# 1

## **PREPARE**

Avoid pinching cords between walls and furniture.

Buy appliances and electronics that are endorsed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Buy tamper-resistant (childproof) outlet covers.

Follow manufacturer's recommendations for storage and cleaning of all appliances.

Heavy items placed on top of an electrical cord can wear out the cord and start a fire.

Use appliances the way they are intended.







# AVOID ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD

Do not join electrical cords or surge protectors. No daisy chains.

Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician determine if additional circuits or wall outlets are needed.

If using an outdoor extension cord, make sure it is listed for the correct wattage being used and it is rated for outdoor use.

MOST ELECTRICAL FIRES
ARE STARTED BY OVERLOADED
EQUIPMENT OR OUTLETS.



#### **OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

503-934-8228 oregon.gov/osfm osfmce@osfm.oregon.gov







## **PREVENT**

Consider having a qualified electrician install arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) which protect against electrical fires and malfunctions by shutting off electricity.

Keep things that can burn, like curtains, clothes, and paper, away from lamps and light bulbs.

Plug only one appliance in a wall outlet at a time.

Unplug all unused appliances.



## **ACT**

Consult a qualified electrician for:

- blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- discolored or warm wall outlets or switches
- a burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance
- flickering lights
- sparks from a wall outlet
- cracked or broken wall outlets

Replace appliances with damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections.











