



Power Safety

Of your many jobs as a parent or caregiver, keeping your family safe is naturally your most important concern. Whether it's helping your child buckle her seat belt or changing the batteries in your smoke detector, your child's safety is never far from your mind—and sometimes it's literally in your hands.

Electricity and natural gas help us do amazing things: write e-mails, keep a nightlight on, and cook dinner. But we must always be careful when handling electricity or gas. Here are ways to keep your home safe and ways to help your children keep themselves away from harm. You are your child's first teacher!



THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Lots of people help us stay "power-safe":

- » **A licensed electrician can fix your wires, outlets, or fuse box. An electrician can also install new wiring, which should be inspected by a wiring inspector.**
- » **People who work on power lines are called utility workers or lineworkers. It takes training to learn how to handle electricity safely.**



Creating a Safe Home Together

- » **Plan an emergency escape route.** Make a simple drawing of all the rooms in your home and map out a first way and a second way to get out fast. Practice your escape plan with everybody who lives in the house.
- » **Have safety tools checked and ready:** flashlight, class C all-purpose fire extinguisher, smoke alarms, and safety caps on unused outlets.
- » **Turn your television set and other appliances off** during a lightning storm.
- » **Keep radios, TVs and hair dryers away** from sinks, tubs, pools, or any water.
- » **Set your water heater at "medium" to avoid burns.** Do the "elbow test" before putting an infant in the tub. Never leave children unattended in the tub.



Talking to Your Child About Power Safety

Share simple, clear messages:

- » **Grown-ups help.** Ask for help when you need to use something that uses electricity or gas.
- » **Never touch a wire that's in the street!** Stay away from the wire. It is broken and it could hurt you.
- » **In an emergency, get away.** Leave the area and get help from a grown-up or neighbor.
- » **Hot things burn.** Don't play near the furnace, water heater, stove, or grill. Don't play near any electrical equipment, wires, or power lines.
- » **Don't touch outlets.** Keep your fingers and other objects away from electric outlets. Don't play with electrical cords, wires, or switches.
- » **Water and electricity never mix.** If you're in the bathtub, shower, or standing on a wet floor, never touch anything electrical, like a light switch or hair dryer.