

Electrical Outlet Safety

FLUOR

SmartPlant[®]

Implementation Team

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Electrical Outlet Safety



- ◆ According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fire departments respond to nearly 26,000 fires caused by electrical problems each year resulting in \$1.1 billion in damages.
- ◆ While electrical fires can occur throughout the year, fires are most common in the winter months due to more indoor activities taking place and increased use of electricity for lighting, heating, and appliances.



Most Common Cause



Outlet Overload

- ◆ Many electrical fires are caused by outlets and extension cords being overloaded especially with the increasing number of electrical devices like televisions, computers, DVD players, charging equipment for cell phones, etc.
- ◆ To help prevent fires, homes include a circuit breaker or a fuse box that cuts power to a circuit if an outlet is being used beyond its capacity.



Preventing Electrical Fires



- ◆ Make sure that all electrical appliances have the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) standard for safety sticker. If the product does not, reconsider your purchase.
- ◆ contact a local electrician to install more outlets if you're running out of room. Don't just buy an extension cord or power strip, as these can cause overloading.



Electrical Outlet Safety



- ◆ A light bulb that burns out quickly and often usually means the wattage is too high for the particular outlet you are using. It is important to decrease the wattage immediately.
- ◆ Replace wires and cords that are frayed, old or damaged in some other way.
- ◆ An electrical cord that is warm to the touch could indicate a defective cord or overload.
- ◆ Keep all flammable materials, such as clothing and home décor at least three feet away from lights, warm surfaces or outlets.
- ◆ Extension cords are a temporary, not permanent, wiring solution.
- ◆ Avoid overheating by using extension cords of the proper size for the load they will carry and by using cords as short as practical.
- ◆ Don't use an extension cord with a portable heater. The current from the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- ◆ Regularly check cords for damage and never repair by splicing. Avoid using “octopus plugs,” which allow many cords to be plugged into a single receptacle.



QUESTIONS