

Electrical Safety

Awareness

May is National Electrical Safety Month, a time when we should all become more aware of the dangers associated with working near electricity. Identifying electrical hazards in the workplace and understanding best practices are critical to preventing injuries and property damage.

Common electrical hazards

Daisy chaining: Power strips and extension cords are rated for specific amounts of electricity. Connecting two or more together creates a potential for electrical failure and fire. See daisy chaining example on the right.

Preparation and training are key

Learn more: Complete Electrical Safety training at learn.northwestern.edu

Safety at home

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, an average of 51,000 electrical home fires occur each year, claiming almost 500 lives, injuring more than 1,400 people, and causing \$1.3 billion in property damage. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe:

- 9 Replace or repair all damaged power cords and equipment
- 9 Do not overload outlets by plugging in too many electrical devices
- 9 Avoid using extension cords as much as possible
- 9 Keep electrical equipment and outlets away from water, snow, and ice
- 9 When children are present, install tamper-resistant safety caps on all

For Additional Information

Contact Gwen Butler, Director, Environmental Health & Safety, at 847.491.4936

Do you or your team have a safety story you'd like to share? Contact Risk Management at gwen.butler@northwestern.edu for details.