



Electrical Fire Hazards in the Workplace – Safe Use of Power Strips

Electrical hazards are consistently near the top of the rankings of accidental fire causes. Over the next few months, information will be provided that will help you to identify and mitigate electrical hazards in your building.

The improper use of power strips is most often noted on the list of electrical deficiencies. Multi-plug adapters, power taps and power strips are regulated by Section 605.4 of the Fire Code. The Fire Code requires that multi-plug adapters, power taps and power strips comply with the following:

- Power Strips and Multi-Plug adapters shall be of the polarized or grounded type equipped with over-current protection and listed in accordance with UL 1363. **Fire Code §605.4.1**
- Power Strips and Multi-Plug adapters shall be plugged directly into an approved permanently installed receptacle. *Power strips may not be plugged into another power strip which is referred to as “Daisy-Chaining”.* **Fire Code §605.4.2**
- Power Strips and Multi-Plug adapter cords shall not extend through doors, walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings or be subject to environmental or physical damage. **Fire Code §605.4.3**
- Power Strips and Multi-Plug adapter that are damaged or have damaged cords shall be repaired or replaced prior to use. **Fire Code §605.1**

Power strips can now be purchased with electrical cords of up to 25 feet allowing for the safe use of electricity in offices and areas with a limited number of electrical receptacles. In the next issue, we will discuss the safe use of extension cords.