

MESSAGE FOR SAFETY AWARENESS

The Management of Rwanda Energy Group (REG) would like to remind the public that although electricity helps us in our daily lives, it is important to use it cautiously, as when misused it can lead to serious accidents including fire, damage to our home and equipment, injuries and even death. Electrical networks have expanded in many areas of the country while more lines are being constructed to ensure universal access to electricity. That's why every Rwandan is called upon to be cautious on electrical lines, home installations and also ensure that the wires and equipment used for internal house installations are up to the standards.

When installing your house

- Any electrical installation activity in premises, whether residential or commercial, must be done by qualified technicians. Licensed electricians have the skills and knowledge needed to keep your home safe and in compliance with electrical codes. The Rwanda Utility and Regulatory Authority (RURA) regularly published the list of licensed electrical engineers qualified to do electrical installation at different levels depending on their expertise.
- When buying wires or other accessories for internal house installation, you need to make sure that they are up to the standards. Substandard cables overheat and the plastic isolator burns causing short-circuit resulting in fire.

When you already have electricity in your house

- Check frequently all the wires and outlets and immediately repair or replace any damaged cable or accessory;
- You should always check that your appliances are functioning well and have no damage. If damaged, unplug it and get it repaired or replace it to prevent any hazardous incident.
- Always remember to unplug all appliances that are not in use.
- Watch out for overloaded outlets to protect your home. Overloading an electrical outlet is a common cause of electrical problems. Check all outlets to ensure they are cool to the touch, have protective faceplates and are in proper working order.
- Make sure that all electrical outlets are secured, before your child starts crawling and investigating everything of his reach in the house. Babies and young children should not stay alone in the house without an adult who can prevent them from playing with electrical installations

- Never touch electrical appliances or switches with wet hands or if you're touching a metal object
- Keep electric heaters (iron, coffee maker, cooker) on level surfaces and far from furniture, curtains and drapes.
- Avoid drying your clothes on electric wires
- Avoid playing with electrical installations
- Before replacing a dead lamp, make sure that it is switched off
- When cooking on an electric stove, don't go far, keep watching it closely.
- Know where the fuse box is located in case of an emergency. Label all circuit breakers clearly. Each switch should be positively identified as to which outlet or appliance it is for.

What happens in case of electrocution?

People who receive an electric shock often get painful muscle spasms that can be strong enough to break bones or dislocate joints. This loss of muscle control often means the person cannot 'let go' or escape the electric shock. This may be fatal depending on the amount of voltage.

In case you see someone electrocuted, you should avoid touching him with bare hands. Immediately check the fuse box and switch off the power and/or call REG toll free number 2727 or the Police Fire and rescue brigade on 111.

Caution with electrical lines

REG is calling upon the general public to be cautious with all electrical lines. Those who need connection services should seek support from REG branches all over the country. It is strictly prohibited to:

- Climb on electrical poles
- To hang clothes on electrical installations
- Temper with electrical lines for illegal connections;
- Touch uncovered wires but always inform the nearest REG branch;
- Throw stones and sticks on electrical installations;
- Touch on trees that fell on electrical lines but inform the nearest REG branch;
- To solve yourself electrical problems that occurred in your household but inform the nearest REG branch;
- Approach or touch fallen electrical lines due to wind or rain.

We thank you very much for your collaboration.

Done at Kigali, on, 21 September 2022

Ron Weiss



Ron WEISS
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