



## SAFETY TOOLBOX TRAINING – ELECTRICAL POWER CORDS

### SUPERVISOR INSTRUCTIONS:

- Use toolbox trainings to spark safety discussions during monthly meetings with employees
- Submit the employee sign-in sheet to your designated administrative assistant /training coordinator as a record of training

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

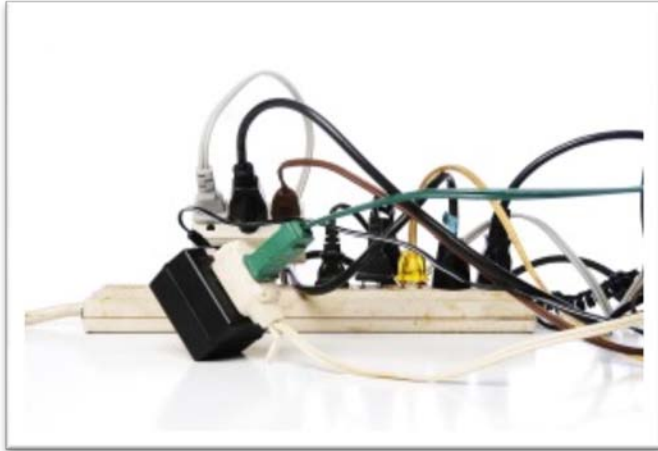
1. Extension cords cannot be used in place of permanent wiring.
2. Make sure your hands are dry before plugging or unplugging a power cord.
3. Examine cords before each use. If the cord is damaged or frayed - **DO NOT USE IT!!** The damaged or frayed cord **must** be taken out of service and replaced immediately.
4. Avoid using a power cord when the ground prong is removed.
5. Never disconnect a plug from a socket by jerking the cord. Instead, grasp the plug and remove the plug from the socket.
6. When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant heavy gauge extension cords marked “for outdoor use.”
7. 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.
8. Never connect extension cords/power strips to each other. Doing this can overload the circuit creating a potential fire hazard.



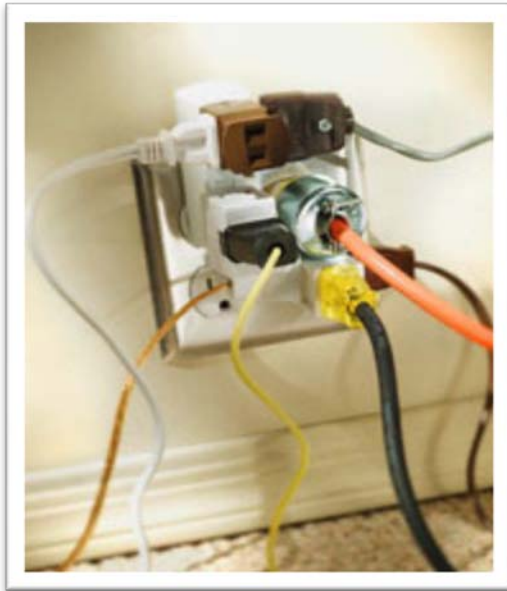
When not in use, the electrical cord should be neatly coiled and stored.

## SAFETY TOOLBOX TRAINING – AVOIDING ELECTRICAL SHOCKS

### The Following are Examples of Electrical Hazards



Never connect extension cords/power strips to each other.



Never overloaded an electrical outlet



Don't use damaged or frayed cords

## SAFETY TOOLBOX TRAINING – AVOIDING ELECTRICAL SHOCKS

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### 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

**REMEMBER: HINDSIGHT EXPLAINS THE INJURY THAT FORESIGHT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED**