

## AVOIDING ELECTRIC FIRES

HERE'S NEWS THAT MAY SPARK YOUR INTEREST: THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION SAYS ELECTRICAL FAILURES ARE FACTORS IN SOME FORTY-THREE THOUSAND HOME FIRES A YEAR. YOUR HOME, HOWEVER, CAN BE PROTECTED. HERE, FROM THE EXPERTS AT ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, ARE HELPFUL TIPS ON HOW. HAVE YOUR HOUSE INSPECTED BY A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN EVERY TEN YEARS; SOONER IF IT'S FORTY YEARS OLD OR OLDER, OR IF YOU'VE DONE A MAJOR RENOVATION OR ADDED NEW APPLIANCES. CHECK OUT THE SWITCHES AND OUTLETS. ARE THEY WORKING? DO PLUGS FIT SNUGLY? MAKE SURE ALL CIRCUIT BREAKERS AND FUSES ARE THE RIGHT SIZE. CONSIDER REPLACING STANDARD CIRCUIT BREAKERS WITH ARC FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS. AN ARC FAULT IS CAUSED BY DAMAGED, OVERHEATED OR STRESSED ELECTRICAL WIRING OR DEVICES AND IS A LEADING CAUSE OF HOME ELECTRIC FIRES. KEEP EXTENSION CORDS OUT OF HIGH-TRAFFIC AREAS SUCH AS DOORWAYS OR WALKWAYS AND INSPECT THEM FOR CRACKED, FRAYED, LOOSE OR BARE WIRES, AND LOOSE CONNECTIONS. USE THEM ONLY AS NEEDED, NOT AS A PERMANENT PART OF THE WIRING. FOR MORE SAFETY FACTS AND TIPS, GO TO [E-S-F-I--DOT--ORG](http://E-S-F-I--DOT--ORG).