



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Office of the City Clerk

City Hall, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Work Phone: (704) 638-5224

Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>

Work Email: mhear@salisburync.gov

Electrical Fire Safety – A message from the Salisbury Fire Marshal

Salisbury, North Carolina, December 17, 2014 – As we become more and more dependent on technology, we are tethered ever tighter to electricity. It powers our computers, lights our homes and brews our morning coffee. Because electricity can be a reliable friend, we sometimes forget the incredible power it has.

According to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), electrical fires were involved in an estimated annual average of 47,820 reported home structure fires in 2007 to 2011. These fires resulted in 455 civilian deaths and 1,518 civilian injuries, with \$1.5 billion in direct property damage.

Such fires can be prevented by treating electricity and the devices that use it with respect. The Salisbury Fire Department is urging all residents to get grounded in the basics of electrical safety and help reduce the number of electrical fires in our community. Here are just a few simple things you can do:

- When you are buying, selling or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified electrician.
- Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Avoid pinching cords against walls or furniture or running them under carpets or across doorways. This can cause a fire.
- Use extension cords for temporary wiring only.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- Call 911 immediately if you have:
 - recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
 - a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance.
 - discolored or warm wall outlets.
 - a burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance.
 - flickering lights.
 - sparks from an outlet.

To learn more about what you can do to keep your home safe from electrical fires, please visit www.nfpa.org.

Fire Marshal Terry Smith
Salisbury Fire Department

Media Contact: Terry Smith, Fire Marshal, 704-638-4467 tsmit@salisburync.gov

#

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs and events, please follow us on Twitter at www.salisburync.gov/twitter.