



Safety Alert

The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina

Date: 14 July 2017
Number : C002-2017

OVERLOADING POWER STRIPS

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: As the Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS) continue efforts to audit all facilities on campus, one of the common safety violations we find involve electrical power strips. The most common violation is called “daisy chaining” where we find one power strip plugged into another power strip to provide more plugins for multiple appliances. This creates an extremely dangerous environment and is clearly a violation of fire codes. Another condition discovered is the arc of electrical current caused by overloading a particular power strip and circuit (see pictures). Typically, we find more than one appliance plugged into a power strip i.e. toaster, coffee pot, microwave, refrigerator and other type of appliances pulling more current than the power strip and circuit are rated. Again, this creates an extremely dangerous condition that may cause a fire and ultimately serious injury to individuals. **PLEASE** if you notice this condition report immediately and take the power strip out of service.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS:

- 1). Use of multiple power strips (daisy chaining)
- 2). Power strip/circuit overload
- 3). No surge protection on electrical connections



PRELIMINARY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- 1). Issue a Safety Alert and communicate to the entire campus – EHS
- 2). Document during EHS audits – EHS
- 3). Post article in Safety Newsletter (link on EHS website) - EHS



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