Adventist Heritage Center

From: Adventist Risk Management, Inc
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Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 8:52 AM
To: Adventist Heritage Center
Subject: Follow these tips to prevent electrical fires

12 TIPS TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES
Adventist Risk Management, Inc. | Weekly Newsletter

Providing Risk Management Solutions
for the Seventh-day Adventist® Church
12 Tips to Prevent Electrical Fires in Homes, Churches and Schools

Statistics from the U.S. Fire Administration indicate that an estimated 4,000 school building fires were reported by United States fire departments each year (Report: School Building Fires 2009-2011). These fires caused an estimated 75 injuries and $66.1 million in property losses.

Continue reading...

Holiday Safety Webinar
Sunday, November 23, 2014
2:30 PM EDT

By Arthur Blinci, VP Chief Risk Management Officer at Adventist Risk Management, Inc

SPACE IS LIMITED

Reserve your Webinar Seat Now at:
https://www.fuzemeeting.com/webinar/register/1035882

Sleigh bells ring are you listening… It’s the holiday season and like it or not we are entering one of the busiest times of the year. Is your church prepared for the holiday season? Holiday programs often involve the building of backdrops, stage
sets, special costumes or just decorating the church. This is an important time of the year to be sure the best safety practices are followed so your congregation can celebrate the season without injury or a tragic accident. As a church safety officer you can learn special safety practices by joining us for our Church Holiday Safety webinar on November 23rd.

Title: Holiday Safety
Date: Sunday, November 23, 2014
Time: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EDT (NOTE THE TIME ZONE)

BAD THINGS COME FOR THOSE WHO WAIT.

Insurance industry statistics show that delays in claim reporting causes difficulty in resolving claims and increases the cost.

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12 Tips to Prevent Electrical Fires in Homes, Churches and Schools

Statistics from the U.S. Fire Administration indicate that an estimated 4,000 school building fires were reported by United States fire departments each year (Report: School Building Fires 2009-2011). These fires caused an estimated 75 injuries and $66.1 million in property losses. From January 2009 to December 2013, the Adventist Risk Management Claims Department has reported more than $4,000,000 in losses caused by 44 electrical fires in buildings throughout the North American Division. Among these electrical fire claims, 28 occurred at SDA churches and schools. Research shows that a great percentage of electrical fires can be prevented. Good housekeeping minimizes the chance of an electrical fire. To help you avoid being part of the US Fire Administration and ARM claims statistics, implement the following safety tips in your maintenance routine.

- **Fire load** – A fire load is the material that could easily catch fire in the immediate area. Storage of paper, cardboard boxes, gasoline, and other flammable material should be kept to the minimum. Waste bins should be emptied daily and trash dumpsters should be kept away from the building.

- **Electrical outlets** – Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed.

- **Plugs** – Never force them into outlets. Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Use an adaptor instead. Avoid overloading outlets with multi-outlet adapters or power strips plugged in series.

- **Wires or Cords** – Make sure they are not frayed or cracked. Do not place under carpets or rugs or in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple wires or cords to walls, floors, or other objects.

- **Extension cords** – Use them on a temporary basis only. They are not intended for use as permanent wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock and mouth burn injuries.

- **Light bulbs** – Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended on the fixture. Make sure they are screwed in securely to avoid overheating.

- **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** – Make sure GFCIs are installed in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement, and garage, as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they’re working properly.

- **Circuit breakers/fuses** – Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don’t know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that all circuit breakers are working properly.

- **Appliances/Electronics** – If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

- **Electrical wiring** – Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes and electrical fires. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that
spark and flicker.

- Service capacity – As you continue to upgrade your home, church, or school with more lighting, appliances, and electronics, the electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If circuit breakers trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements and should be used to make repairs at your facilities.

For more information on fire visit http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week/fast-facts-about-fire

by: CArina Franca
MARKETING ANALYST

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