

Encinitas Fire Prevention  
505 S. Vulcan  
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## **ELECTRICAL CORDS**

Each day fires related to the improper use of electrical cords devastate business owners and homeowners throughout the country. The tragedy for all victims of these fires is that they are easily preventable. Consumers can help protect themselves from electrical fires by taking a few minutes to check their business and home for unsafe conditions. The use of extension cords and power taps must meet the requirements of the fire codes which are detailed in this document.

## **EXTENSION CORDS & POWER TAPS**

Make sure extension cords and power taps are in good condition. Frayed or cracked cords could cause shock or fire.

### **Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.**

When extension cords are used, they shall meet the following requirements:

- Extension cords shall be UL listed, of the grounded type when serving a grounded appliance, have a current capacity the same size or larger than the appliance they serve;
- Extension cords shall only be used for portable equipment. The definition of portable equipment refers to appliances that can be picked up and moved by hand. (Examples of what **would not** be considered portable equipment includes – refrigerators, copy machines, and other large appliances);
- Extension cords shall be plugged directly into a permanently installed wall receptacle or an approved power tap;
- Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.

## **POWER TAPS**

When power taps are used, they shall meet the following requirements:

- Use of power taps is permitted when it is UL listed and has a built in circuit breaker;
- Power Taps shall be directly connected to a permanently installed wall receptacle;
- Power Taps shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.

***Extension cords and power taps shall not be affixed to structures; extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings; or be subject to environmental or physical damage.***

## **ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ROOMS AND ACCESS TO ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ACCESS**

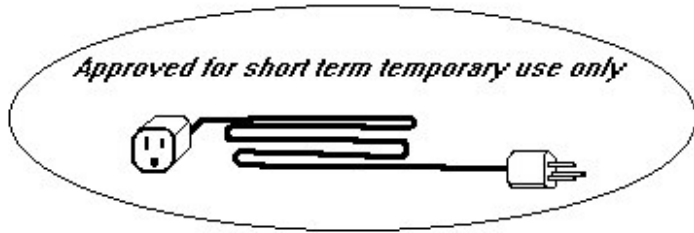
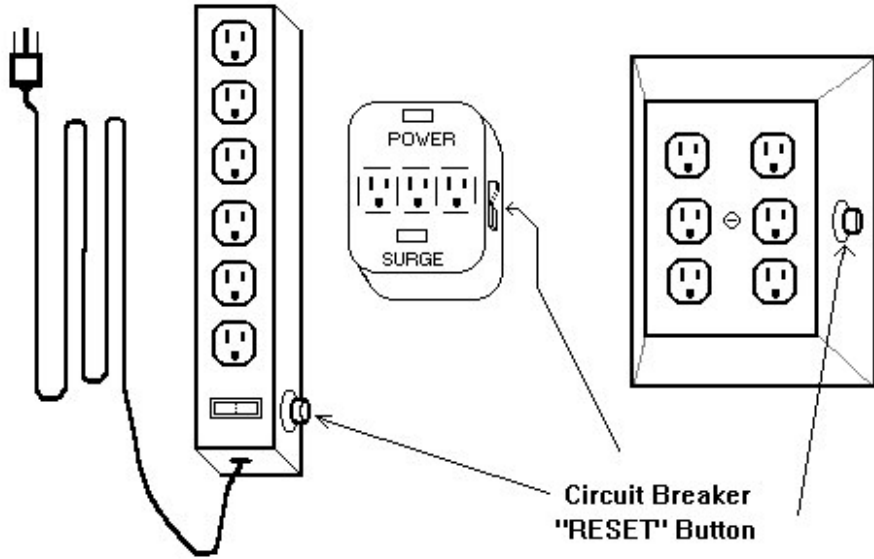
Electrical panels and electrical equipment must be accessible at any time for fire department personnel. During emergencies it is very important that firefighters have clear access to electrical equipment to disconnect and mitigate any electrical hazards for themselves and occupants of the building. A clear and unobstructed means of access width of 30 inches and a minimum height of 78 inches shall be maintained from the face of the switchboards or panels to an aisle.

### **ELECTRICAL ROOM AND PANEL LABELING**

Doors into electrical control panel rooms shall be marked with a visible and legible sign stating ELECTRICAL ROOM (signs shall be permanent with minimum 1" letters and a 1/8" stroke on a contrasting background). The disconnecting means to each service, feeder or branch circuit originating on a switchboard or panel shall be legible and durably marked.

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### Examples of APPROVED Extension Cords and Power Taps



### Examples of Extension Cords, Power Taps and Outlet Devices NOT Approved For Use

