

# Electrical Home Safety

The National Fire Protection Association reports over 50,000 home fires caused by electrical failures each year.

Practical and low cost steps reduce the risk for a house fire from electrical malfunctions.



## House System & Age Factors

- ✓ Keep tree limbs and other objects away from power lines. Address any sagging or damaged lines.
- ✓ Circuit breakers and their components don't have an unlimited life expectancy and are not necessarily safe just because they have not tripped recently.
- ✓ Breaker panels in homes over 30 years old should be inspected by a licensed, qualified electrician.
- ✓ Homes built prior to 1950 could have knob and tube wiring with exposed wires. Older materials like knob and tube wiring should be removed.
- ✓ If a building has aluminum wiring, an electrician should evaluate the condition of the wiring and confirm that connections are secure.
- ✓ Pay attention to lightning protection and make sure it is properly grounded and installed.

## Key Practices

- ✓ Replace Federal Pacific electric panels and Stab Lok circuit breakers. They present a much higher fire risk.
- ✓ Watch for overloaded circuits from older fuse boxes or circuit breakers.
- ✓ Replace the fuse panel with a modern circuit breaker panel.
- ✓ Keep electric panel doors closed.
- ✓ Don't use extension cords for permanent use.
- ✓ Use only UL listed cords and power strips.
- ✓ Never cover power strips, which can cause overheating.

Check out our [Safety Tips page](#) for more safety information.

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