

# Safety First



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

Where would you be without electricity right now? Maybe you would be at work. Except you wouldn't be working on the computer, you'd be typing on a manual typewriter. And of course the lights wouldn't be working either, so you'd only have the light from your window, some candles or an oil lamp. The air conditioning would be gone as well.

You should be getting the point by now. It seems like everything we do now depends on electricity in some shape or form. We take it for granted that it will always be there for us, flowing into our homes and offices safely without incident. That isn't always the case, though.

Even if you don't know anyone who's been involved in an electrical accident, they do happen and the statistics are there to prove it. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, electrical accidents kill hundreds and seriously injure thousands of people each year.

Electricity is something everyone should be able to enjoy, but it isn't something you can just sit back and forget about. Precautions need to be taken to prevent tragedies from happening and who better to do it than you?

May is National Electrical Safety Month and is the time to check your home, inside and out, your office and anyplace else where you can look for electrical hazards. Have the wiring in your home checked by a certified electrician, especially if you just bought a new home or if your house is 40 years old or older and you have never had it checked before.

Install GFCIs in and around your home and office and check the quality of all your cords. Make sure you know where circuit panels are so you can shut them off in case of an emergency.

These tips are a few things you can do to promote electrical safety in your life. For more information, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International Web site at <http://www.esfi.org/> or contact your local energy provider.

SDREA Loss Control