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ESFi Tools Teach Kids Electrical Safety

Rosslyn, VA, August 10, 2007 – As our reliance on electricity grows, the potential for misuse of home appliances, computers and entertainment equipment means the need for electrical safety awareness for the family is far more important. Educational tools can make learning about electrical safety fun for children, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFi), and knowing basic electrical safety principles can help establish lifelong electrical safety habits.

With ESFi's *Mr. Plug Fun Book*, which includes coloring activities and puzzles to increase public safety awareness for children, kids get the basic knowledge they need to protect themselves from electrical hazards at home or at school. Available in English and Spanish, Pre-K or K-3rd, the *Mr. Plug Fun Book* illustrates the proper way to load batteries, the dangers of liquids next to electrical items, and tips on how children can watch out for electrical dangers.

But what about the parent? What steps can you take to make electrical cords safer around your children?

A favorite target of babies and toddlers are power cords, which they are apt to place in their mouth and chew. Consequently, parents should replace a worn or frayed electrical cord with one having an appropriate length. An even better idea is to keep young children away from cords altogether, since a child can actually choke on as little as 12 inches of cord.

Children also love to tug on loose electrical cords. As a result, they can knock over a lamp, appliance or telephone, and injure themselves in the process. To prevent these types of accidents it is suggested that all cords be placed out of the reach of small hands and that cord shorteners not be used to eliminate any loose wires. Don't run extension cords under carpets or rugs, because walking on cords could break the insulation and possibly cause a fire.

ESFi's *Mr. Plug Fun Book* is available for downloading free of charge from the ESFi Library on ESFi's website, www.electrical-safety.org. Print copies can also be ordered through ESFi's website. Visit the web site, or call ESFi at 703-841-3329 for more information on child electrical safety.

Electricity is a powerful tool. It can also be a lethal hazard. Better safety standards have reduced electrical hazards that cause deaths, injuries and property damage. But good safety habits are still the best prevention against electrical hazards. Visit www.electrical-safety.org for more information on electrical hazards and precautions.

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Founded in 1994 through a joint effort between Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFi) is North America's only non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and workplace.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation's Web site at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.