

KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Extension Cord Safety



TEAMWORK
IMPROVES SAFETY

Signatures

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On construction sites, flexible extension cords that power tools and equipment are everywhere. These cords are often loose and uncovered. They can cause tripping hazards. They can be damaged easily and create electrical hazards.

Bernard's Story: Bernard was using a coring machine to make holes in a concrete floor. The 120-volt machine was powered by two extension cords connected together. One cord was missing its grounding prong. The cords were plugged into a permanent electrical outlet. Bernard placed the coring machine where he wanted to make the hole. When he turned on the power, Bernard received an electrical shock that he later died from.

1. How could this death have been avoided?
2. Have you or someone you know been injured due to an electrical extension cord hazard? If so, what happened?

Remember this:

1. Inspect all extension cords daily for damage and missing grounding prongs.
2. Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter to protect against any electrical fault.
3. Keep extension cords away from foot traffic to prevent tripping and cord damage. The insulation in cords and electrical tools can become damaged. If a live wire touches exposed metal parts inside a tool, it can become energized.

DO NOT USE extension cords/flexible wiring:

- Where frequent inspection would be difficult
- Where damage would be likely
- For long-term electrical supply as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure

NEVER USE:

- A metal outlet box, Romex, or nonmetallic cable as an extension cord
- Staples or nails to hold cords in place or multiple cords connected together; instead, use one long cord

For more information visit OSHA REGULATION: 1926.404-405

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Keystone Contractors Association Jon@KeystoneContractors.com 717-731-6272 # #