

JANUARY 2011



DEFENDER ELECTRIC



HOT OFF THE WIRE



Volume 2, Issue 1

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**Defender Electric
Mark Your
Calendars!**

Come see
Defender Electric
at the
**Designs for Living
Home and Garden
Show**
being held
March 4-6
**Hamilton
Convention Centre**

WINTER SAFETY ISSUE

As a company, over the past month we have seen a significant increase in the amount of fire repairs as well as news stories of electrical safety issues. As a result, January's newsletter is entirely devoted to tips and techniques to keep yourself and your family safe from fire and electric shock this winter. We encourage you to keep this issue handy for reference

BUYER BEWARE—Tips for Buying Safe Electrical Appliances

During the winter months, we tend to buy more electrical appliances than during the rest of the year — heaters, emergency lights and electric blankets. Items such as these can be found on sale in stores throughout the country—each store trying to entice us with special displays and offers. However, when buying electrical appliances, you should be very careful that you do not purchase appliances with questionable safety issues. Following are some tips to avoid cheaply made and unsafe electrical products:

- ★ Make it a point to purchase products from reputable stores, companies, distributors and retailers.

- ★ If the bargain seems too good to be true, it probably is. You could be buying a defective and unsafe product
- ★ See if the manufacturer's name and contact information can be found on the packaging. If not, consider making the purchase elsewhere or buying a different brand
- ★ Check to see if the warning label does not conflict with information elsewhere on the product or packaging. Grammatical errors in the labeling can be a telltale sign of a cheaply made product
- ★ Visit the Electrical Safety Authority Website often for recalls on electrical products
www.esasafe.com/Recalls.php

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

- ⇒ Try to avoid using candles for lighting during a power outage. Instead use flashlights and other battery-powered lights which are not a potential fire hazard
- ⇒ Ensure that you have a good supply of flashlights, batteries, and other such supplies in case of emergency
- ⇒ When the power goes out, turn off any major appliances, leaving only a light or two in the "on" position to act as a signal for when the power returns. Larger appliances left on can cause an over-load
- ⇒ Remember that no matter how safety conscious you think you are, things can always go wrong. It is a good idea to prepare for the unexpected. A good functioning (battery backup) smoke alarm can dramatically increase your chances of surviving a fire.

DESIGNS FOR LIVING
HOME & GARDEN
SHOW



**From the Desk of
David Lopinski**



I would like to wish all of our clients our warmest wishes for 2011. Electrical Safety is something that hits us extremely close to home day after day at Defender Electric. Please read this newsletter carefully and keep it for your reference and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions!

Yours for electrical safety,
David Lopinski

We're On the Web!!
www.defenderelectric.com



DEFENDER ELECTRIC

QUALITY IS OUR POWER

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Safety Tips for Electric Blankets and Heating Pads

During the winter months it is natural to use electric blankets and heating pads to warm up a chilly evening, or relieve those aches and pains associated with cold and flu season. However, electric blankets and heating pads when not used correctly can be a source of injury and fire. Before you use one, please review these tips:

- Electric blankets (that you cover yourself with) and electric heating pads (that you put directly on the mattress) should not be used interchangeably or at the same time.
- Before plugging in your electric blanket or pad, check for any damage and inspect for worn cords and other damage.
- Electric blankets should not be tucked under the mattress and nothing should be placed on top of

SAFETY TIPS FOR PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS



Many of us resort to using space heaters for additional warmth during our cold Canadian winters. Unfortunately, space heaters continue to be a large source of electric shock and fire damage. Please see the tips below for safe operation of space heaters.

- Keep drapes, newspapers, clothing and other combustible objects a safe distance away
- Plug portable space heaters directly into the outlet. Do not use extension cords or 3-in-1 adapters
- Always put heaters in a place where they can't be tipped over easily. It's best to keep them on the floor where they have less of a chance of falling and becoming a potential fire or shock hazard.
- Do not use heaters in wet or moist areas, such as bathrooms, unless they are specifically built for that purpose. Doing so can not only corrode the heater, but can be a dangerous shock hazard.
- Make sure that the plug of the heater fits snugly in the outlet. A worn-out outlet can overheat, burning both the outlet and the plug
- Do not run cords under rugs or carpets
- Broken heaters should be checked and repaired only by a qualified appliance service centre
- Do not use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised. Children may stick their fingers or other objects through the protective guards, causing burns or shock. Always turn off and unplug the space heater when not in use.

the blanket while it is in use. Use the ties on the heating pad to secure it to the mattress. This prevents slipping and creasing which could damage the elements.

- Do not fold the electric blanket while it's being used. This can cause the blanket to overheat and burn out. Make sure the blanket has a mechanism to cut off the power if the blanket overheats
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using the electric blanket or pad. Most advise against using heating blankets on waterbeds, sofas, bunk beds or mechanical beds.
- When washing the blanket, ensure it is completely dry before use. Never dry-clean an electric blanket because the chemicals can damage the heating insulation and increase the risk of fire.

