

# SAFETY SENSE

## Avoid Outdoor Electrical Hazards At Work And Home

(NAPSA)—Outdoor work, both on the job and at home, tends to increase with temperatures. Thousands could avoid being injured or killed annually if they gave more thought to outdoor electrical hazards, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

Electricity ranks sixth among causes of occupational fatalities, the majority of which are related to power lines, according to National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health studies published by the National Safety Council (NSC). The construction industry alone accounted for 44 percent of electrical fatalities, NSC reports.

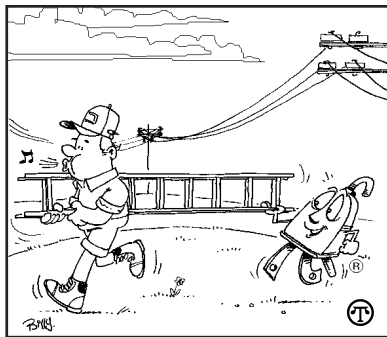
"Whether on the job or at home, avoiding electrical hazards can help keep you safe," notes Michael G. Clendenin, executive director of ESFI.

Awareness of the causes of electrical injuries—and following basic safety guidelines—can reduce electrical hazards.

- In the workplace, contact with overhead power lines caused approximately 40 percent of job-related fatalities, NSC reports.

- U.S. Consumer Protection Safety Commission (CPSC) studies found that ladders contacting power lines caused nine percent of consumer-related electrocutions.

- Garden and farm equipment resulted in approximately seven



percent of the consumer-product electrocutions, according to CPSC.

ESFI notes that following safety rules can reduce electrical hazards:

- Water and damp conditions—including wet grass—do not mix with electricity.

- Ladders—including wood—carried in an upright position can contact a power line with potentially fatal results.

- Unplug tools and appliances when not in use.

- Inspect tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing, and repair or replace damaged items.

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on outlets. Portable GFCIs are available from hardware and home improvement stores.

For more electrical safety information, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org) and download the Outdoor Electrical Safety Check, in ESFI's Library.