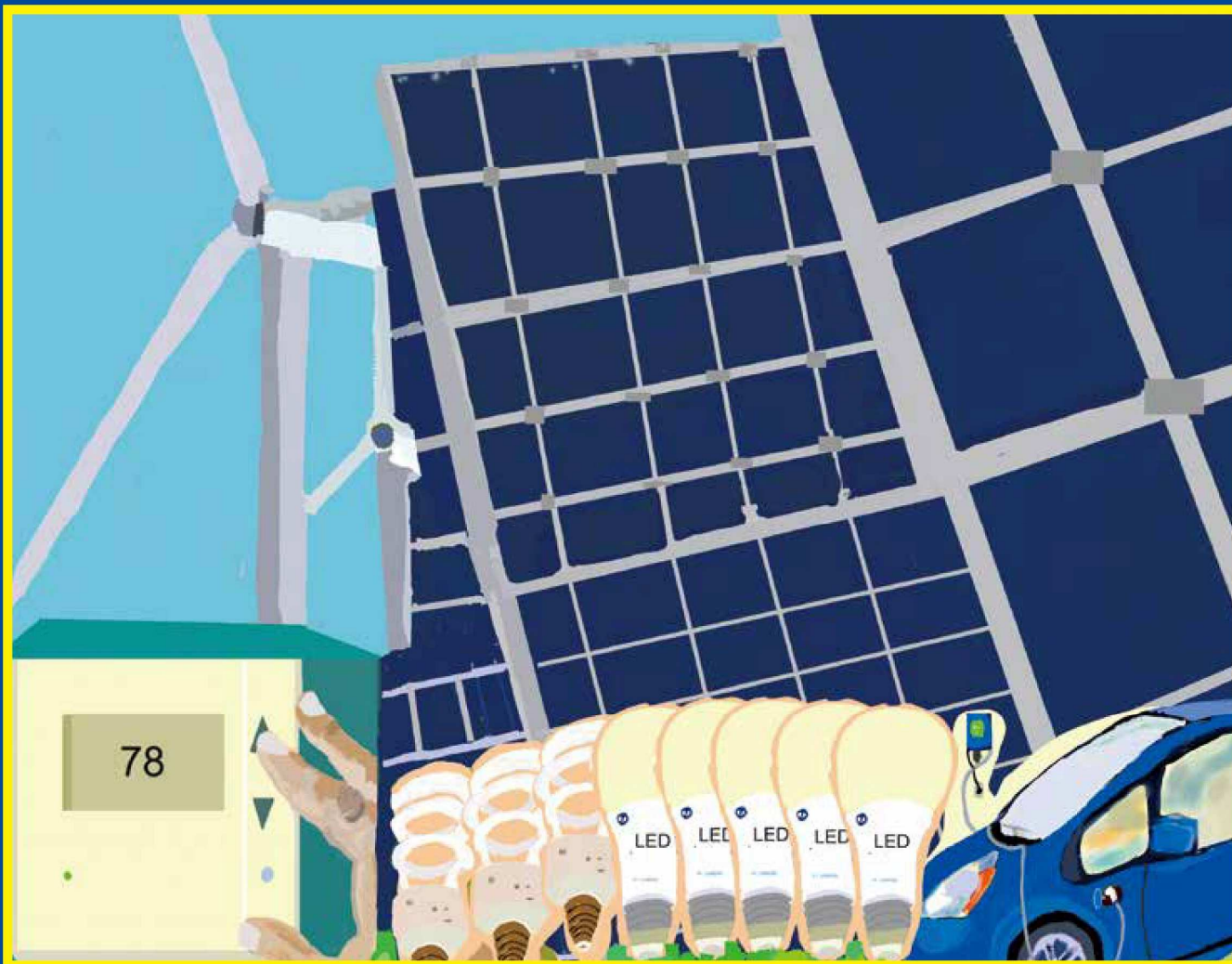


# ELECTRICITY AND YOU: BE SMART, BE SAFE



# **ELECTRICITY AND YOU: BE SMART, BE SAFE**

**Robyn C. Friend  
and  
Judith Love Cohen**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:  
David A. Katz**

*Editing:  
Lee Rathbone*



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*A Electricity and You: Be Smart, Be Safe* was written by Robyn C. Friend and Judith Love Cohen, and edited by Lee Rathbone. Designed and illustrated by David Katz.

This book emphasizes the value of electricity in our daily life and teaches children to use it safely.

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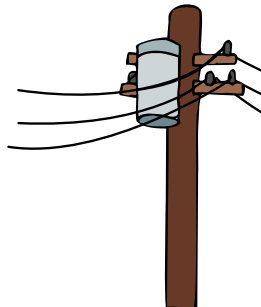
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## Introduction

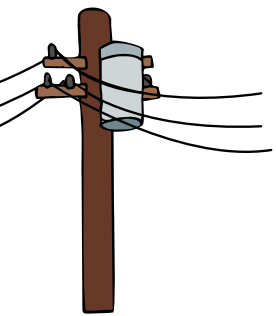
Electricity is all around us – we use it every day, at home, at work, and at play. Electricity is very useful, but it can be dangerous!

This book will help you learn how electricity works and how to stay safe around it.





When you woke up this morning, what did you do? Did you turn on the light? Did you turn on the TV? All of these things use electricity.





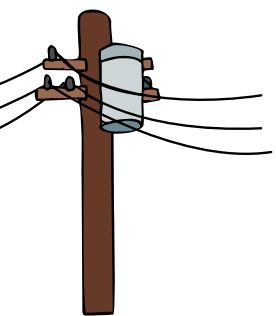
Can you tell what  
things in this picture  
use electricity?





Do you know what happens when you plug a power cord in the wall outlet? Tiny little electrons flow through the power cord, like water flows through a pipe.

When the switch on the wall is off, the electrons are not moving, but when you turn the switch on, electrons start to move. It's the electrons that make the lights or the television set turn on.





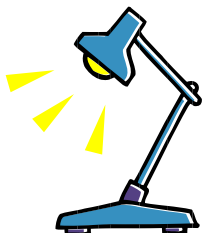
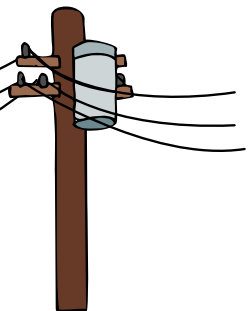
Electrons move  
down the power cord.

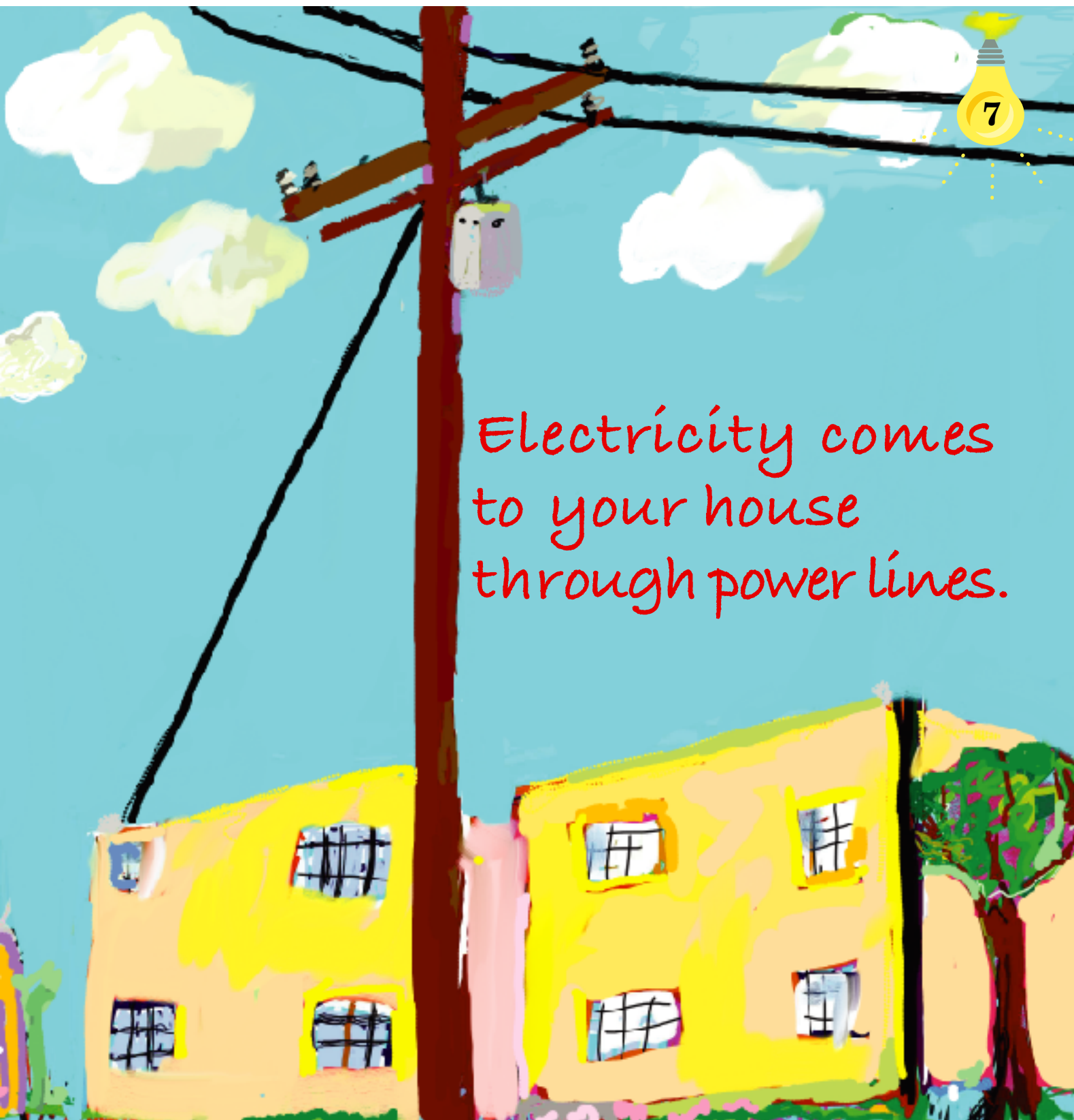






How does the electricity get to the wall outlet in your house? It comes to your house through power lines. Sometimes they are strung over the street on power poles. Have you seen them?





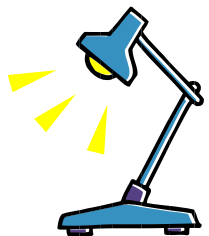
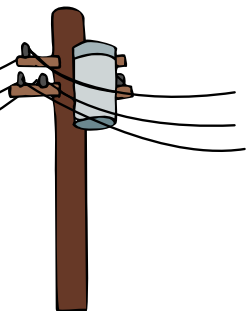
Electricity comes  
to your house  
through power lines.





Electricity is quiet and invisible. You can't tell if there is electricity in a power cord just by looking at it.

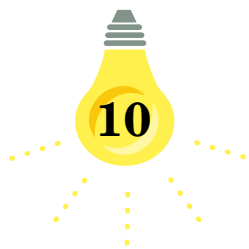
We use electricity in many ways, but electricity can be dangerous. How can you use electricity without getting hurt? Here are ways to help you and your family stay safe.



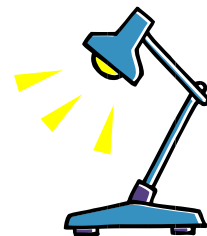
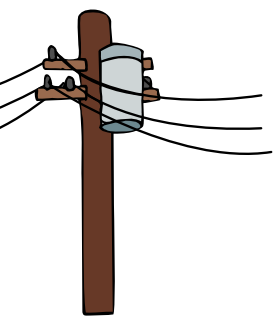


Computers use  
electricity.





Electricity and water don't get along.  
Keep electrical appliances and power cords  
away from water. If a power cord or  
appliance falls in the water, don't touch it,  
and ask a grown-up to help.

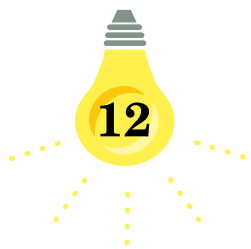






Keep water  
away from  
electrical  
appliances.

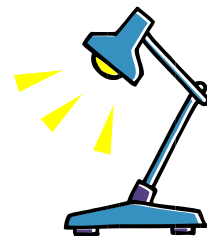
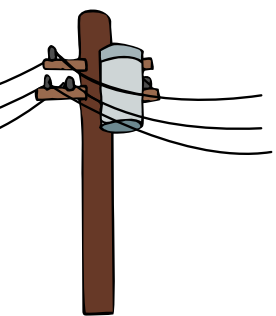




Power cords allow electricity to flow from the wall outlet to appliances like toasters. The protective covering keeps the electricity inside the power cord. If that covering breaks, electricity could escape and harm you. So you need to be very careful with power cords.

Don't twist them or tie them in knots. Don't walk on power cords.

If a power cord smells funny, or looks weird, call an adult right away.



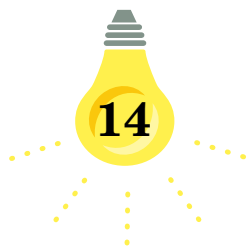


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Don't walk on  
a power cord.

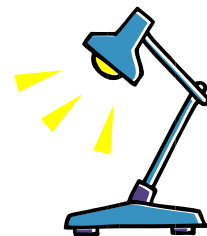
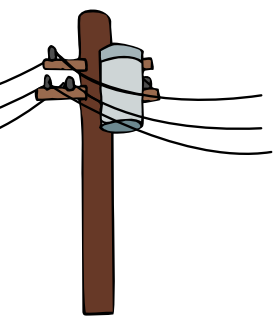






When you plug something into a wall outlet, electricity starts flowing. You don't want electricity to flow through YOU, so never, never, stick anything into the wall outlet, except a plug.

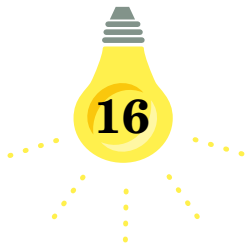
When you need to unplug a power cord, be sure that you pull only the plug. If you aren't sure how to unplug it, get a grown-up to help you.





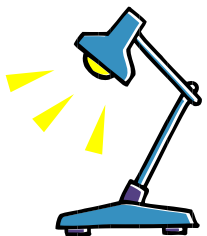
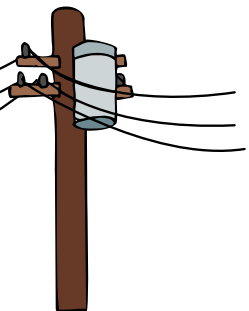
Pull only the plug!



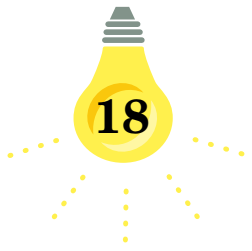


Safety doesn't just apply to the electricity inside your home. It's important to practice these tips when you are outside and around electricity.

In some neighborhoods there are big green boxes with electricity flowing inside. These green boxes are harmless if left alone. If you play near the green boxes you might break the locks or doors by accident so stay away. Tell an adult if you see a green electrical box that's unlocked.

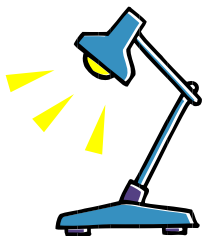
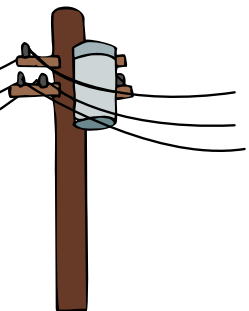






You already learned that electricity comes to your house through power lines. You need to be just as careful around those power lines as you are with the power cords in your house.

For example, when you go outside to fly your kite, make sure you are in an open area where there are no power lines nearby. Remember, do not go near these power lines or touch them! Do not touch anything or anyone that touches the power lines.





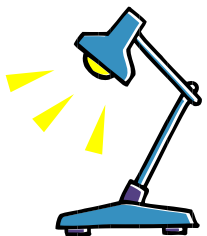
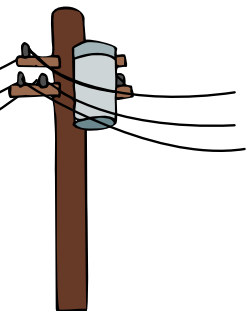
Don't try  
to get  
the kíte!





Sometimes rainy or windy weather can make the power lines outside break or fall to the ground. Remember, you don't want electricity to flow through YOU! If you see a power line that has fallen down, do not go near it.

Call or ask someone to call 911 immediately and ask for help. Tell your friends and family to stay away. Keep your pets away, too. You can help people stay safe.







stay away  
from power lines  
on the ground!

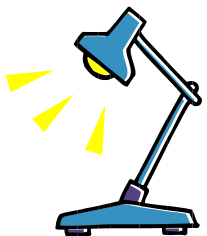
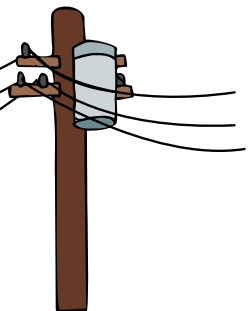






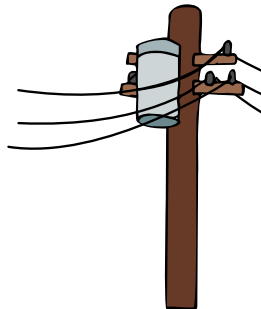
## **Always Remember:**

- Keep electrical appliances and power cords away from water.
- Unplug a power cord by the plug, not the cord.
- If an electrical appliance or power cord smells funny or looks weird, call a grown-up to come look.





- Stay away from the big green electrical boxes in your neighborhood.
- Stay away from power lines outdoors. Don't touch them, or anyone or anything that touches them.

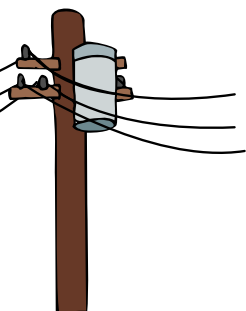




## Home Safety Inspection

**Do you use electricity safely in your home? Use this checklist and do this inspection with an adult in your family. If you find any hazards, check **NEEDS FIXING** and then ask an adult to have them fixed.**

	True	Needs fixing
1. Electric outlets are not over loaded with lots of plugs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Electric cords are in good condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

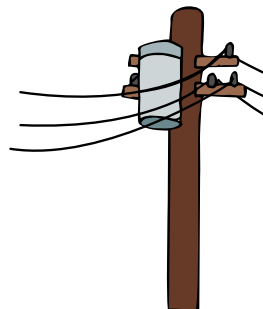
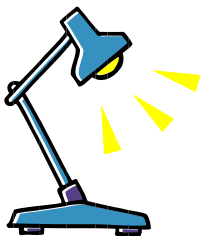




**Needs  
fixing**

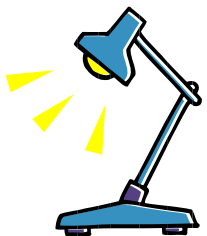
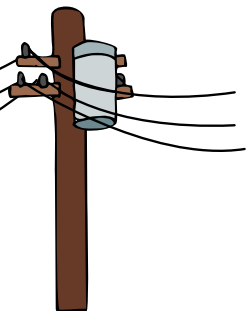
**True**

3. Electric cords do not run under rugs or furniture legs or near hot appliances.
4. Electric appliances are used away from water.
5. People carry appliances by the handle, not the cord.
6. A multipurpose fire extinguisher is kept in the house.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐



- |   | True                     | Needs fixing             |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. All danger and warning signs are read and carefully followed.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Electric appliances that can get hot—such as heaters, toasters, and light bulbs—are kept away from things that can burn. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Safety caps are inserted in outlets when small children are around.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |





**Needs  
fixing**

**True**

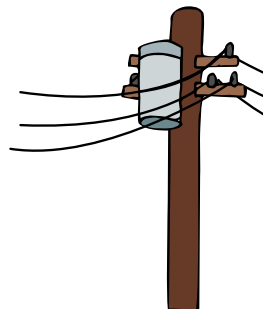
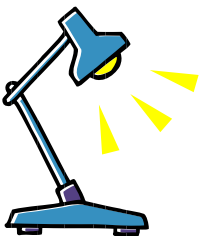
10. Small appliances are turned off and/or unplugged when people leave home. ☐

☐

11. All extension cords, lights, and appliances used outdoors are labeled with a certification for outdoor use. ☐

☐

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

**ROBYN C. FRIEND, author**, is a singer, dancer, choreographer, and writer. She earned a Ph.D. in Iranian Linguistics at UCLA, and promptly launched a twenty-year career building spacecraft. She has written for both scholarly and popular publications on a wide variety of subjects, including folkloric dance, world music, linguistics, travel, and the exploration of Mars by balloon.

**JUDITH LOVE COHEN, author**, is a Registered Professional Electrical Engineer with bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Southern California and University of California, Los Angeles. She has written plays, screenplays, and newspaper articles in addition to her series of children's books that began with *You Can Be a Woman Engineer*.

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**DAVID ARTHUR KATZ, illustrator**, received his training in art education and holds a master's degree from the University of South Florida. He is a credentialed teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. His involvement in the arts has encompassed animation, illustration, and playwriting, poetry, and songwriting. His drawings and animations are presently being collected in museums.

This book was developed in collaboration with Southern California Edison. Special thanks to Steve D. Brown, Manager of Corporate Safety and Greg Kludjian, Director of Resource Planning and Performance.

Graphic materials created by **KANA TATEKAWA**.

