



# Office of Environmental Health & Safety

## MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

### BASIC ELECTRICAL SAFETY

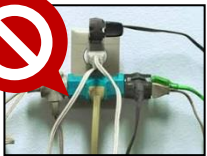
May  
2018



#### Basic Electrical Safety Information

- Electricity seeks the path of least resistance to the ground. If your body happens to be in that path of least resistance due to a shorted wire/receptacle or malfunctioning power tool or appliance, the electricity will pass through you and can result in serious injury or death.
- Do not use damaged electrical equipment. Remove damaged power cords/plugs, tools, and appliances from service immediately; tag/label the equipment with the warning "DANGER: DO NOT USE" and notify your supervisor.

#### Avoid Overloading



Too many devices plugged into an outlet can overload the circuit and cause a fire.



Flickering lights, tripped circuit breakers, blown fuses, and warm receptacles are signs of overloaded circuits.

#### GFCI



Ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets should be installed wherever electrical circuits may accidentally come into contact with water. Check your workplace countertop sinks!

Never alter a plug by removing or bending, the prongs.



Unplug a power cord by pulling the plug straight out. Do not pull on the cord.



Never touch energized equipment that is wet or sitting in water. De-energize wet tools before touching.



#### Power Strips

Power strips allow multiple devices to be powered from a single outlet; however, they should be used sparingly and only with small appliances.

- Do not overload.
- Do not plug extension cords or other power strips into a power strip.
- Visually inspect regularly.



#### Extension Cords

Extension cords are for temporary use ONLY.



Regular extension cords are not meant for large appliances.

Do not overload, and do not plug extension cords into one another.



Extension cords must be inspected before each use. Check for damaged jacket/insulation, pinches, and the grounding pin.

Do not run cords through doorways, windows, or pinch points. Do not use staples, tacks, or nails to secure cords.



Do not conceal cords under floor mats or through walls, ceilings, or floors. This can cause a fire.