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**SQUARE D® OFFERS HOME AND BUSINESS OWNERS ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS
AS 2006 HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS**
Important Advice Provided In Recognition of National Safety Month

PALATINE, III. – June 01, 2006 – Following the worst hurricane season in 154 years, forecasters are predicting another active summer of storms for 2006. With the Atlantic hurricane season starting this month and in recognition of National Safety Month, Square D – best known in the United States as Schneider Electric’s flagship brand for electrical distribution equipment – is offering home and business owners important electrical safety tips.

“Home and business owners need to be aware that there are hidden, potentially deadly, hazards of re-electrification following a hurricane and it is important they know the necessary steps required to limit those dangers,” says Jim Pauley, vice president of industry and government relations for Schneider Electric’s North American Operating Division. “A refresher course on the basics of electrical safety is always a good thing, especially if it could mean a matter of life or death.”

Square D offers the following critical reminders to home and business owners before, during and after storms:

- Electrical equipment that has been submerged *must* be serviced or repaired.
- Be aware of submerged electrical equipment, such as electrical outlets or cords that may energize flood waters and pose a potentially deadly threat.
- Do not plug a portable generator into an outlet or patch it into electrical wiring or connect it directly to a main electrical panel. Doing so could cause fires or cause power to flow into an electrical line, endangering persons in the home, neighbors and utility crews working in the area.
- Equipment located in flooded areas that was not submerged should be inspected by a qualified person to determine whether moisture has entered the enclosure.
- If there are any signs of moisture or damage, the equipment should be replaced or repaired.

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- Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a damp or wet surface. Use a dry or non-conductive tool to reset breakers and use only one hand.
- Turn off lights and appliances when power goes out. This helps avoid fire hazards as well as sudden demands on the electric system.
- Turn off the main circuit breaker and all appliances when leaving home during a power outage.
- Stay away from fallen power lines and do not attempt to remove fallen limbs or objects from power lines. Report these situations to your utility immediately.
- Do not walk or drive through water that may be in contact with downed lines. Report these situations to your utility immediately.
- If a power line falls on your car, assume the line is energized and remain inside the vehicle, blowing your horn for help. (If you are forced to leave your car, jump as far away from the vehicle as you can, landing with both feet together. Be sure that no part of your body touches the vehicle and ground at the same time. Call 911 as soon as possible and don't return to the vehicle until emergency personnel say it's safe.)
- If someone in your home is dependent on medical equipment requiring electricity, arrange for an alternative power source before severe weather strikes.
- Any disassembly of electrical equipment should be performed only by trained factory service personnel who are familiar with equipment design and function.

Pauley points out that in the hours following severe storms, utility companies are working around the clock to restore communities' infrastructures, giving homeowners the power needed to have lights, heat and water. In most instances, the utility itself has had to rebuild its system to restore power, before sending out its inspectors. Square D encourages homeowners to wait for a trained electrical inspector to examine their equipment before turning utility power back on, even if not requested by the utility.

"Everyone wants to get their power back on, but it's not something you should do in haste," cautions Pauley, "Not taking the necessary steps and safety precautions to re-electrifying one's home could have a devastating, potentially deadly, impact. We want to do everything we can to prevent such circumstances."

For more information on electrical safety tips, visit the Square D Web site at (www.squared.com).

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Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.8 billion (U.S.) in 2005. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2005 sales of approximately \$14.5 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

- Corporate – <http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>
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