

Safety Bulletin



Electrical Cords and Power Strips OIF SB-007



In the Iraqi theater of operations most all of them have been due to overloading the electrical wiring we have here. The following are some rules to allow the safe use of electricity.

Outlet devices shall have an ampere rating not less than the load to be served. Generally the maximum cord and plug connected to a 15 ampere branch circuit is limited to 80% of the rating of the circuit breaker, or 12 Amperes. Most power strips are rated for 15A. This equates to approximately 1500 watts of power connected to the device. Equipment with heating elements such as coffee pots and hot plates can easily exceed this limit. Caution must be used if they are to be connected to power strips. Uncoil long cords when in use, to avoid overheating of the wires.

Power strips should have a plastic external case rather than a metal one. Frayed or strained cords are NOT permitted. Never use a three-to-two prong adapter to power the unit. Do not place power cords under carpets, doors, or other locations that subject the cords to abrasion or damage.

Do NOT plug a surge protector or power strip into an existing surge protector or power strip. This practice is called "daisy-chaining" or "piggy-backing" and can create an overload hazard. Plugging two surge protectors or power strips into a single duplex outlet is also daisy-chaining.



Daisy-chaining!



This is daisy-chaining too!

Avoid creating a tripping hazard; do not place extension cords across walkways or doorways. Discard extension cords that have broken wires or damaged insulation; splicing or taping is not allowed.

It is up to each individual to be responsible with electrical safety.