



Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C213: Drop Lights & Cords in Confined Working Areas

Introduction: When you're using drop lights in attics, cellars, and other confined areas you need to be aware that hot wires and bulbs can cause flammable and combustible material to catch fire. Following are safety guidelines for using drop lights and cords:

Drop lights: Temporary lights must have guards to prevent accidental contact with the bulb. The guard must not be removed. The guard also prevents heat contact with flammable products (e.g. paper, insulation, wood, etc.). Guards can be plastic wire or heavy-duty steel wire, depending on where they're used.

- Always use a lamp (bulb) that meets the manufacturer's specifications. Use the proper rated extension cord.
- General purpose incandescent hand lamps should have a circuit breaker that provides overload protection. A dual guard will isolate heat from surrounding surfaces.
- Whenever possible you should use rubber handled lights with an insulated socket. A rubber diaphragm covers the switch, sealing it against moisture and dusts.
- Lamps should be CSA certified. These lights are for maximum safety and durability.
- String lights should be molded with a mounting hole on top for messenger wire suspended applications.
- Use only specifically designed hazardous location drop lights in areas where ignitable vapors may be present. Lights should have rubber grommets to accommodate safety cords.
- Working spaces, walkways, and similar locations must be kept clear of cords that could cause tripping hazards.
- Portable electric lighting in moist or other hazardous locations must be operated at a maximum of 12 volts.
- Attics may need to have insulation or flammable debris moved to another location while work is being performed.
- There should be a designated employee who makes sure that all lights are turned off after use. This will ensure that the lights are only used when they are needed. Do not hang lights where they will create a fire hazard.

Extension cords, portable electric tools and equipment need to be three-wire grounded.

Cords and Portable Tools: All extension cords, portable electric tools, and equipment must be of three-wire grounded type.

- You should only use flexible cords that are continuous in length, without splices, unless the insulation is equal to the cable being spliced and wire connections are soldered.
- Cable passing through work areas must be covered or elevated.
- Worn or frayed electrical cables must not be used.
- Extension cords should not be fastened with staples, hung from nails, or suspended by wire.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters must be used on all cords with 120 volt, single phase 15 and 20-ampere outlets on in line temporary-wiring receptacles.

Electrical inspection and repairs: Employers should maintain a record of all electrical equipment in use. The record will include all extension cords and drop lights that have been made for the field. All of this equipment must be inspected before being used in the field, and re-inspected when returned. A monthly inspection program is optional when a site is using total GFCI protection.

Drop Lights and Extension Cords

- When any electrical equipment is in need of repair, it is the worker's responsibility to turn it in for the needed repairs. Do not use the cord or drop light until all necessary repairs are made or the equipment is replaced.
- Only a competent electrical repairman can make repairs on electrical equipment. After a thorough inspection, place an inspection tape on each item indicating the month of expiration.
- Supervisors, who have equipment under their control, must establish a method to ensure that equipment is returned when the color code indicates that it due for re-inspection. Do not use equipment with an expired inspection code on it unless you have received prior permission.
- Before issuing any electrical tools or equipment, check that it is safe.

Conclusion: Confined spaces can contain hazardous materials and atmospheres. The lights need to be turned off when the work is done. Inspect the area after work is complete. Use these safety guidelines to eliminate flammable and combustible hazards.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.