

MISSING GROUND PRONG

SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

A missing third prong from an electrical plug resulted in the electrocution death of a worker. He was climbing a ladder to hand a power drill to another worker when he received a fatal shock.

Investigators found the extension cord was missing its grounding prong. The grounding wire and the frame of the drill were being electrified off and on by the energizing wire. The drill was not double insulated.

You probably have been told many times about the dangers of using defective electrical equipment. If you have used such equipment and got away with it, count yourself lucky. Your story could have turned out tragically, as it did for this worker.

Remember to inspect a power tool before you use it. If you find signs of damage or wear, discard it or turn it in for repair by a qualified person.

Don't attempt electrical repairs unless you are trained and qualified. And never make alterations such as removing the third prong so you can plug it into a two-prong outlet or extension cord!

I hereby acknowledge that I was present at this meeting, that the above items were covered, and that any questions I had were asked. I will adhere to the above to the best of my ability.

EMPLOYEE NAMES

SUPERINTENDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____



GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER SAFETY

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An Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program is another step to help insure the safety of all of our employees. According to CFR 1926.404(b)(1)(ii):

Ground-fault circuit interrupters. All 120-volt, single-phase 15- and 20-ampere receptacle outlets on construction sites, which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure and which are in use by employees, shall have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters for personnel protection.

The following shall be done at a minimum to insure proper grounding for personnel protection:

- Tool cords and extension cords shall be inspected before each use for damage, wear or loose connections.
- Tools and extension cords shall only be plugged into a GFCI receptacle or have a portable GFCI between the receptacle and the extension cord or tool.
- The GFCI shall be tested before each use to insure it is working properly. If GFCI is not working properly it shall not be used until repaired and retested.

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EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that each year, about 4,000 injuries associated with electric extension cords are treated in hospital emergency rooms. About half of the injuries involve fractures, lacerations, contusions or sprains from people tripping over extension cords. CPSC also estimates that about 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords each year, killing 50 people and injuring about 270 others. The most frequent causes of such fires are short circuits, overloading, damage and/or misuse of extension cords. Today we'll look at some tips for use of extension cords:

- Use extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis. Do not use extension cords in place of permanent wiring.
- Do not remove the prongs of an electrical plug. If plug prongs are missing, loose, or bent, replace the entire plug.
- Do not use an adapter or extension cord to defeat a standard grounding device. (e.g., Only place three-prong plugs in three-prong outlets; do not alter them to fit in a two-prong outlet.)
- Use extension cords that are the correct size or rating for the equipment in use.
- Only use cords rated for outdoor use when using a cord outside.
- Do not run cords above ceiling tiles or through walls.
- Keep electrical cords away from areas where they may be pinched and areas where they may pose a tripping or fire hazard (e.g., doorways, walkways, under carpet, etc.).
- Always inspect the cord prior to use to ensure the insulation isn't cut or damaged. Discard damaged cords, cords that become hot, or cords with exposed wiring.
- Never unplug an extension cord by pulling on the cord; pull on the plug.
- In locations where equipment can be pushed against an extension cord where the cord joins the plug, use a special angle extension cord specifically designed for use in these instances.

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