

## MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

### Tip of the Month:

**Don't overload extension cords.** Use them for temporary purposes only. Replace worn, old, or damaged extension cords right away.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

### PRACTICE ELECTRIC SAFETY & PREVENT FIRES

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, faulty wiring and other electrical hazards account for an estimated 51,000 fires each year in the U.S., nearly 500 deaths, more than 1,400 injuries, and approximately \$1.3 billion in property damage.

Loudoun County Chief Fire Marshal Linda Hale says the frequency of electrical-related fires have continued to increase in Loudoun and have caused more than \$1 million worth of damages in the last six months.

"We all use electricity in our everyday lives, but sometimes people forget the potential dangers of using electrical equipment," she says. "Oftentimes these fires are preventable, which is why our fire department is bringing attention to electrical safety."

Loudoun County Fire and NOVEC offer these tips to help eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family, and your home:

- ⚠️ Look for the label of an independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories, to make sure the product meets industry safety standards.
- ⚠️ Inspect electrical appliance cords for damage.
- ⚠️ Use power strips with internal overload protection. Or ask a licensed electrician to install additional circuits and outlets.
- ⚠️ Inspect electrical plate covers: Warm or discolored covers may indicate dangerous wiring.
- ⚠️ Test ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and any arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs).
- ⚠️ Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. Don't use a high-watt light bulb in a lower-watt fixture. Keep hot bulbs away from anything flammable

For more electrical safety information, go to [www.novec.com/safety](http://www.novec.com/safety).

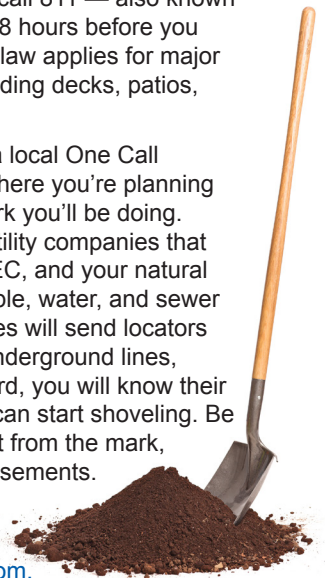
### CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

With spring in full bloom, you may be planning to plant new trees or shrubs in your yard. Planting a shade tree on the southern or western side of your house will help block the sun's heat and therefore help you save energy dollars and be more comfortable.

Before you grab a shovel, call 811 — also known as Miss Utility — at least 48 hours before you dig. It's the law. The same law applies for major construction projects, including decks, patios, and fences.

Your call will be routed to a local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing. The center will notify the utility companies that serve you, including NOVEC, and your natural gas, phone, fiber-optic, cable, water, and sewer providers. These companies will send locators to your property to mark underground lines, pipes, and cables. Afterward, you will know their approximate location and can start shoveling. Be sure to dig at least five feet from the mark, to stay away from utility easements.

For more information, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) or [www.missutilityofvirginia.com](http://www.missutilityofvirginia.com).



### Holiday Office Closure:

**MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017**

NOVEC offices will be closed for Memorial Day

The operations center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on holidays. To report outages, call 703-335-0500 or toll-free 1-888-335-0500.

### - Congratulations -

*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ramsey of Haymarket, Va., won this quarter's new customer survey drawing and received a \$25 Lowe's gift card.*

## HOW DO YOU USE ENERGY? Please let us know in our survey

To better serve our customer-owners, we would like to know how, when, and why you use energy. As a result, we will offer all residential customer-owners an opportunity to participate in a brief online energy-use survey beginning in May.

The survey is being conducted online to avoid paper and postage costs and reduce data-entry error. Members who receive the e-What's Current online newsletter may click on a link to the survey. If you do not receive the monthly newsletter, please sign up at [www.novec.com/subscribe](http://www.novec.com/subscribe). We will also post the survey link on NOVEC's website, [www.novec.com](http://www.novec.com). We will keep it secure, just as we do all of your account information.

The survey will ask about your home's construction, the types and ages of your heating and cooling systems, the number and ages of appliances, how you connect to the internet, and other energy-use questions. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be anonymous and confidential. If you have questions or concerns, or would like for a NOVEC representative to contact you, enter your comments and name in the comment box at the end of the survey.

Responses from members will help NOVEC make short- and long-range strategic plans, modify existing programs to meet changing needs, add new programs, and enhance communications with you.

Please complete the survey as soon as you can. The goal is to have data analyzed and a report prepared by August.

Thank you for helping us serve your energy needs better.

# Safety First.



**When you genuinely care about the people you serve, their safety comes first.**

That's why we ask you to put **Safety First**. Take care of yourself and those around you by calling 811 at least two days before you dig and by keeping ladders and other objects away from overhead power lines.

**Put Safety First. Your life depends on it.**



**NOVEC.com**

**Summer is almost here!** To beat the heat this summer, visit [www.novec.com/save](http://www.novec.com/save) for energy saving tips.

# BEAT THE HEAT

## Receive Automatic Air Filter Deliveries Right To Your Door

Never forget to change your home air filters again

### Get Your First Order Free!

Learn More:

[www.filtereasy.com/novec](http://www.filtereasy.com/novec)



Powered by **Filter Easy**