

## Electrical Safety – Extension Cords

Electrical hazards are an area of major safety concerns in construction and account for a large number of injuries and fatalities.

Extension cords and GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) can be found on any construction site and remembering a few safety tips can help prevent serious injuries from happening.



Never take electricity for granted! No matter how small the job, always use safe work practices, especially when using electrical tools and equipment.

- Always inspect your electrical tools and extension cords before use.
- Never use extension cords that have broken or missing ground pins – these are there for your safety.
- Use only properly rated extension cords for a construction site.

**OSHA Standard 1926.416(a)(1)** states that *no employer shall permit an employee to work in such proximity to any part of an electric power circuit that the employee could contact the electric power circuit in the course of work, unless the employee is protected against electric shock by deenergizing the circuit and grounding it or by guarding it effectively by insulation or other means.*

According to OSHA, a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) “is a fast-acting circuit breaker designed to shut off electric power in the event of a ground-fault within as little as 1/40 of a second.”



# TOOLBOX TALKS

- Use GFCIs on any construction site to reduce the potential of electrical shocks due to a ground fault.
- Always test GFCIs before use by using the test and reset buttons if found defective do not use that GFCI.
- Always inspect your electrical tools and extension cords before use.
- Never use extension cords that have broken or missing the ground pins.
- Use only properly rated extension cords for a construction site.
- Never run cords through windows or doors where they could be pinched or damaged.
- Remove frayed, damaged, or severely kinked extension cords from use



**OSHA Standard 1926.404(b)(1)(ii) Ground-fault circuit interrupters.** *...outlets on construction sites... shall have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters for personnel protection.*

