




EMORY UNIVERSITY | Environmental Health and Safety Office
 Research Administration

TOOLBOX TALKS

- Use toolbox trainings to encourage safety/environmental discussions during monthly meetings with employees.
- Campus Services' employees should maintain the employee sign-in sheet in their department's safety/environmental compliance binder as a record of training. All other groups should maintain a record of training in accordance with their Division's training procedures.

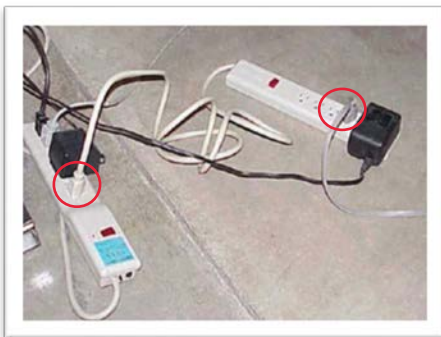
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSO) estimates that electrical power cords cause about 4,000 injuries and 3,300 residential fires each year. The most frequent causes of such fires are short circuits, overloading, damage and/or misuse of these power cords. Misused and damaged power cords have caused painful injuries, fires, equipment damage and regulatory citations and penalties. Even the smallest amount of electrical current can cause injury or even death.



Common Hazards to Avoid with "Power" Cords

- Extension cords cannot be used in place of permanent wiring.
- Make sure your hands are dry before plugging or unplugging a power cord.
- Examine cords before each use. If the cord is damaged or frayed - **DO NOT USE IT!!** The damaged or frayed cord **must** be taken out of service and replaced immediately.
- Avoid using a power cord when the ground prong is removed.
- Never disconnect a plug from a socket by jerking the cord. Instead, grasp the plug and remove the plug from the socket.
- When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use."
- Don't drag cords over rough surfaces and never use them to lift or pull materials. Electrical cords were not designed to function as ropes.
- Never connect extension cords/power strips to each other. Doing this can overload the circuit creating a potential fire hazard.

Examples of Electrical Hazards



Never connect extension cords/power strips to each other!



Don't use damaged or frayed cords!



Never overload!

SAFETY/ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLBOX TALKS – OVERHEAD GANTRY CRANE SAFETY

Questions for Discussion

1. True or False. You can plug one power strip into another power strip in place of an extension cord?

Answer: False; Never connect extension cords/power strips to each other. Doing this can overload the circuit creating a potential fire hazard.

2. True or False. A small amount of electrical current can cause injury, or even death.

Answer: True

3. The most frequent causes of fires from power cords are due to _____?

- a. Frayed electrical cords
- b. Overloading
- c. Short circuits
- d. All of the above

Answer: D – All of the above

4. Defective, damaged or frayed electrical cords should be _____ immediately?

- a. Stored
- b. Replaced
- c. Split
- d. Do nothing

Answer: B – Replaced