

# Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

## Safe Tips for Extension Cords

### Accident Data

- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 4,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year because they were injured while using extension cords.
- Half the injuries involve fractures, lacerations, contusions, or sprains from people tripping over extension cords.
- About 3,300 residential fires start with extension cords each year, killing 50 people and injuring about 270 others. The most frequent causes are short-circuits, overloading, damage, and/or misuse of extension cords.

### Do's and Don'ts

- If an extension cord is not marked for outdoor use, use it indoors only. The UL label will tell you if it is okay for outdoor use.
- Inspect the cord before you use it. Look for areas that are cracked or frayed. If you find any, dispose of the cord.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord. Don't use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Don't run extension cords through doorways, or through holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
- Make sure the appliance or tool is off before you plug it into the cord.

- Make sure the plug is fully inserted in the outlet.
- Don't remove, bend or modify any of the metal parts of the cord's plug.
- Don't plug a three-prong plug into a two-hole cord.
- You shouldn't have to force a plug into an outlet.
- If the plug is too loose in the outlet, the outlet may be too old and need to be replaced.
- Some cords are polarized; one prong on the plug is larger than the other. Match up the outlet and the cord.

### During Use

- Keep away from water.
- Don't use it when it is wet.
- Keep it away from children and pets.
- Don't plug one extension cord into another.
- Don't overheat the cord. Uncoil it, and don't cover it with anything.
- Don't drive over the cord. Don't drag it or lay anything on it.
- Don't walk on it.

### After Use

- Unplug it.
- Remove it from an outlet by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
- Store it indoors.



The information contained in this document was obtained from sources that to the best of the writer's knowledge are authentic and reliable. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. makes no guarantee of results, and assumes no liability in connection with either the information herein contained, or the safety suggestions herein made. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable safety procedure is contained herein, or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedures.

 Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

Q:\BSD\Boca Raton\Roman Catholic Bulletins\RC Extension Cords.indd  
© 2010 Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.