



SAFETY FIRST

Extension Cords & Power Strips – The improper use of extension cords/power strips is a violation of both California Fire Code and Cal/OSHA Regulations, and can present a serious fire safety hazard in the workplace. In fact, according to the National Fire Protection Association, extension cords and power strips are the second leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S.

The most common cause of fires from extension cords/power strips is due to improper use and/or overloading, especially when they have multiple outlets. Overloading can occur when multiple devices are plugged into one extension cord/power strip or when they are “daisy chained” (plugging multiple extension cords/power strips together).

Basic Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Extension Cords/Power Strips:

- All extension cords/power strips must have been properly approved (by Underwriters Laboratory, etc.)
- An extension cord/power strip should never be plugged into another extension cord/power strip.
- Approved extension cords are only allowable in the workplace as temporary wiring, and must not be used for more than 90 days.