

2024-07-29 TBT Electrical Cord Safety

Electrical extension cords are used on many worksites, and just like you learned in safety training, should be treated with respect.

Now, people don't pay much attention to them, but...

Extension cords are a leading cause of electrical fires, and if not used properly, there may be serious, negative consequences. I see many cords on jobsites that are routed past or over piles of sawdust and debris.

Always:

- Keep up with our assured grounding program to make sure cords are in useable condition. (This goes for subcontractors as well)
- Inspect cords before use and throw away or properly repair damaged cords.
- Extension cords are not a permanent solution for sourcing power. Unplug and safely store them after every use.
- Remove cords by pulling on the plug, not the cord, when disconnecting them from an outlet.
- Keep extension cords out of high traffic areas like doorways or walkways, where they pose a tripping hazard—we've all been there, right?

Never:

- Use an indoor extension cord outdoors
- Plug multiple cords together. (This lowers the amperage rating significantly)
- Use an extension cord that has a lower wattage rating than the tool being used with it.
- Force a plug into an outlet, say, by bending the ground prong.
- Run an extension cord near water or use a wet extension cord.
- Use a cord that feels hot.
- Drag or drive over a cord.
- Use a damaged cord that has exposed wires.

The correct use of extension cords is an important to on-the-job electrical safety because if used incorrectly, injuries and even death can occur.

Until next time, stay positive and stay safe.

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