



**Toolbox Topic:**  
**Extension Cord Safety!**

**Success is No Accident!**

**Hours and Accident  
June 23rd 2019**

Accidents/Incidents					
Job	2019 Hours	W Comp Reportable	OSHA Report	Lost-Time	Hours an Accident
AK Care	3,794	0	0	0	No Accidents!
Bethel	27,595	1	0	0	27595
JL Marriot Remo	8,253	0	0	0	No Accidents!
Mass X Operations	31,803	3	3	0	10601
Providence	4,759	0	0	0	No Accidents!
Kodiak PAMC	2,486	0	0	0	No Accidents!
Seward PSMC	513	0	0	0	No Accidents!
AFOC	1,550	0	0	0	No Accidents!
Holy Rectory	621	0	0	0	No Accidents!
Small Jobs	1,336	0	0	0	No Accidents!
LRDR - Clear	62,064	1	0	0	62,064
EIE 405 Utiliduct	19,352	2	1	0	9,676
HDJV UAF CPHR Power	18,160	0	0	0	No Accidents!
UAF Engineering Facility	35	0	0	0	No Accidents!
<b>Total</b>	<b>182,321</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,046</b>

## Extension Cord Safety

We use extension cords almost every day both at work and at home. These are very useful devices, but they can present a fire or shock hazard when either worn out or used improperly.

### Types of Extension Cords

Extension cords come in either two or three-wire types. Two-wire extension cords should only be used to operate one or two small appliances. Three-wire cords are used for outdoor appliances and electric power tools. The third wire on this cord is a ground and this type of cord should never be plugged into any ungrounded electrical outlet. Only grounded extension cords are to be used with power tools unless the tool is double insulated.



Construction sites require extension cords which are specified by the National Electric Code for hard usage or extra hard usage. Approved cords may be identified by the word “outdoor” or the letters “WA” on the jacket.

### Care and Inspection of Extension Cords

Extension cords must be treated with care and checked regularly for damage and deterioration. The cord itself should never be pulled to disconnect it from an electrical source; remove it by the plug. They should not be placed under rugs or furniture and should never be strung through doorways, windows, walls, ceilings, or floors. Damaged cords present a potential fire or shock hazard and should be destroyed and replaced immediately.

An extension cord should never be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. They should not be fastened to a building or structure, even though staples are sold for this purpose at many hardware stores. Avoid plugging two cords together to make a longer one. It's best to use one cord in a continuous length from the receptacle to the appliance or tool. Extension cords which are either connected together or are too long will reduce operating voltage and operating efficiency of tools or appliances and may cause motor damage.

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Extension cords are convenient devices which we often take for granted in our everyday activities, but which need proper care and attention. Use good housekeeping practices at home and at work, to keep extension cords from being a tripping hazard or becoming damaged. Inspect them regularly for wear and replace defective units.

***\*Prevent potential electrical hazards that may lead to someone's injury.***

### **Tips on Avoiding Extension Cord Hazards**

- Keep unprotected cords out of the path of vehicle and foot traffic to prevent fraying, overheating, and tripping.
- Never run a cord under mats or rugs. This prevents the cord from releasing its heat which can start a fire.
- Don't leave cords dangling anywhere – otherwise, the cords could be pulled down and tripped over.
- Make sure there is no crimping or pressure on cords, and don't force them into small spaces or behind equipment or cabinets. Over time this could lead to a breakdown of the cord's insulation.
- Never use staples or nails to attach cords or cord bundlers to a surface, such as a baseboard or wall. They could puncture the insulation and create a shock or fire hazard.
- Don't overload outlets or extension cords with too much equipment or with equipment with too much wattage (drills, saws, space heaters, etc.).



Daisy-chained multi-plug outlets

Check the maximum capacity of an extension cord, and make absolutely sure you don't exceed it.

- Don't use an adapter to get an extension cord with a three-prong plug into a two-prong outlet.
- If a cord is hot to the touch, unplug it and don't use it again.

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