

Electrical Fires Fact Sheet



Electrical fires don't need open flames to ignite. All that's needed is the heat generated from the incorrect use of electrical cords or outlets.

Electrical cord wear and tear is a common cause of household electrical fires. Cords can become damaged from being placed underneath a rug or pulled little too far away from the outlet, resulting in stretching and fraying. These hazards can be eliminated by installing an outlet closer to appliances.

Extension cords should not be a long-term solution for household electrical connections. They are built to be temporary. If permanent wiring is required, have outlets installed by a licensed electrician.

Extension cords may be necessary for household jobs. To use extension cords safely, people must:

- Always use a cord that is long enough to do the job.
- Never link two extension cords together.
- Keep extension cords away from anything flammable.

Residents must avoid overloading outlets and power bars, especially around the holidays. No outlet should supply more than one power bar. The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency also recommends purchasing a power bar with a built-in circuit breaker and an on/off switch.

Overloading these connections can draw too much current from an outlet, leading to overheating which provides a source of ignition. If your TVs, computers, lamps, etc. can't fit onto a single power bar, consult a licensed electrician to find a solution that will keep your home safe from electrical hazards.