

## Wiring Found Inadequate In Many Houses

The wizardry of home appliance and gadget makers threatens to make "obsolete" the building trade's most "modern houses."

The flaw, according to housing industry experts, is that the new houses are not fitted with enough electrical wiring. The wiring cannot carry the heavy load thrust on it by the great variety of electrical equipment pouring into American homes from manufacturers' production lines.

This overloading constitutes not only a dangerous fire hazard but serious financial loss to the homeowner who must tear down his walls to rewire his house adequately.

The nation's builders and trade publications, alert to the problem, are getting behind a campaign to promote better planning of electrical wiring systems to meet the increased electrical needs of the average home.

### Emphasize Flaw

Among those contributing to the drive is the National Association of Home Builders which has urged its 25,000 members throughout the country to help solve the problem. The association is working in partnership with the National Adequate Wiring Bureau to help spread the word.

Also supporting the campaign is the Practical Builder magazine which is printing a series of articles emphasizing the seriousness of the flaw. The magazine said many of the 4,000,000 homes built since World War II are "doomed to early obsolescence through the lack of thoughtful electrical planning."

The magazine printed statistics showing that the work load carried by the "average income" home wiring system has increased by leaps and bounds.

The 1940 average was almost double that of 1930. The 1951 average more than doubled the 1940 figure. By 1960 the total will be doubled again, the magazine forecast.

It said that today 51 electrical appliances are in "general use" in American homes, compared with only 19 in 1930.

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## New Plan To End Forest Fire

A new method of preventing forest fires will be tried this year by the Oregon Forest Fire Association, according to J. R. Frum, president.

A spectacular technicolor motion picture, "The Enemy Is Fire," just released, will be shown throughout Oregon to loggers, fire protection personnel, and the general public in the next few months in this fresh drive to prevent man-caused woods fires.

Filmed here in Oregon by Rarig Motion Picture Company of Seattle, the forest fire gigantic is an all-northwest product. A high-powered technical committee of loggers, foresters and operators in Oregon and Washington supervised production of the motion

picture.

"The film," Frum said, "starts with the planning of a protection system and follows through the use of heavy equipment to pumps and hand tools on the fire line."

The motion picture has been so planned that it can be separated into six short films, each covering a special phase of fire protection and suppression, Frum pointed out.

"The Enemy Is Fire" shows how a forest fire starts, how loggers and fire fighters organize a plan of action and how they finally conquer the blaze and mop up spot fires ahead. It is the first time the entire action of a forest fire has ever been screened, Frum stated, and at its premier showing in Portland last week aroused hearty acclaim from old-time fire fighters.

"We will make the film available for widespread use by the

general public," Frum indicated, "as soon as we have had a chance to show it to loggers, fire fighters and forestry groups. Several prints are being made and will be available from Keep Oregon Green, Oregon Forest Fire Association, Industrial Forestry Association, and Oregon State Forestry department. The forest fire epic was financed jointly by the

Oregon Forest Fire Association and Washington Forest Fire Association, and private operators west of the Cascades in the two states.

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