Preventing Electrical Fires

Purpose: To prevent fires caused by faulty electrical wiring.

Objectives: Participants will understand and be able to identify faulty electrical wiring.

Overview For Trainers: This lesson has been proven to save lives. Faulty electrical wiring has been known to start fires, especially in the heavily populated areas contained within unstructured settlements. When you teach this lesson you will be helping to save lives and properties in communities.

Please be reminded to give the community the correct number or numbers to call for emergencies in your local area (Fire and Medical emergencies).

Time: 30 minutes - 1 hour.

Role Play: 3 community members are talking:
Person 1: I want to have electric supply in my home
Person 2: You can go to the power supply company to have electricity connected in your home.
Person 3: I have another way you can get electricity - why don’t you tap it directly from the line?
Person 2: It can be cheaper, but more expensive because it is not safe.

SHOWD Questions
S – What do you see?
H – What is happening?
O – Does this happen in our place?
W – Why does this happen?
D – What will you do about it?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Knowledge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power of Electricity</strong></td>
<td>5-10 minutes</td>
<td>Electricity can be brought into the home from the power lines legally or illegally. When it is legal the purchaser directly pays the power company.</td>
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How do we get electricity into our homes?  

Electricity is brought into the home from the power lines legally or illegally. When it is legal the purchaser directly pays the power company.

| How do we use electricity?         | 5-10 minutes | Electricity is a very powerful tool that is used every day. With it we light our homes and use it for some types of cooking. Some buildings also use electricity to heat or cool with. |

| What are some dangers of electricity? | 5-10 minutes | When electricity is used improperly it can cause death from electrocution or start a fire that can grow out of control quickly. |

| Identifying Hazards/Risks           | 5-10 minutes | Look around your area to see if there are any hazards:  
- Exposed wiring  
- Too many appliances into one electrical cord  
- Extension Cords under rugs or across doorways  
- Electricity tapped from a neighbor or a power line |

| Reducing Hazards/Risks              | 5-10 minutes | Talk about how the hazards can be reduced:  
- Use electrical tape to cover exposed wires.  
- Avoid using too many appliances at once which will overheat the wire.  
- Unplug items when you are not using them.  
- Avoid running extension cords under carpets or across doorways. Extension cords should go along the wall in the corner in order to avoid people walking on them and damaging the cord over an extended period of time.  
- Purchase electricity directly from the power company and allow the power company to connect and maintain the electricity in your home.  
- Warn children of the dangers of playing with electricity. |

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- Warn children of the dangers of playing with electricity. |
| **Extinguishing Electrical Fires** | 5-10 minutes | • Turn off the source of electricity as quickly as possible.  
• If you can safely extinguish the fire when it is small, do so  
• Never use water on an electrical fire. Use a Powder or (ABC) fire extinguisher which will not shock you.  
• You can use sand or dirt to smother a fire, but remember if the power is still on the situation is still dangerous.  
• If there is no fire extinguisher available turn off the electricity first and then use water. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| How can you get help to extinguish the fire? | 5-10 minutes | • Sound the alarm: FIRE FIRE FIRE  
• Call the Fire Brigade  
• (Provide the number for the fire brigade and other emergency services to participants).  
• Get to Safety  
• (see the Preventing and Responding to Fires in our Homes training for more details) |
| **Extinguishing sin in your life** | 5-10 minutes | Jesus is the only one who is able to forgive you of your sins and turn you into a new person.  
II Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” |
| Do you want to extinguish the flames of sin in your life? | 5-10 minutes | Read and discuss II Corinthians 5:17 |
| **Summary:** | 5-10 minutes | Electricity is a powerful tool that can improve our lives, however it can also be very dangerous - starting fires and causing electrocution.  
Problems from electricity can be reduced if we take action to identify and reduce the hazards around us. |
Attitude: Facilitator understands that properly identifying electrical hazards could save lives and property.

Skill: Participants will be able to identify electrical hazards and how to prevent fires.

Evaluation: Participants should be able to identify electrical hazards and ways to correct hazards from electricity.

Materials: Newsprint, Markers, Emergency Numbers

Additional Resources Retrieved May 25, 2016:
Talking with families after a fire or emergency: http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/emergencies

Information on how to use a fire extinguisher - British Type: http://www.safefiredirect.co.uk/Page/54/videos-how-to-use-a-fire-extinguisher-safely.aspx http://www.mfs-fire-extinguishers.co.uk/types.htm

Information on how to use a fire extinguisher (includes a video) - United States Type: http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com/using.html
Fire Prevention: Electrical Fires Case Study

A quick walk through a Nairobi, Kenya unstructured settlement reveals much about the dangers that lie inside. As the firefighters from the United States walked the streets with some of the locals it became apparent to all that danger lurked in the shadows. The danger had hidden itself in plain view, but to the firefighters from the United States it could be spotted a mile away. The danger the firefighters noticed was not from thieves or the people hanging out along the road. The danger was from the vast amount of electrical lines haphazardly strewn about.

It was apparent to the visitors of this great city that the local citizens were only trying to survive the best they knew how. Many of the folks had little knowledge of the dangers of faulty wiring and the fires that have been started all over Kenya over the years as a result. The October 9th, 2013 fire at the airport which gained national recognition was found to be electrical in nature. There was also the January 28, 2009 Nakumatt Downtown Supermarket and the June 2015 second hand clothing market that caused 1.1 million dollars in damage, both caused by faulty electrical lines. There have also been many fires in the unstructured communities caused by faulty electrical connections.

As the firefighters pondered the situation it was determined that through fire prevention talks and providing the people with real solutions could the firefighters of Kenya make a difference for their citizens.

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