

National Electrical Safety Month Spotlights Electrical Safety Leaders

Brett Brenner, President, Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)

Since 1994, ESFI has promoted electrical safety across North America and is highly regarded by industry, media, and consumer safety partners for constantly reinvigorating the electrical safety message. Each May, ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month (NESM) and spearheads a campaign to raise awareness about electrical safety and potential home electrical hazards. This endeavor, as well as public awareness platforms and educational materials, would not be possible without the support of partner organizations. In honor of NESM, ESFI spotlights the industry leaders who assist the foundation in furthering its mission of reducing electrically-related fatalities, injuries, and property loss.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)



Andrew Trotta

“CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. This is achieved by developing and enforcing mandatory standards, recalling products that pose a threat to public safety, and developing awareness campaigns about potential hazards associated with consumer products.”

—Andrew Trotta, Electrical Engineer, CPSC and Member, ESFI's Board of Directors

CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the thousands of consumer products under its jurisdiction by identifying and preventing electrical hazards. CPSC further demonstrates its dedication to electrical safety through its joint efforts with ESFI to educate and protect families from electrical hazards in and around the home.

Pass & Seymour Legrand



Pat Davin

“Legrand’s Pass & Seymour wiring devices have been providing customers with innovative and unmatched electrical solutions since the 1890s. We pioneered the first GFCI receptacle in 1971, and have continued to raise the industry standard for electrical safety with our state-of-the-art product lines of residential, commercial, and industrial wiring devices and accessories.”

—Pat Davin, Vice President/Brand General Manager, Pass & Seymour Legrand and Member, ESFI's Board of Directors

Legrand is a global specialist in products and systems for electrical installations and information networks, offering solutions for use in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Legrand proudly supports ESFI and strives to create safety devices that are in line with ESFI's mission of reducing electrically related injuries, fatalities, and property loss.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)



Lorraine Carli

“It is vital that NFPA remains on the forefront on electrical safety issues as the producer of the *National Electrical Code*® (NEC). NFPA proudly sponsors lifesaving campaigns and training programs, and aligning with ESFI allows us to reinforce the safe electrical practices that serve as the guiding premise for the NEC.”

—Lorraine Carli, Vice President of Communications, NFPA and Member, ESFI's Board of Directors

The world's leading advocate of fire prevention and an authoritative source on public safety, NFPA develops, publishes, and disseminates consensus codes and standards intended to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks. The NEC, which is adopted and used in all 50 states, serves as the benchmark for safe electrical design, installation, and inspection.

ESFI thanks its Board of Directors for providing invaluable leadership that has allowed it to evolve into an authority on electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace. We look forward to continued growth and working toward our objective of reducing the number of electrically-related deaths and injuries—one home, one school, and one workplace at a time.

Executive Committee Chairman

David Tallman, Eaton Corporation

Vice Chairman

John Engel, WESCO Distribution, Inc.

Treasurer

Evan Gaddis, NEMA

Secretary

Barbara Guthrie, Underwriters Laboratories

Directors

Allen Breeze, Schneider Electric

Lorraine Carli, National Fire Protection Association

David Clements, International Association of Electrical Inspectors

Patrick Davin, Pass & Seymour Legrand

Robert J. Falconi, CSA Group

H. Landis Floyd II, DuPont

Jeff Meyers, Mr. Electric

Pete Principe, Ace Hardware Corporation

Stephen Sokolow, Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Gregg Tiemann, Intertek-ETL Semko Americas

Daniel Walter, National Electrical Contractors Association

Kevin Yates, Siemens Energy & Automation

Board Liaison

Andrew Trotta, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Using Generators Safely

While May is National Electrical Safety Month, it also leads into the onset of hurricane season when heavy rains and severe winds often result in power outages. As a consequence, many people chose portable generators as a temporary source of power.

Portable generators can be powerful tools, but they can also be dangerous—even deadly—if not installed and operated safely. Hazards include carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock or electrocution, and fires. There were 542 generator-related CO deaths between 1999 and 2009, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; 85 percent of them occurred in and around the home. Portable generators caused at least 12 CO-related deaths in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

Understanding the dangers associated with portable generators and practicing good safety habits could save your life. ESFI has several generator safety resources including FAQs, fact sheets, a virtual demonstration, and a public service announcement at <http://esfi.org/index.cfm/pid/11406/cdid/10816>:

- ESFI recommends that generators be installed by qualified, licensed electricians.
- Do not connect a generator directly to household wiring without the use of a transfer switch.
- Make sure your home has either a battery-operated or battery back-up CO alarm. Test the batteries monthly.
- Never operate a generator inside your home or in any other even-partially enclosed space. Open doors, windows, or fans will not prevent CO from building up.
- Locate the generator as far from the house as possible, away from doors, windows, and vents. Keep the generator a safe distance from your neighbors' homes as well.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions. Use it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Do not overload the generator. Keep the load to no more than the recommended wattage.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord.
- Turn off all appliances before shutting it down.
- Turn the generator off and let it cool down before adding fuel.
- Keep children away from generators at all times.
- Use a generator only to power essential equipment. Ⓜ

Julie Chavanne, Communications Manager, ESFI | julie.chavanne@esfi.org



The NESM 2013 *Electrical Safety Advocate Guide* provides the resources necessary to encourage electrically safe practices among all ages.

Visit esfi.org/NESM

- Learn about the NESM 2013 campaign.
- Become an electrical safety advocate.
- Find resources for older adults, children, homeowners, consumers, and the workplace.
- Download the *Implementation Guide* and *Outreach Guide*.
- Plan and execute a NESM event. Ⓜ