

May is Electrical Safety Month

This month, Klickitat PUD joins with Electrical Safety Foundation International to kick off an annual effort to increase electrical safety awareness.

Klickitat PUD celebrates National Electrical Safety Month with an open house in both the Goldendale and White Salmon PUD offices Wednesday, May 13.

Stop by one of the offices for free refreshments and electrical safety pamphlets.

Old House, New Update

Common hazards are posed by America's aging housing stock. A variety of updates can improve any home's functionality, efficiency and safety.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates 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.

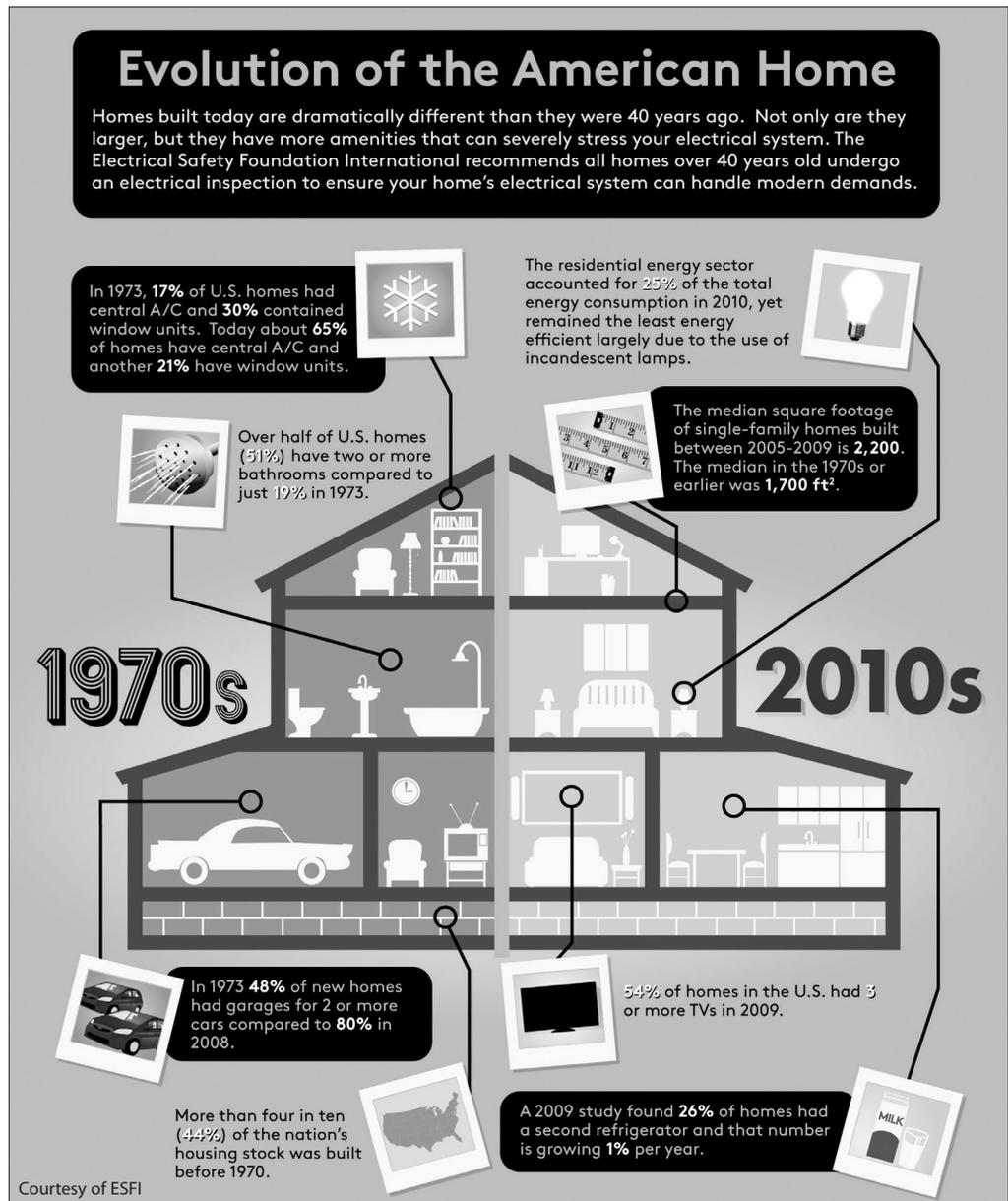
ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to educate the public in and reduce the number of electrically related fires, fatalities, injuries and property loss.

Nearly half of our nation's housing was built before 1970, when there was significantly less stress on electrical systems. This year's campaign encourages consumers to make sure their homes can adequately handle the demand they are putting on their electrical system to help minimize potential hazards.

ESFI developed The National Electrical Safety Month 2015 Electrical Safety Advocate Guide to provide the resources necessary to raise awareness of electrically safe practices. Whether

you want to educate a loved one or raise awareness in your community, school or workplace, this guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to be an electrical safety advocate and help champion ESFI's cause of minimizing electrically related deaths and injuries. ■

For ESFI's complete collection of National Electrical Safety Month resources, and for more information on spring safety, visit www.esfi.org.





Martin Taylor shows students in Klickitat the lineman gloves that allow him to work safely on power lines.

Electrical Safety: Knowledge is Power

By Lori Froehlich

Electrical hazards cause thousands of injuries each year.

At Klickitat PUD, electrical safety is the priority not only for our employees, but also for those we serve every day.

We believe it is important to teach children to have a safe relationship with electricity.

If there is one thing common to all children, it is curiosity. The urge to discover how things work and the drive to explore the unknown should be celebrated. But we have to teach them that cars, trucks and electrical outlets

can be dangerous. Precautions can ensure children understand and heed the dangers from electricity.

Because KPUD provides electricity to Klickitat County, the utility takes some responsibility for helping deliver this message.

This spring, representatives Jeff Thayer, Martin Taylor, Bernie Predeek and Tim Garrigus presented electrical safety lessons to third- and fourth-grade classrooms throughout Klickitat County.

The children especially enjoyed getting to see a lineman dressed in his gear, and explain how poles are climbed and power lines are worked on. The

question-and-answer sessions were full of excitement, with comments and stories about how electricity works and what to do in case of emergency.

“Thank you for the great lessons on electricity safety,” Centerville teacher Vikki Barthlow said. “The students really enjoyed it.”

Electrical safety books, stickers and bookmarks were also big hits with the kids.

Klickitat PUD plans to provide these presentations on an annual basis to ages 9-10, so plan to learn more about electrical safety from the youth in your community. ■