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## **Mr. Electric® of St. John's Stresses Electrical Safety After Startling Find**

(ST. JOHN'S, NL – March 24, 2008) Area electrician Gary Ryan went out on what he thought was a routine service call earlier this year. What he came back with was an oddly-burnt pencil, a grateful customer and an electrical safety lesson to be heeded by all.

“We were called by a customer who said the wall heater thermostat was jammed in the ‘on’ position full time,” said Ryan, an electrician with *Mr. Electric* of St. John's. “Fixing this problem was fairly easy. However, when the homeowner mentioned a peculiar burning odor coming from the unit in her child's and I noticed it, too, the story got a little more interesting.”

After opening the wall heater, Ryan found the culprit: an ordinary pencil. However, it had been dropped into the heater and was resting against the heating coils. With the heater switched to “on” constantly, a slow burn was occurring and posed a definite hazard to life and property, had it not been caught in time.

“After giving it time to cool down, the homeowner and I examined the pencil,” Ryan added. “It was scorched at regular intervals from its contact with the heater, much like marks on a grill-cooked steak. Given the continual exposure to high heat, it may have been just a matter of time before the pencil ignited inside the heater, posing a serious fire danger.”

Luckily, Ryan was able to fix the thermostat, extract the pencil and avert potential disaster. However, had the call not been made sooner, a different, bleaker outcome could have occurred.

“It just pays to be safe,” Ryan concluded. “When working with components like fire and electricity, it's best to call in a qualified electrician. *Mr. Electric* of St. John's was happy to repair the customer's heating problem and prevent what could have been a very dangerous situation from developing.”

*Mr. Electric* of St. John's offers residential and commercial full service repair, replacement and upgrades as well as security and landscape lighting, high-tech troubleshooting, emergency generators, surge protection, home safety check-ups and a members-only Advantage Plan™ featuring priority scheduling, preferential pricing and a variety of other consumer-friendly perks.

*Mr. Electric* of St. John's may be reached at (709) 237-WIRE or mrelectric.com.

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### **About Mr. Electric®:**

Established in 1994, *Mr. Electric* is a global franchise organization providing electrical installation and repair services. Recognized by *Entrepreneur* magazine among its “Franchise 500,” *Mr. Electric* franchisees provide these services to both residential and commercial customers at over 200 locations worldwide. *Mr. Electric* is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For further information or to find the location nearest you, visit [www.mrelectric.com](http://www.mrelectric.com).