

FIRE SAFETY FACTS

Electrical wiring is one of the leading causes of fires in the United States. Examples of some of the components of structure wiring that contribute to this problem are:

- ▲ Fixed wiring
- ▲ Switches
- ▲ Lighting fixtures
- ▲ Cords
- ▲ Plugs
- ▲ Lamps and light bulbs.

From 1993 to 1997 electrical fires were the fifth leading cause of all home fires, fourth in fire deaths and second leading cause of direct property damage.

Cords and plugs make up one of the larger segments of electrical fire causes. This category covers things such as extension cords, lamp cords, appliance cords, and Christmas wiring and caused an estimated 7,100 fires, 106 deaths, and in excess of \$114 million in property damage per year.



SAFETY TIPS



Because electrical fires pose such a significant threat for our schools, the following National Fire Protection Association recommendations are being provided in an effort to reduce hazards. How does your work location stack up?

- 🔥 Never run cords under carpeting or other combustible material. Don't pin or trap cords between the wall and furniture. These conditions contribute to the likelihood that an overheating cord will cause a fire.
- 🔥 Dispose of frayed or broken cords. Don't try to fix them with tape or splices.
- 🔥 Don't drape cords over furniture or run them through doorways or into frequently traveled areas.
- 🔥 Don't nail, staple, tape, or attach cords in some other fashion directly to walls or over doorways.
- 🔥 Never plug a major appliance or more than one small appliance into an extension cord. These practices cause overloading and overheating of cords and cause fires.
- 🔥 Minimize the use of extension cords. Avoid plugging one extension cord into another unless the cords are approved for that purpose.
- 🔥 Do not use extension cords as permanent wiring. They are not designed for such long-term use.

Many will undoubtedly be surprised by what will be found at individual work locations when existing conditions are filtered through the ideas presented here. Everyone is urged to act on inappropriate and/or unsafe conditions. Questions, concerns, and requests for assistance may be directed to the Safety Department at 317-3901.