

# Stick to Safety

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Spring 2010

## Dear Safety Coordinators,

Most electricity injuries in Wisconsin occur from children chewing on indoor electrical cords. This past January, a toddler in Colorado was hospitalized after putting a USB cord in her mouth. She suffered third-degree burns from an iPod USB cord, which was plugged into a laptop. This safety incident happened in an instant, but it's leaving a scar for life. Preventing these injuries is important to us, and we thank you for taking the time to make sure your school's classrooms are safe for children.

This spring, we are focused on teaching children four main electricity and natural gas safety rules:

1. **Stay away from power lines.** They are dangerous and can kill you. Don't climb trees near power lines or go near any downed wires.
2. **Mr. Ouch means danger.** Don't touch. When you see Mr. Ouch on a transformer (green ground box), stay away.
3. **Natural gas smells like rotten eggs.** If you smell natural gas in your home, tell an adult immediately and get out of the house.
4. **Outlets are for plugs.** Never chew on electrical cords, or stick your fingers or anything metal into an outlet. You could be shocked, burned or worse.

Thank you for sharing these rules and this newsletter with teachers, parents and students. Encourage them to visit our kid-friendly Stick to Safety web site: Go to [www.we-energies.com/educators](http://www.we-energies.com/educators), and click Safety Spotlight.




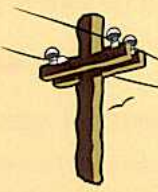

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Haas

We Energies Education Outreach Program

## Coordinator Watch

Dangerous behaviors like fooling around with electrical equipment, going near any power lines or ignoring minor safety warnings can end up being deadly. Encourage these safe behaviors with students:

- ✓ Don't spray hoses or high-power squirt guns at pad-mounted transformers (green boxes). Electricity can travel down the stream of water right back to you, resulting in severe burns and other injuries! The Mr. Ouch warning signs are on these boxes for a reason. Don't fool around with them—period. 
- ✓ Underground electrical wires and natural gas pipelines are everywhere—even in your yard. Before you plant a tree, put in a new mailbox or do anything that requires digging, call your local utility locator service at 811. They will mark the utility lines, so that you and your family can dig safely. 
- ✓ Fly kites and other aerial toys far away from power lines. Playing too close to power lines can cause serious personal injury. 
- ✓ Don't ever climb trees that are near overhead wires. If you accidentally touch a wire, you would not be able to let go until it was too late. You would immediately become a path-to-ground for electricity, causing a loss of control over your muscles, and most likely death. 
- ✓ Don't plug in radios, CD players or other electronic appliances near bathtubs, hot tubs or pools. Water and electricity don't mix. If an electrical appliance falls into a pool or water source, you could be electrocuted. 

## Safety Spotlight

Reserve your free Follow the Rules Safety Kit today for National Safety Month (May): Go to [www.we-energies.com/educators](http://www.we-energies.com/educators) and click *Safety Spotlight*. Then press the Request Kit button. The kit includes a K-5 teacher's guide with lesson plans and activities, a classroom poster, student rulers and safety certificates. 

**May Is National Safety Month...**

**Visit Our Stick to Safety web site**

[www.we-energies.com/educators](http://www.we-energies.com/educators)



## Phone Directory

Power outage hotline: 800-662-4PWR (4797)

Natural gas leak and emergency: 800-261-LEAK (5325)

Customer service: 800-242-9137

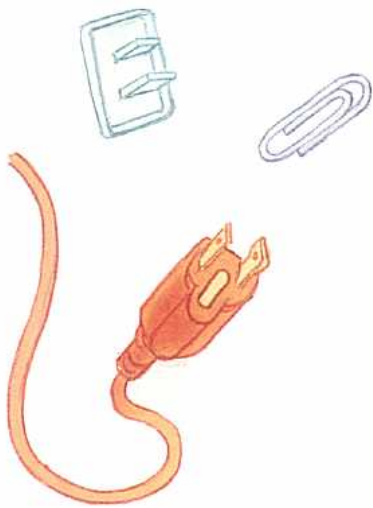
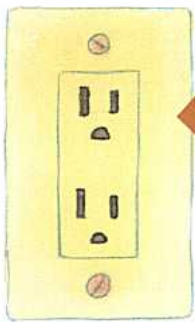
Safety is our priority.  
Thank you for making it yours.  
Visit us at [www.we-energies.com/educators](http://www.we-energies.com/educators).



# POWERFUL LESSONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

## Plug Watch!

Put an X on the objects that are NOT safe to put in an outlet.



**ANSWERS:**  
An X should be drawn on the key, finger, paperclip and fork. **TIP:** Never stick your finger, or any type of metal, in an outlet. You could get hurt. Only safety caps or plugs go in outlets.

## A Search for Meaning...

Match the energetic words below to their definitions. Put the definition number in the box next to the correct word.

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circuit     | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conductor   | <input type="checkbox"/> Insulator   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Gas |

### DEFINITIONS:

1. A material that does NOT allow electricity to flow through it easily. Special rubber and glass are examples of this.
2. A closed path or loop that is needed for electricity to flow. Electricity will not flow with this open.
3. A form of energy that is found deep in the earth and flows through pipes to homes, schools and businesses.
4. A material that allows electricity to flow through it easily. Water and metal are good examples of this, and so is your body!
5. The ability to do work. The property of many substances that is associated with heat, light, electricity, mechanical motion and sound.
6. A type of energy described as the flow of electrons.

**ANSWERS:**  
Circuit—2; Conductor—4; Electricity—6; Energy—5; Insulator—1; Natural Gas—3

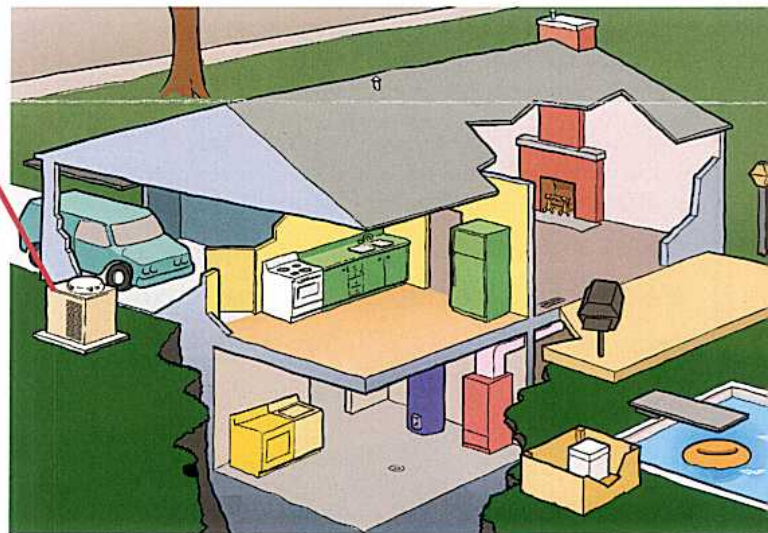
## Home Sweet Home

Natural gas has many uses in and around your home.

Draw a line from the words on the right to the matching natural gas appliance in the home. The first appliance has already been done for you.

Remember, if you ever smell natural gas (rotten eggs) in your home, get out. Don't use the telephone to call for help, as that could cause a spark or fire. Use a trusted neighbor's telephone to call We Energies.

1. Air conditioner
2. Barbecue grill
3. Pool heater
4. Clothes dryer
5. Furnace
6. Lights
7. Fireplace
8. Range
9. Natural gas vehicle
10. Water heater



**ANSWERS:**

## Safety Education Resources for Your School

We Energies offers a variety of free safety education classroom materials to schools. Visit [www.we-energies.com/educators](http://www.we-energies.com/educators) to request your classroom resources for this school year.

