DOAS Loss Control Bulletin
May 2014
Topic of the Month…Electrical Safety

May is *Electrical Safety Month*; and we would like you to consider these numbers from the United States Fire Administration (USFA):

- 29,500 - Estimated number of electrical residential fires each year!
- $1.1 **B**illion - Estimated property loss from electrical fires each year!
- 1125 Injuries and 280 estimated deaths due to electrical fires each year!

Some simple things you can do to avoid electrical hazards:

- **DE-ENERGIZE** before doing repairs.
- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Replace or repair damaged extension cords. Electrical tape is not a suitable repair most of the time.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a licensed electrical contractor, so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.
- Unplug electrical appliances by pulling the plug; not the cord!

- DO NOT overload circuits.
- Make sure your home has ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in the kitchen, bathroom(s), laundry room, basement, and outdoor areas.
- Check GFCIs routinely; monthly is recommended.
- Repair/replace broken electrical equipment including outlet plates, fuse panel covers, extension cords, etc.

For more information on electrical safety and electrical fires, please visit http://www.usfa.dhs.gov. For electrical safety and fun activities for the little ones you can go to http://www.sparky.org/.

Thanks for your time. Let's work together to make Georgia a safer place to work.