



The East Side Flyer

www.eastsidefire.com

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EXTENSION CORD SAFETY



Extension cords (EC) are a great temporary solution to get electrical power exactly where you need it. They are not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your home's electrical system. With continued use over time, extension cords can deteriorate rather quickly creating the potential for a dangerous electric shock or fire hazard.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers these tips for safe use.

DO NOT

- Overload or allow extension cords to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Substitute an EC for permanent wiring.
- Run ECs through walls, doorways, floors or ceilings. If covered, heat cannot escape.
- Use for more than one appliance.

NEVER

- Use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- Use 3-pronged plugs with 2-pronged extension cords.

REMEMBER

- Heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets where you need them. Have additional outlets installed.
- An EC with multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into a mounted electrical outlet. **NEVER** chain them together.
- Make sure ECs and power strips are rated for the products to be plugged into them and are labeled for indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance has a wattage rating. Make sure to match it to the EC. Don't use an appliance with a lower wattage rated extension cord.
- Buy only cords that are approved by an independent lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).



WILDFIRE SMOKE AND ANIMALS

As we approach summer and the increased possibility of a wildfire in our area, I am reminded of the devastating fires in California last year. We all experienced the unsafe air quality in north Idaho last September even though wildfires weren't that close to us. Smoke from wildfires and other large blazes affects pets, livestock and wildlife. If you can see or feel the effects of smoke on yourself, your animals can feel them too.

Animals with cardiovascular or respiratory disease are especially at risk from smoke and should be closely watched during periods of poor air quality. If any of your animals are experiencing any of these signs, you should consult your veterinarian.

- Coughing, gagging, difficulty breathing, including open-mouth breathing, increased noise when breathing and increased breathing rate.
- Eye irritation and excessive watering.
- Inflammation of throat or mouth; nasal discharge.
- Fatigue or weakness; disorientation or stumbling.
- Reduced appetite and/or thirst.



TIPS TO PROTECT SMALL PETS

- Keep indoors; allow them outside only for brief periods.
- Birds are particularly susceptible to smoke and should be kept indoors when air quality is poor.



TIPS TO PROTECT LIVESTOCK

- Limit exercise when smoke is visible.
- Provide plenty of fresh water near feeding areas.
- Plan to give livestock 4-6 weeks to recuperate after the air quality returns to normal.
- Have a livestock evacuation plan ready.



For more information on protecting your critters go to the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) website at www.avma.org/disaster.

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