

Electrical Safety: Extension Cords

PROJECT / SITE	DATE	TALK LED BY

THE HAZARD

Temporary power is everywhere on a spring site, and cords take abuse no permanent installation ever would. A damaged cord in a wet trench is a fatality waiting for someone to pick it up.

WHAT GOES WRONG

- Insulation nicked, crushed by a wheel, or repaired with tape and put back in service.
- Ground pin missing or deliberately snapped off to fit a two-pin outlet.
- Cords daisy-chained across a site, undersized for the load and warm to the touch.
- Cords run through standing water, doorways, or where they get driven over.

CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START

- Inspect every cord before use: cuts, crushing, exposed conductor, damaged plug, missing pin.
- Take damaged cords out of service. Tag them or cut the plug off so nobody re-uses them.
- Use GFCI protection on every temporary circuit, and test it.
- Size the cord for the load and the run length. If it is warm, it is undersized.
- Route cords overhead or along walls, out of water and out of the traffic path.

ASK THE CREW

1. Walk the cords on this site with me. What do we find in the first five minutes?
2. Which GFCI was tested most recently, and by whom?
3. Is anything plugged into a chain of cords right now?
4. Where does a cord cross water or a vehicle route on this job?

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON	SIGNATURE