Summer Safety Tips

Please consider these key safety points to keep everyone safe this summer:

- Before using an outdoor electrical outlet, check to make sure the receptacle is protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and that the GFCI is working properly. You can test the GFCI by pushing the test button on the receptacle or on the breaker inside the electrical panel. If the GFCI isn’t working properly, hire a licensed electrician to fix it.

- Any electrical wiring that is within 20 feet of a swimming pool should have protection from a ground fault circuit interrupter, including underwater luminaries (pool lights).

- Make sure overhead electrical lines do not pass over the pool. In fact, it’s best to keep a pool at least 25 feet away from power lines in all directions.

- Allow at least 18 feet of clearance between overhead power lines and a diving board, deck, platform, slide, or observation area. Never build an in-ground pool or set up an above-ground pool over underground electric cables.

- Pools and pool decking should be installed at least 5 feet away from all underground utility lines.

- Except for specially designed lighting fixtures, don’t put electrical fixtures or receptacles within 5 feet of a pool.

- Be sure to comply with any local building codes that may provide more stringent guidelines than the ones that have been listed.