

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Denise Rodriguez

NIPSCO Communications

1-219-381-7217

## **May is National Electrical Safety Month**

*NIPSCO encourages customers to learn about electrical safety*

**Merrillville, Ind.** — May is National Electrical Safety Month, and NIPSCO is joining Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month to educate the public in order to reduce the number of electrical-related fires, fatalities, injuries and property loss.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that 47,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year involve some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage.

“Electricity plays a major role in our lives every day, and the biggest risk people can take is assuming there’s no risk when it comes to electrical safety,” said Ben Felton, NIPSCO vice president of power delivery. “National Electrical Safety Month serves as a platform for us to continue to spread awareness and understanding of electrical safety principles and precautions.”

### **Household electrical safety tips from ESFI**

- Extension cords: Inspect cords for damage before use. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections. Don’t attempt to plug extension cords into one another. Don’t nail or staple electrical cords to walls or baseboards.
- Appliances: All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Only plug one heat-producing appliance into an outlet.
- Lighting: Use bulbs of appropriate wattage in all lighting fixtures. Using higher-wattage bulbs could cause a fire.

For ESFI’s complete collection of National Electrical Safety Month resources, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

And, to learn about other electrical and power outage safety information, visit [NIPSCO.com/StaySafe](http://NIPSCO.com/StaySafe).

### **About ESFI**

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school and play. ESFI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

**About NIPSCO:** Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), with headquarters in Merrillville, Indiana, has proudly served the energy needs of northern Indiana for more than 100 years. As Indiana's largest natural gas distribution company and the second-largest electric distribution company, NIPSCO serves approximately 810,000 natural gas and 460,000 electric customers across 32 counties. NIPSCO is part of NiSource's (NYSE: NI) seven regulated utility companies. NiSource is one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 4 million natural gas and electric customers through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. More information about NIPSCO and NiSource is available at [NIPSCO.com](http://NIPSCO.com) and [NiSource.com](http://NiSource.com).

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