injury Prevention Summit
SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, June 22, 2010
Location/Times: TBA

**Johns Hopkins 18th Annual
Summer Institute**
"Principles and Practice of Injury Prevention"
June 6-9, 2010 in Baltimore, MD
www.jhsph.edu/injurycenter

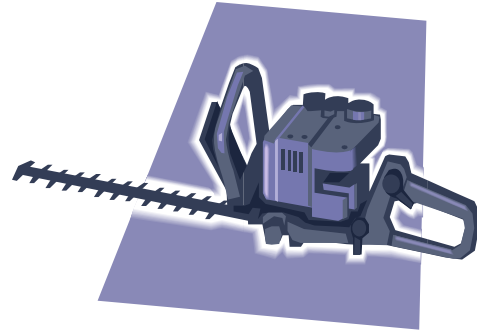


POWER TOOL SAFETY

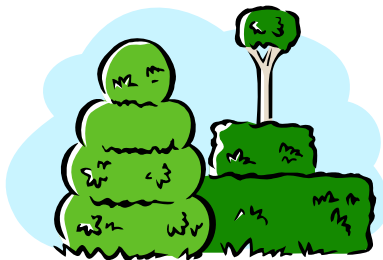
As the weather gets warmer, homeowners tend to look beyond the interior and begin outdoor maintenance and improvement projects. Many of these do-it-yourself projects involve the use of power tools. Working with power tools requires skilled instruction and training as they can be deadly if not properly used or maintained.

When working with power tools in your home or yard, safety should always be the foremost concern. The following guidelines can be used to ensure your safety when using power tools:

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electric shock hazards.
- When working with electricity, use tools with insulated grips to avoid electrical shock.
- Always plug power tools into a grounded outlet, unless they are double-insulated.
- Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
- Do not use power tools with an extension cord that exceeds 100 feet.
- Appropriate personal protective gear should be worn when using power tools.



Eight percent of consumer product-related electrocutions each year are attributed to power drills, saws, sanders, hedge trimmers, and other electric power tools (CPSC). Most of these fatalities could be prevented by the use of a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).



- Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org



From left: Linda Scarpetta (President), Carolyn Fowler, and Shelli Stevens-Stidham (President Emeritus)

DR. CAROLYN FOWLER RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

We extend **congratulations** to our very own Partnership for a Safer Maryland Board of Advisors member, Dr. Carolyn Fowler, who was honored with the prestigious “President’s Award” from the Safe States Alliance at the national organization’s annual awards dinner held on April 15, 2010 in Ann Arbor, MI.

The “President’s Award” recognizes a Safe States Alliance member who has been instrumental in assisting the President of Safe States in achieving the priorities of the organization – a primary one of which is to provide educational opportunities, training, and professional development for those within the injury and violence prevention field.