

# Pull the Plug on Electrical Fires



**Electrical equipment** is a leading cause of home fires in Ontario.

Install **smoke** and **carbon monoxide** alarms on every storey of your home.

**Test them every month.**



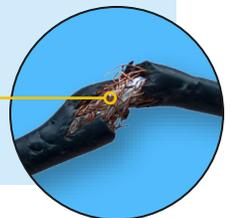
## *How do I keep myself and my loved ones safe?*

- **Avoid running cords under rugs** which can damage the cord and cause a fire.
- **Avoid overloading a circuit with "octopus outlets"**. If additional outlets or circuits are required, have them installed by a licensed electrician.
- Extension cords should be used only as a **temporary connection**. If permanent wiring is required, have additional outlets installed by a licensed electrician. **Extension cords should not be linked together**—use an extension cord that is long enough to do the job.



- Air conditioners and other heavy appliances should be plugged **directly into an outlet**.
- **Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)** should be installed in bathrooms, kitchens, and garages. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard.

- **Check electrical cords for damage such as fraying or nicks**. A damaged cord can expose wires and result in a potential shock or fire hazard.



For more information contact your **local fire department**.



Office of the Fire Marshal and  
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