



Falling into Safety



It's already started. The days are getting cooler and the nights are getting longer. Fall has arrived in Minnesota and it can be a beautiful time of year. It's also a time we begin to button up our outdoor spaces and heat things up inside. And, unfortunately, we don't always do it safely. Some of us take risks. How do you rate?

	Risky	Way to Go!
1. You grab whatever cord you can find and start using it outdoors.	X	
2. You make sure the cords you use outside are rated for outdoor use; you inspect them before use.		X
3. Before the heating season, you hire a qualified heating technician to service your furnace to ensure it will operate safely and efficiently.		X
4. On a cool autumn morning, you heat your kitchen by opening the oven door.	X	
5. You make sure your portable space heater is kept 3 feet away from any combustibles.		X
6. You used your space heater last winter to dry mittens.	X	
7. You are picking apples with your family and before you start moving ladders you point out the overhead power lines.		X
8. Oops – your farm equipment just snagged the overhead power line. (Make sure to stay put unless your equipment is on fire.)	X	
9. You finally are putting in the basketball hoop and before you start, you call Gopher State One Call to locate your buried utility lines.		X
10. You inspect your outdoor light fixtures and replace any burnt out lights; it sure beats doing this in the cold winter.		X
11. You make sure to keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.		X
12. You just stapled your Halloween witch to the power pole in your yard.	X	
13. You turn off all electrical decorations before going to bed, or better yet, use a timer so you don't forget.		X

If you found yourself a bit of a risk taker, then this assessment is your wake-up call to change. Stop and ask yourself, "why am I taking these risks?"

Many of us bring the safety we learn at work to our homes and our families. Yet, shouldn't safety start at home? We practice safety at work so we can go home is a phrase often said. And, once we are home, we still need to practice safety; it doesn't stop when we get home. It's a continuous loop of action, a commitment to be safe.

So commit to being safe at home, take it to work and then bring it back home again. You don't want to miss the Fall in Minnesota!