

4 April 2016

Electrical safety tips for seniors at home

Essential Energy is offering some practical tips to help keep older people safe around electricity in the home, in conjunction with the NSW Seniors Festival from 1-10 April 2016.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the festival's focus on health and well-being was a timely reminder that minimising electrical hazards at home could improve safety for seniors – and everyone else as well.

“We recommend checking appliances and tools for wear and tear, frayed cords or loose connections and getting equipment checked by a qualified electrician if you suspect it is faulty. Remember – if in doubt, throw it out,” David said.

“Loosely draped electrical cords can be a common trip hazard so consider using clips to attach them tightly to the skirting board or floor and reduce the chance of stumbles and falls.”

Essential Energy recommends plenty of space between appliances such as computers and home entertainment equipment to help prevent overheating and switching off appliances and chargers when not in use. Avoid overloading power points and piggybacking double adaptors.

As the winter months approach, check heaters and electric blankets are in good working order and have them serviced by a qualified electrical tradesperson.

“Finally, Essential Energy recommends all homes be fitted with a safety switch such as a Residual Current Device (RCD) to disconnect power when a fault is detected to minimise the risk of an electric shock,” David said.

For more electrical safety tips, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call Essential Energy on **13 23 91**.

Media contact: Simone Plews, Corporate Media Manager

02 6588 6733 or 0457 514 993