

## DISCONTINUE USE OF EXTENSION CORDS

### CODE SECTIONS

#### *2010 Yocha Dehe Fire Code*

- Section 605.5 Extension cords.** Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental; damage or physical impact. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances.
- Section 605.5.1 Power supply.** Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multiplug adapter and except for approved multiplug extension cords, serve only one portable appliance.
- Section 605.5.2 Ampacity.** The ampacity of the extension cords shall not be less than the rated capacity of the portable appliance supplied by the cord.
- Section 605.5.3 Maintenance.** Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.
- Section 605.5.4 Grounding.** Extension cords shall be grounded when servicing grounded portable appliances.

### EXPLANATION

Extension cords are only to be used for *temporary* applications, such as moving an overhead projector out into a room, and then moving it back. Any sort of permanent or long-term electrical needs require permanent wiring. If an extension cord is used for a temporary use, it must be plugged directly into a wall receptacle; serve only one appliance (unless you are using circuit-breaker equipped power strip); be of sufficient size to handle the electrical load; be in good physical condition—no breaks, splices or repairs; be grounded when used; and shall not be run under or through walls, floors or floor coverings, or be outside in the weather. Additionally, circuit-breaker equipped power strips and extension cords cannot be plugged into each other in a series—the cords must be plugged directly into a wall receptacle.

### RATIONALE

Extension cords are for the purpose of providing flexibility for the moving of portable appliances. Fixed or stationary appliances, which do not require frequent moving, should receive their electrical power directly from an approved outlet. This direct connection is the safest means of electrical wiring as the circuits should be rated for the appliance and is protected with conduit and circuit breakers.

If an extension cord is to be used, it must meet the above criteria, which will help to alleviate possible electrical fires resulting from their use.

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