

Electrical Distribution Safety Bulletin

Electrical Distribution

The areas addressed in this bulletin are the proper use and maintenance of electrical distribution items such as extension cords or power strips. These items are regulated by University policy, the Township-adopted 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code and the State-adopted 2006 Edition of the NFPA Uniform Fire Code 1. These items are regulated due to their potential to create a fire from lack of maintenance or improper use.

Maintenance

Electrical cords must be properly maintained in accordance with the following:

- Must be free from frayed insulation or exposed wires. (Figure 1)
- Must be free from punctures or cracks in the insulation.
- Must maintain all manufacturer supplied prongs. (Figure 1)

Electrical cords should be checked on a regular basis to ensure that they are maintained. Damaged cords have the potential to create sparks that may ignite materials located near the cords. Electrical cords that are damaged must be properly repaired or removed from service.

Electrical Usage

To reduce fire hazards, extensions cords and power strips may not be “piggy-backed” or “daisy chained” to each other (Figure 2). An extension cord or power strip may only be plugged into a wall mounted outlet/receptacle. Extension cords may only be used on a temporary basis and not as a substitute for permanent wiring.

Power strips must be:

- Fused (Equipped with breaker type fuse)
- Listed and labeled (By UL or equivalent).

Using electrical distribution devices for a greater electrical draw than they are designed for can result in overheated devices that can lead to fires.

Referenced Statutes:

- 2006 Edition IFC – Ex 2.0 Td (o)11(n)26IFC