



## North Coast Schools' Insurance Group

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SERVING DEL NORTE COUNTY AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOLS

### Spring into Safety with National Electrical Safety Month

Every day, we rely on electricity to power our homes and offices. However, it is important to always be safe around electric appliances, equipment, and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and it's a great time to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards.

By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid electrically related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss. Listed below are some safety tips to take into consideration.



#### **Indoor Safety:**

- Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and don't overload electric outlets.
- Extension cords are intended to be temporary; do not use them as permanent wiring.
- Don't run cords under carpets or rugs and don't tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
- Keep electric appliances and tools away from water.
- Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
- Contact a licensed electrical contractor if you have flickering lights, sparks, non-functioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

#### **Outdoor Safety:**

- Never touch downed power lines!
- Always notify PG&E or 911 if you see lines down.
- Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Know what's below before you dig. At least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project, call 811, the National One Call Center, to have underground utility lines, pipes, and cables marked for free.
- Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.