



The purpose of the Safety Committee is to bring district employees and management together in a cooperative effort to promote safety and health in the workplace. The committee is dedicated to building a culture of safety through training, education, and policy development.

Safety Committee Members

Don Adams, Director of MOT
Safety Coordinator

Christie Cosme, Account Technician
Assistant Safety Coordinator

Annie Lachance, CBO
District Office Representative

Jan Boughter, TK/K Teacher
Cambria Grammar School Representative

Emily Takahashi, 8th Grade ELA/History
Santa Lucia MS Representative

Sarah Johnston, Teacher
Coast Union HS Representative

Taylor Henderson, Social Science Teacher
Coast Union HS Alternate Representative

Lindsay Harrod, Director, Food Services
Food Services Representative

Reporting Safety Concerns

The CUSD Safety Committee wants to hear from you. How to report a Safety Concern/Suggestion:

1. The Safety Concern/Suggestion form can be found on the Safety Committee Web page located under "Departments" on the CUSD website.
2. Please use this form to report unsafe or uncorrected conditions, which could endanger employees or students, or to make a safety or health-related suggestion to the District Safety Coordinator.
3. Give the completed form to your Principal/Supervisor.
4. The form will be read, signed by a supervisor/principal, and then forwarded to the District Safety Coordinator.
5. All Safety Concern/Suggestion forms will be addressed at the next District Safety Committee Meeting.

FALL 2021

Safety Incentive Programs

▪ Safety Topic of the Month

An email will be sent out monthly to all employees containing the safety topic provided by SIPE. Read the attachment in the email, take the quiz, answer the questions correctly and your name will be entered in a drawing for an opportunity to win a **\$25 gift card**.

▪ Online Safety Training

Increase your safety knowledge and your chances of winning by taking as many trainings as you can on GetSafetyTrained.com! **Win a \$100 gift card**. Complete the Online trainings three months in a row, and your name will be entered into the quarterly drawing to win a **\$100 gift card**.

▪ Safety Culture Spotlight

Submit one of the following to your **Site Safety Representative**:

Caught-in-the Act (CIA) – Catch a co-worker in the act of being extraordinarily safe!

Report a Safety Concern/Suggestion – If you **See Something** that could be considered unsafe or a hazard, **Say Something**, by filling out a **Safety Concern/Suggestion form** including a picture for documentation or if you have an idea to improve safety, submit a safety suggestion.

All entries will be evaluated by the District Safety Committee, with the most extraordinary CIA and the best Safety Concern/Suggestion being selected.



The purpose of the Safety Committee is to bring district employees and management together in a cooperative effort to promote safety and health in the workplace. The committee is dedicated to building a culture of safety through training, education, and policy development.

Newsletter Trivia

In each Safety Committee Newsletter, there will be one safety program trivia question. A drawing will be held for all correct answers, and the winner will receive a \$25.00 gift card.

Email your trivia question answers to ccosme@coastusd.org with "Newsletter Trivia" in the subject line.

• Trivia for this edition:

Plugging additional strips into one another to increase outlet spaces is called _____?

Upcoming Safety Meetings

- October 19, 2021
- November 16, 2021
- January 18, 2022
- February 15, 2022
- March 18, 2022
- April 19, 2022
- May 17, 2022

* All meetings are held via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.



Don't plug one extension cord or power strip into another.

Power Strip Safety

First, it is important to consider whether you will need a simple power strip or a surge protector. Power strips and surge protectors also called surge suppressors, offer different levels of protection for electronic equipment. Typically, power strips are inexpensive, multi-outlet products that are merely an expansion of a wall outlet. Surge protectors offer some level of protection against power fluctuations, but how much and how well varies considerably. Items that are most vulnerable to fluctuations in power, such as computers, printers, and routers, would benefit from using a surge protector.

Power strips and surge protectors also have distinct limitations in the amount of electricity they can accommodate. With what seems like the promise of endless outlets available, they are often unintentionally misused. The average power strip has a maximum wattage capacity of 1800 and an amperage capacity of 15-20. This capacity is the total capacity for all items combined that will be plugged into the strip. It is generally adequate for light circuit items such as computers, chargers, AV equipment, and phones. Any equipment with higher capacity should be plugged directly into the wall outlet.

Power strips do not play well together. Plugging additional strips into one another to increase outlet spaces (also known as "daisy-chaining") might seem like a nice shortcut to increase access but is actually quite risky. It does not increase the amperage or wattage available and can easily overload, leading to short circuits, equipment damage, and even fires.

In breakrooms, it is essential to know the wattage and amperage requirements of a single heating appliance such as a coffee maker or toaster oven. A single heating appliance such as a coffee maker or toaster oven often already meets or exceeds the limits of a power strip. All high current equipment such as coffee makers, microwaves, toaster ovens, and space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet to prevent overload.

There is also an unfortunate number of unrated and even counterfeit power strips and towers on the market. A number of these items were seen in classrooms and offices during a recent school site inspection, likely brought from home. These items can be particularly hazardous, as they have unknown specifications and are more likely to cause issues. All power strips should have an appropriate rating from the Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Also, a note about extension cords: While shocks and burns account for many of the injuries associated with extension cords, one of the most common hazards may surprise you. The US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that roughly half of all injuries associated with power cords involve fractures, lacerations, contusions, or sprains from people tripping over cords. Slips, trips, and falls also account for more than half of workplace injuries, and cord placement for electronic devices plays a large role in this. Cord placement for both power strips and extension cords should be considered and should not be in walking paths, across doorways, or other high traffic areas where they may create a trip hazard.