

## EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

Extension cords make work tasks easier and more convenient. However, they can also pose serious burn and shock dangers if you do not operate them properly.

To learn more about how to use an extension cord properly, read the label describing the usage, size and wattage ratings. The gauge rating on the extension cord is indicated by a number corresponding to electrical items that you can plug into the cord. The rule of thumb is, the smaller the gauge number, the larger the power wattage of the electrical item.

Also remember these safety tips to prevent unnecessary extension cord-related injuries on the job:

- Use cords with the UL marking indicating that it has been tested for safety hazards.
- Unplug cords when they are not in use since they still conduct electricity in the outlet, even if they are not connected to an appliance.
- Never use cords that are damaged or cut. Notify your supervisor of these defects right away to avoid injuries.
- Never run an extension cord if it creates a tripping hazard.



Workplace safety tips brought to you by the insurance specialists at  
RJ Ahmann Company.

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## *Fire Prevention: It Starts With You*

The leading causes of workplace fires are electrical failures, the misuse of electrical equipment, friction, open flames and smoking.

We're counting on you to reduce the risk of fire by practicing the following safety tips:

- Comply with 'No Smoking' signs and dispose of cigarettes and matches in designated areas. Extinguish smoking materials before you dispose of them.
- Watch for frayed electrical cords or overloaded circuits.
- Dispose of flammable wastes and scraps by placing them in metal containers.
- Store combustibles in a safe area away from furnaces, electrical equipment and cigarettes.
- Do not burn wastepaper containing explosive materials such as aerosol or paint.
- Inspect electrical equipment and tools prior to using them.
- Keep mechanical equipment properly lubricated.

Be accountable...notify a supervisor if you notice any potential fire hazards immediately!

## Did You Know?

- The Dalmatian first became the official fire dog in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when horses pulled fire-fighting equipment. The dogs ran alongside the horses, slept with them to protect against theft and kept them calm in the firehouse.
- Benjamin Franklin formed the first volunteer fire company in the United States in 1736. He called it the Union Fire Company and served as its chief.