



Weekly Safety Tip

**Keep These Devices Out
of Extension Cords and
Surge Protectors at Home**



Keep these devices out of extension cords and surge protectors, at home.



If it's getting cold enough to use a space heater where you live, be sure to keep it out of an extension cord.



If you live in an older house or apartment, it's not always easy to find enough wall plugs, especially with the number of appliances and devices we use these days. For certain products, extension cords and surge protectors are fine, but definitely not all of them.

Air fryers, space heaters and other high-powered appliances should never be plugged into extension cords, power strips or surge protectors.

Doing so can overload the cord and create a fire hazard for appliances that run constantly or rely on a heating element.

Extension cords should never be plugged in to each other.

Daisy chaining can lead to circuit overheating, which can cause cords to overheat and lead to a fire.



Portable electric space heaters have long been known to be a major cause of fires.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that between 2017 and 2019, **portable space heaters** were involved in 1,700 fires per year, with some of those fires resulting in deaths.

... You connect an extension cord to a floor heater, the plug melts and it starts a fire...

That's why you can't use extension cords and/or power strips for any appliances, because they should be used for electronics only.

While it is not as high-powered as other kitchen devices are, you should still avoid plugging **refrigerators** into extension cords.



Air conditioning units use a lot of power to keep your home cool so they need to be plugged into a wall outlet as well.

It is important to purchase the correct AC unit for your space.

You can use an online BTU [calculator](#) to calculate the type you will need to effectively cool your space.

DA Varwig for SCNWO

Weekly Safety Share



SAFETY SHARE

Fire Safety in The Workplace



SAFETY & HEALTH SHARE

Fire Safety in the Workplace: Staying Compliant and Protecting Employees

Fires are among the most serious emergencies that can happen in the workplace. They cause injuries, claim lives, and damage property every year. OSHA's fire safety standards give employers a clear framework to prevent fires, respond effectively, and keep employees safe.

This SAFETY SHARE highlights the main OSHA requirements with practical steps employers can take to strengthen fire safety programs.

OSHA Fire Safety Basics

Fire Protection Standard

OSHA's Fire Protection Standard (**29 CFR 1910 Subpart L**) is the foundation of workplace fire safety. It covers fire brigades, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, alarms, and other systems. The goal is simple:

Ensure workplaces have the right equipment in place and that it is properly maintained and ready to use.

Fire Extinguishers

If portable fire extinguishers are provided in the workplace, OSHA requires that they be easy to find, mounted properly, and in working order. Employees who are expected to use them must be trained when they are hired and again every year. Employers can choose to focus only on evacuation instead of using extinguishers, but if they do, they must have a written emergency action plan and fire prevention plan in place.

Emergency Action Plans

An **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** tells employees what to do if there is a fire. It must explain how to report an emergency, where to go to evacuate, and how to account for everyone once outside. The plan must be reviewed with employees when they are hired, when responsibilities change, or when the plan is updated. Employers with 10 or fewer employees can share the plan verbally instead of keeping it in writing.

Fire Brigades

Some workplaces choose to organize fire brigades, employee teams trained to fight workplace fires. If an employer sets up a fire brigade, OSHA requires clear written procedures, proper training, and regular equipment checks. Training happens at least once a year, and for employees expected to fight fires inside buildings, training must be held four (4) times a year.

Flammable Liquids and Hazardous Materials

Fuels, solvents, and other flammable liquids require special handling. OSHA regs set standards for safe storage, grounding and bonding containers, and controlling ignition sources. If employees will respond to chemical releases or spills, the emergency response rules in the **HAZWOPER** standard may also apply. If the workplace policy is to evacuate instead of respond, those rules do not apply.



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