May Is National Electrical Safety Month!!!

It is impossible to imagine our lives without electrical power. We use it daily, and electricity has certainly made our lives better! We all need to keep in mind the amount of energy behind that little receptacle and wall switch we all use. The average household circuit can have as much as 30 amps of power, and 240 volts of energy powering them. Under the right conditions, it can take as little as .1 milliamp to result in a fatal injury. Here are some electrical safety tips, courtesy of PSE, that can help you protect yourself, both at work and around the house:

**Fallen Wires**

During storms, wind and trees can damage utility equipment. If you see downed electrical wires, stay away and warn others. Call BGE immediately and a crew will be dispatched to fix the problem. If a wire falls across your car while you are inside, do not get out of the car until emergency help arrives.

**Working Near Power Lines**

The law requires that before anyone begins work that may bring people, equipment, or other objects within 10 feet of overhead power lines, they must notify BGE. Arrangements must be made in advance to protect you against the danger of accidental contact with wires or electrical equipment. For your safety, avoid overhead wires when placing or moving ladders or other metal objects. In addition, do not erect antennas near power lines.

**Fuses and Circuit Breakers**

When a fuse blows or a circuit breaker is tripped, disconnect the appliances that stopped working when the power went out. Replace a blown fuse with a new one of the proper size and amperage. Do not replace a fuse with one of a larger size. This may cause a fire in your house wiring.

When a circuit breaker trips, you will find one breaker switch is out of line with the others. To reset the breaker, flip it all the way off and then flip it back in line with the other breaker switches.

If the fuse continues to blow or a breaker keeps tripping, call a qualified electrician immediately.

**Electrical Surges**

By its very nature, electricity is unpredictable. Electrical disturbances, known as surges, have a number of causes such as lightning, falling tree limbs, solar and wind storms, and vehicles hitting utility poles.

Most of the time, surges are harmless. Occasionally, a surge can cause damage to electrical equipment in your home, especially sensitive equipment such as VCRs, stereos, TVs, and computers. BGE recommends using good-quality surge protection equipment for all sensitive electronic equipment, or consider getting whole house protection to safeguard all of your equipment.

**ASBESTOS AWARENESS TRAINING**

The University provides online asbestos awareness training at: http://www.ehs.washington.edu/ohsasbestos/index.shtml

This training is required, and the refresher course only takes a few minutes! Take the time, take the test, and have fun!