

Cool Off This Summer—Safely

In 2006, an estimated 33,500 injuries were reported to hospital emergency rooms as involving air conditioners, fans, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air purifiers and heat pumps.

Hot weather brings increased use of air conditioners. Contact with electric current from air conditioners accounts for a significant number of electrocutions and electrical injuries each year.

ESFI recommends that you always contact a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home, including the installation and services of air conditioning and other cooling equipment.

Facts and Statistics

According to the CPSC, 15 percent of consumer product-related electrocutions are attributed to large appliances. These electrocutions occur most commonly while someone is attempting to service or repair the appliance.

In 2006, an estimated 33,500 injuries were reported to hospital emergency rooms as involving air conditioners, fans, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air purifiers and heat pumps. The leading types of injuries were laceration (14,890), contusion or abrasion (6,110), and strain or sprain (4,430).

In 2006, air conditioning or related equipment was involved in an estimated 7,400 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 270 civilian injuries and \$200 million indirect property damage.

From 2003-2006, the 7,000 reported home structure fires per year involving air conditioning

and related equipment included 2,400 per year involving central and room air conditioners specifically and 3,700 per year involving fans.

From 1995-2003 (excluding 1999, which was not reported), there were 11.5 electrocution deaths per year involving air conditioners and 4.3 electrocution deaths per year involving fans.

Cooling Equipment Safety Tips

- ▶ Keep safety in mind when selecting cooling equipment for your home.
- ▶ Have a qualified, licensed electrician install and service any electrical equipment in your home.
- ▶ Have electric-powered equipment inspected and maintained regularly for safety.
- ▶ Make sure your equipment has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- ▶ Do not store or place objects near the air handler unit. This unit should have plenty of open space to breathe.
- ▶ Keep children away from the condensing unit. The moving fan blade is covered by a grill, but can be dangerous if a child tries to stick objects through the grill.
- ▶ Keep the cover on the thermostat unit on at all times. There are live electrical components inside the unit that can be dangerous if exposed. **KCL**

CARRIER & BRYANT RECALL HEAT PUMPS

The U.S. Product Safety Commission has issued the following air conditioner recall. If you have purchased one of these products,

please follow the remedy instructions that follow for each of the products.

CARRIER AND BRYANT HEAT PUMPS – Carrier has received 41 reports of the heat pumps overheating. No injuries, fires or property damage have been reported. This recall involves 2-, 3-, 4-, and

5-ton size heat pump units sold under the Carrier Greenspeed and Bryant Evolution Extreme brand names. The Carrier Greenspeed model numbers are: 25VNA024, 25VNA036, 25VNA048, and 25VNA060. The Bryant Evolution Extreme model numbers are: 280ANV024, 280ANV036, 280ANV048, and 280ANV060.

- ▶ **HAZARD:** The capacitors in the fuse boards in the heat pumps can stop working causing the unit to overheat, posing a fire hazard.
- ▶ **REMEDY:** Repair. Contact Carrier or Bryant for instructions on receiving a free replacement fuse board installed by authorized Carrier or Bryant technicians. **KCL**

