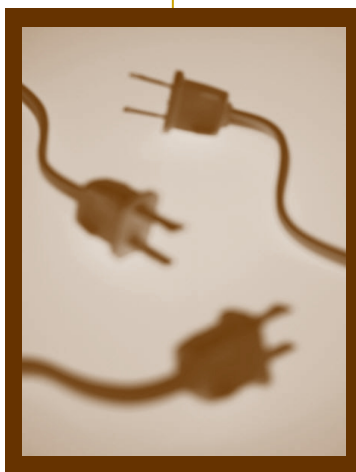

Springtime Electrical Safety for Work & Home

Environmental & Occupational Safety

April 2008

Electricity is an important part of our lives that cannot be taken for granted. Electricity must be treated with caution and respect, especially with so much construction happening on campus. Practice safety precautions and these following tips to remain safe:

- **Never go near or touch power lines.** Assume every wire is "live" and never assume a line is "dead."
- **Be cautious of downed wires.** If you happen to come across downed wires, call the University Police at 259-5555. Keep people and pets away from the wire until the police arrive.
- **Before you move a metal ladder or scaffolding,** check to see that it's clear of power lines. They can be deadly if contact occurs with a line.
- **Never use water on electrical fires.** Have everyone leave the area and call University Police at 259-5555.
- **Never repair a break in an outdoor extension cord.** Throw the cord away and buy a new one.
- **Don't use indoor lights for outdoor purposes.** Use only bulbs, extension cords, wiring, outlets, and other fixtures specifically designed for outdoor use.
- **Don't touch appliances,** cords or plugs with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface. Don't put electrical tools, appliances or cords in water.
- **Keep electric rotisseries,** radios, wiring for outdoor lighting and other electrical devices away from swimming pools. Never touch an electrical device while in a swimming pool or



when standing in water.

- **If you encounter an electrical-injured victim,** do not touch the person until they have been freed from the source of electricity. You can use a non-conductor, such as dry rope or wood to push or pull the victim away from the power source.
- **Never raise any tall object near a power line.** Carry it level with the ground and be cautious when removing water pipes and well casings.
 - **Never attempt to open or tamper with transformers.** Don't plant shrubs and trees close to them - bushes and trees should be at least ten feet away from the front of the transformer.
 - **If an appliance works improperly** or gives the slightest warning of a problem, such as shocks or sparks, disconnect it and have it serviced.
 - **Take extra precautions when using power tools.** Your electrical wiring should be adequate for the job. Circuits should be grounded. The tools should be three-pronged or double insulated.
- **Protect cords from heat, chemicals and oil.** Coil cords loosely when storing tools. If cords are broken, get new ones or shorten them. Never splice broken cords.
- **During severe weather,** temporary low-voltage conditions can dim lights and remain dimmed for longer than a minute. In such cases, turn off or unplug all motorized appliances. Also, turn off televisions and fluorescent lamps.