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RG&E AND consumer news

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Electrical Safety Outdoors

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Think about safety while enjoying outdoor activities this spring and summer. Here are a few suggestions:

Keep electric appliances such as radios away from swimming pools. The combination of electricity and water is always hazardous because water is an excellent conductor of electric current.

Fly kites out in the open away from overhead power lines. Your attempt to free a trapped kite by pulling it or climbing up a pole after it could result in a severe shock. If a kite does get caught in a power line, leave it there and call RG&E at 546-1100.

Turn off and disconnect your electric power mower or remove the spark plug wire from gasoline mower before you remove grass clippings or make any adjustments on the motor. Take care to see that the cord of an electric mower doesn't get caught in the blades. Wear sturdy shoes, preferably safety shoes rather than sneakers or sandals to protect your feet when you cut the lawn. Prevent serious cuts by planning ahead.

Do not let a chain saw run unattended when you are cutting a tree. Shut off the power and lay the saw on the ground and move out of its way. Use a lightweight hand tool to trim tree branches instead of a heavy chain saw that could be cumbersome.

Remove the door or its latch when discarding an old refrigerator. Small children may not realize the danger from crawling in an old refrigerator. Models manufactured after 1958 must have a means to open the door from the inside, but there are many older refrigerators still in homes that were manufactured before this law was passed.

Make this a safe spring and summer!

Laundering Children's Sleepwear

If you have purchased children's sleepwear whose laundering instructions read: **Do not send to commercial cleaner. Do not use bleach, soap, low or non-phosphate detergents,** then you may be asking yourself, "How do I clean them?"

In June, 1973, the Flammable Fabrics Act was passed stating that all children's sleepwear sizes 0 through 6x would be flame retardant. The sizes extended to 14 on May 31, 1975. This means that the fabric is either naturally resistant to bursting into flames or a finish has been applied to achieve the same purpose. However, New York State is a non-phosphate detergent state and it has been found that these detergents as well as soaps coat the flame retardant finish, tending to make the flame retardancy ineffective.

The solution? Manufacturers of detergents suggest using heavy duty liquid laundry detergents. This would include brands as liquid All, Dynamo, Era, or Wisk. These detergents have a substitute base different from powders and will not coat the flame retardant finish.

For further information on the use of non-phosphate detergents, you may send for the booklet, "Coping Without Phosphates," put together by the Home Service Department.

Now Featured at RG&E's Consumer Information Center

The Ground-Fault Interrupter

The Ground-Fault Interrupter

Electricity has become so much a part of our lives that we take it for granted. We tend to overlook the fact that it must be handled with respect. Carelessness, misuse, and defective electrical equipment all contribute to more than 1000 deaths and thousands of injuries from electric shock each year.

What happens in an electrical system to cause a shock? Most electrical shocks are the result of ground faults. A ground fault is a condition that exists when the current supplied to a circuit is able

to return to its source through the ground rather than through the return wire.

When does a ground fault exist?

When you turn on an appliance, such as a lamp or toaster, electricity flows into it through a "hot" wire and leaves through a neutral wire. The current in the neutral wire should be the same as the current in the hot wire. However, if for some reason the current in the neutral wire becomes less than that in the hot wire, a ground fault exists and part of the current is escaping and returning through the ground. If you

touch the "hot" wire, or if the wire is in contact with a metal part of the appliance and you touch the appliance, the electricity will try to travel through you to the ground.

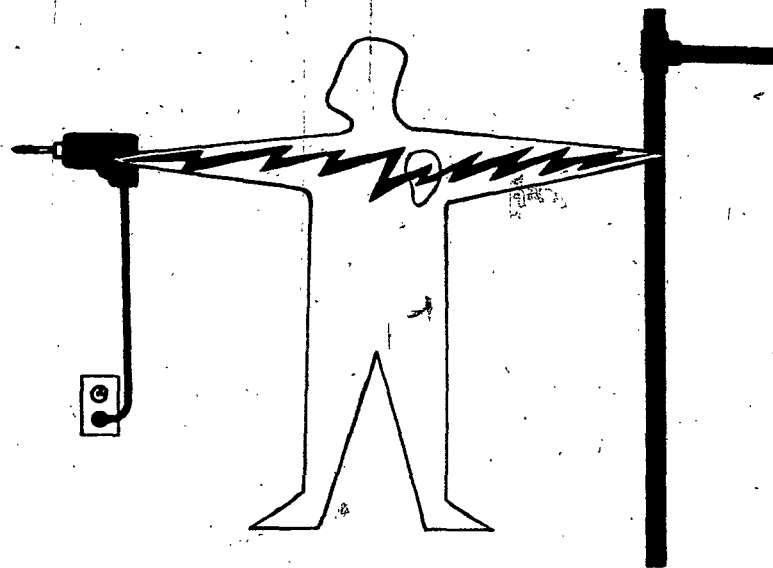
How much of a shock you receive depends on how much current goes through you. And this depends on the physical conditions surrounding you.

If your hands are dry, and you're standing on a dry floor, you may only receive a slight shock. However, if your hands are wet, or if you're standing on damp ground or in water, or if you simply have direct contact with the ground, you could be electrocuted.

How can you protect yourself against such hazards? The answer is the ground-fault interrupter (GFI). It prevents painful or deadly electric shock by interrupting the flow of current before it reaches a magnitude high enough to harm you.

This amazing device senses ground faults that are too small for fuses and circuit breakers to detect. The GFI constantly monitors the amount of current flowing to and returning from the appliances on a circuit. Remember that these two should be exactly the same. If there is a difference greater than .005 amp, the GFI detects it and instantly switches off the electricity. Reaction is so immediate, in less time than a heartbeat in fact, that damage to the body is prevented. You may feel a slight shock, but it isn't harmful.

During the month of June RG&E's Consumer Information Center will display various types of ground-fault interrupters. Come in and learn how to protect your home and family with a ground-fault interrupter. Or call your electrician and discuss your needs with him.



A Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter prevents electrical shocks that could be fatal.

The \$1.70 a Day Bargain

You and your family are today's average consumers. You use approximately 15,000 cubic feet of gas and 500 kilowatts of electricity a month, and it costs around \$1.70 a day. Too expensive, you say? Have you ever stopped to think what this \$1.70 is really worth to you?

Let's take a day in your life.

You wake up to the raucous buzz of the alarm clock. Fumbling in the dark to stop the irritating noise is futile, so you switch on the light first. Perhaps you also turn on the radio for the morning news. If your home is too chilly, you move the thermostat up a few degrees.

After an invigorating — and hot — shower, you shave and/or blow-dry your hair. And the morning wouldn't seem complete without cold orange juice, right out of the refrigerator, bacon and eggs cooked on your gas or electric range, and toast from the toaster. Not to mention several cups of coffee from the electric percolator.

If you don't leave for work, you probably have a few things to take care of around the house. You'd be lost without the washer and dryer, more so if there are

young children in the picture. Permanent press fabrics are marvelous but some clothing still needs a touch-up with the iron before you can sigh with relief that the laundry is done for the day.

When lunch is over, it's time to do the dishes. Even if you don't have an electric dishwasher, you need hot water, especially for those greasy pots and pans. Still feeling ambitious, you notice that you haven't cleaned in a while and reach for the vacuum cleaner. It has so many attachments that you haven't picked up a dust mop or aired out the draperies in months — you can accomplish the task in half the time by simply changing a nozzle.

Wow! It's been a hard day so far. Why not "take five," heat some water for a cup of tea, and watch a few segments of your favorite soap opera or game show? The color television beautifully emphasizes those elaborate Hollywood settings.

You may have planned an easy dinner, but you still find you are using the oven and the top of the range, and maybe an electric frying pan as well. More hot water is needed for clean-up detail when the meal is finished.

After dinner, you and your family might pursue various interests, few of them unaided by electricity in some manner. From pruning the yard and using power tools in the workshop to simply reading or watching television from an easy-chair, you are constantly taking advantage of this precious commodity. Long after the last light has been turned off and you're asleep for the night, your household continues to consume energy. Your refrigerator, freezer, and clocks run constantly; the water tank maintains a steady supply of hot water; and your home is being heated or cooled if necessary.

That was just one day. At another time you may use a sewing machine, operate any number of the countless small appliances such as a can opener or blender, turn on a fan, snuggle up near an electric or gas fireplace, etc. The list goes on and on. All for an average of \$1.70 a day. If our increases are granted in April, 1976, it will average only 23c a day more.

We all take gas and electricity for granted. We're lucky we can. Having given it some thought, don't you think it's one of the best bargains in today's world?

Recently we mailed a pamphlet stating the reasons we were asking for gas and electric rate increases. If you have any further questions please call:

Anne Fenstermacher
546-2700
extension 2330

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: 1010

Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649
546-2700

I would like more information on the following items:

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Town _____ Zip Code _____