

## TOOLBOX TALK #15

### SAFE USE OF EXTENSION CORDS

Despite the increasing prominence of battery-operated equipment, extension cords can still be found on many jobsites. Unfortunately, they are often commonly misused. Let's go over some dos and don'ts of extension cord safety.

#### DO'S

- Inspect an extension cord for physical damage before use.
- Check that the cord matches the wattage rating on the appliance or tool you're using.
- Make sure all cords have been approved by an independent testing laboratory such as UL.
- Fully insert the extension cord into the outlet.
- Keep cords away from water.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupter protection when using extension cords in wet or damp environments.
- Unplug extension cords when not in use.
- Consider installing overhead pendants to reduce trip hazards.

#### DON'TS

- Use an indoor extension cord outdoors.
- Overhead cords with more than the proper electrical load.
- Run extension cords through doorways, holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
- Daisy chain, or connect, multiple power strips together.
- Move, bend or modify any of the extension cord plug's metal parts.
- Force a plug into an outlet.
- Drive over an extension cord.
- Attach extension cords to the wall with nails or staples.

