

**Media Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Birnie CurrentSAFE's Unique Electrical Hazard Detection, EHD, Program Reduces Residential Electrical Fires in Ontario.

MISSISSAUGA— Birnie CurrentSAFE's award-winning Electrical Hazard Detection, EHD, system has prevented over 700 electrical fires in the GTA. The unique service is founded on the idea of detecting an electrical hazard before it becomes an immediate emergency.

According to the licensed electrical contractor, 40 per cent of residential fires are electrical in nature but all are 100 per cent preventable with the right education.

Birnie CurrentSAFE has partnered with local municipalities and fire departments in the hopes of sharing an electrical-safety message that instills awareness and accountability to homeowners all over Ontario.

"Just because you can't see the electrical it doesn't mean we can just ignore it," says Tim Birnie President of Birnie Electric and Birnie CurrentSAFE, "your electrical systems degrade overtime just like anything else...realistically we should be checking our electrical every 20 years."

The EHD inspection uses technology like infrared scanning and ultrasonic recording to test the circuits for faulty and degraded electrical. This is all performed without cutting or drilling of the walls.

According to Birnie, what makes the system unique is the extensiveness and thoroughness that is allotted to each inspection. He explains, "the licensed electrician is in your home all day checking every switch, every fixture every receptacle which results in a detailed diagnosis." Birnie CurrentSAFE confirms that older homes, homes with aluminum wiring or homes that have had multiple renovations or homeowners pose a higher fire risk.

In 2015 the licensed electrical contractor was recognized for their fire prevention efforts when they received two awards, one from the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association and a subsequent award from the Fire Marshal's Public Safety Office.

"If we educate homeowners from the start about investing in an inspection and maintaining their electrical systems and what warning signs to look for, we can spare the fire departments from fighting fires that are so preventable," Birnie says.

Birnie CurrentSAFE offers a free preliminary no-fee assessment to help determine if a home is a candidate for the Electrical Hazard Detection Inspection. The licensed electrical contractor also hosts an array of electrical safety seminars and group talks, with the local fire departments, for those who want to find out more about protecting their families and their investments from electrical fires.

***Quick Facts:**

- 99 per cent of homes inspected have electrical defects that pose potential hazards
- 30 per cent of homes inspected have serious 'call the fire department' defects
- 40 per cent of homes inspected contain dangerous shock hazards
- 61 per cent of homes inspected have inadequate, expired or non-existent smoke alarms
- Nine out of 10 homes inspected lack functioning GFCI protection
- GFCI outlets should be inspected and replaced every 10 years
- Homes as early as 15 years of age can start exhibiting the warning signs of faulty electrical
- Most older homes are not equipped to handle the level of electronics found in the average home; this results in overloaded circuits
- Aluminum wiring was widely used in new home construction during the 1960s and 1970s as the price of copper skyrocketed.
- The potential hazards of aluminum wiring can be eliminated through inspection and by updating all termination points with the required maintenance (as per the Electrical Safety Authority, ESA)

** These Quick Facts reflects data gathered from Birnie CurrentSAFE's EHD inspections.*

To find out more about Birnie CurrentSAFE's residential division please visit ismyhomesafe.ca

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