



**SQUARE D**

Schneider Electric – North American Operating Division

1415 South Roselle Road • Palatine, IL 60067-7399 • Tel. (847) 397-2600 • Fax (847) 925-7271

Contact:

Jen Dirks

Bader Rutter & Associates

Phone: (262) 938-5565

Fax: (262) 938-5552

[jdirks@bader-rutter.com](mailto:jdirks@bader-rutter.com)

Tim Trush

Schneider Electric, North American Operating Division

Phone: (847) 397-2600

[timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com](mailto:timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com)

[www.us.schneider-electric.com](http://www.us.schneider-electric.com)

**SQUARE D® OFFERS HOMEOWNERS ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS  
DURING SPRING AND SUMMER STORMS  
*May is National Electrical Safety Month***

**PALATINE, III.** – May 8, 2006 – Lightning strikes, power outages, and electrical hazards in the aftermath of storms are the top concerns during the spring and summer months, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, and often cause death and injuries. Most of these deaths could be avoided with an increased awareness of electrical safety. In recognition of National Electrical Safety month, Square D, best known in the United States as the flagship brand for electrical distribution equipment, Schneider Electric's North American Operating Division, is offering advice and tips to keep homeowners safe.

“Homeowners need to be aware that there are hidden, potentially deadly, hazards of re-electrification following a storm 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 critical reminders to homeowners. For example:

- 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.
- 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.
- Any disassembly of electrical equipment should be performed only by trained factory service personnel who are familiar with equipment design and function.

--more--



**Schneider Electric**

**North American Operating Division**

1415 South Roselle Road

Palatine, IL 60067-7399

Tel. (1) 847-397-2600

Fax (1) 847-925-7271

[www.us.schneider-electric.com](http://www.us.schneider-electric.com)

## **SQUARE D OFFERS HOMEOWNERS ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS**

Page 2 of 2

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 Jim 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 Web sites of the Electrical Safety Foundation International ([www.efsi.org](http://www.efsi.org)) or Square D ([www.squared.com](http://www.squared.com)).

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>
- Telemecanique Products – <http://www.us.telemecanique.com>
- Square D Products – <http://www.us.squared.com>
- Merlin Gerin Products – <http://www.us.merlengerin.com>

###