

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY TAKES NO VACATION

When heading out on vacation, you probably already have a long list of things to remember to do. To make sure your trip and home are safer, you might want to add a few items around electrical safety.

## MIX UP YOUR LIGHTING

You might think you're fooling burglars if you leave a light or two on for your vacation. But **bulbs can get very hot or make the fixture hot when left on** for extended periods, creating a potential hazard.

To keep some lights on, **use a motion-sensing outdoor lighting system and programmable timers for inside lights.** Today's timers usually have settings, including a randomized setting, which creates

the illusion that different rooms are in use at various times.

## UNPLUG TO BE MORE SECURE

**Unplugging all appliances and electronics that aren't necessary** while you're gone can help secure your electrical system. This can help reduce the chances of an electrical fire and prevent potential disasters in case of power surges or lightning strikes. You might unplug items like coffee makers, toasters, televisions, and home entertainment systems.

## CHECK YOUR TEMPORARY HOME

You shouldn't let your guard down because you're away from home. Keep your eyes open for electrical hazards when staying at a hotel, condo, or short-term rental. When you check in, look for **overloaded outlets, extension cords in use, outlets that get too hot, and**

**the smell of overheated wires.**

Exercise caution when you find issues. If they're too dangerous to handle yourself, let management know immediately. If they don't fix the situation or refund your deposit, go somewhere else and report them to authorities.

## STAY IN THE CAR

It can be very frightening to strike a utility pole. That's especially true when you're already in an unfamiliar place. **Always stay in the car if you hit a utility pole.** Power lines can fall and still be energized. If they fall on or near your vehicle, you can easily be electrocuted if you don't stay in the car. Let others know to stay back as well. Stay in the vehicle until an electric utility responder lets you know it's safe to exit. If you encounter an accident involving power lines, **call 911 and warn those involved of the dangers.**