



DISTRICT SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



SHARE 911

Share911 is a program utilized for broadcasting emergencies on district devices. This service can also be utilized on personal cellphone devices by downloading the app, if you so desire. The goal of using Share911 is to help communicate with staff not just for immediate emergencies, but if phone or internet services go down as well. Any assistance needed with Share911, contact Pedro Gonzalez.

SAFETY TIP ...



Always wear safety goggles when working with hazardous materials. Follow safety procedures at all times when using power tools. Make sure your work area is tidy and free of trip hazards. Watch where you're walking – don't run in the workplace!

DISTRICT PHONES UPDATE

EIT has been working diligently on updating the District phone system. The full integration should be complete across the district by February 28th.



DISTRICT RADIOS

The District is putting together a plan for inventorying site and emergency radios on what is existing and replenishing or updating what is necessary for all sites and departments. FMOT has assumed oversight of site and emergency radios from EIT to ensure alignment with emergency protocols and will be communicating by the end of this month how to submit requests for repair or replacement.



SITE VISITORS

Reminder....All visitors (parents, contractors, employees, etc.) that come into any site need to be signing in and signing out upon departure. In the event of an emergency, the sign-in sheet would be used to account for those visitors on campus.



Comprehensive Site Safety Plans should now be completed for each site. The plans will go to the Board for approval in April. For any questions, contact Pedro Gonzalez.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

District Safety Committee page

<https://www.husd.us/districtsafety>

Air Quality

<https://www.husd.us/airquality>

Upcoming District Safety Committee Meeting:

March 28, 2023



ELECTRICAL SAFETY EXTENSION CORDS

Blocked breakers aren't the only electrical hazard frequently seen at sites. Many electrical hazards spotted are related to inappropriate use of extension cords. Extension cords are not allowed for appliances. Refrigerators, microwaves and similar appliances need to be plugged directly to wall receptacles.

It is often witnessed "daisy-chaining" – using multiple extension cords or power strips for a device. Although extension cords can be useful for temporarily supplying power for certain operations, the key word is "temporarily." When a cord is used for several weeks or months OSHA doesn't consider the use temporary. This opens the door for a violation.

Beyond that, extension cords lying on the ground for extended periods of time are a trip hazard. They also can be subject to traffic abuse if run over by forklifts or feet, which can wear down insulation and create shock hazards.

When cords are daisy-chained, they can easily overdraw electricity from the circuits, causing the wires to heat up and potentially result in a fire.

Sites should assess whether extension cords are truly being used for temporary measures – perhaps to power a fan on an especially hot day. In such an event, the cord should be gathered up at the end of the day and stored. It is recommended periodically inspect extension cords, and training employees to ensure the cords stay in good working condition and worn-out cords are placed out of service.

Individuals need to ensure they're using the right extension cord for the job. Typically, a more expensive cord has a heavier gauge, which allows it to take more power without getting hot. The same applies for using a single power strip to plug in several different devices – the power strip may not be rated for the combined wattage needed for all the high-draw appliances being plugged in.

Roughly 3,300 fires originate in extension cords each year, killing 50 people and injuring 270 more. Extension cords can over eat and cause fires when used improperly, so keep these important tips in mind to protect your home and workplace.

FMOT has plenty of rubber extension cord covers in the warehouse that were purchased during Covid and can be provided to sites if necessary. Requests can go be made through FOS via the work order system.



LADDER SAFETY

Ladders are tools. Many of the basic safety rules that apply to most tools also apply to the safe use of a ladder:

- If you feel tired or dizzy, or are prone to losing your balance, stay off the ladder.
- Do not use ladders in high winds or storms.
- Wear clean slip-resistant shoes. Shoes with leather soles are not appropriate for ladder use since they are not considered sufficiently slip resistant.
- Before using a ladder inspect it to confirm it is in good working condition.
- Ladders with loose or missing parts must be rejected. Rickety ladders that sway or lean to the side must be rejected.
- The ladder you select must be the right size for the job.
- The Duty Rating of the ladder must be greater than the total weight of the climber, tools, supplies, and other objects placed upon the ladder. The length of the ladder must be sufficient so that the climber does not have to stand on the top rung or step.
- When the ladder is set-up for use, it must be placed on firm level ground and without any type of slippery condition present at either the base or top support points.
- Only one person at a time is permitted on a ladder unless the ladder is specifically designed for more than one climber (such as a Trestle Ladder).
- Ladders must not be placed in front of closed doors that can open toward the ladder. The door must be blocked open, locked, or guarded.
- Never use a table or chair as a ladder. Take the time to get the correct tool.

[Here](#) is the link to the District's Ladder Safety Plan.

