



SAFETY INFORMATION

LIGHTING/ELECTRIC CABLE SAFETY GUIDELINES

APPLICABLE TO:

All persons using the theatrical lighting systems for the Theatre Arts Department productions and class labs.

RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES INCLUDE:

Death or injury by electrocution to self and others. Damage to equipment and facilities.

GUIDELINES, RULES AND PROCEDURES:

- All electrical (stage, extension, “pigtailed” (out of raceway, instrument or power tools) cable must be properly maintained and regularly inspected. Complete a visual inspection before using, looking for tears in the insulation, broken connector parts or exposed wire.
- All cable must be the correct gauge for the equipment used.
- Never run cable across a door way.
 - This causes a trip hazard for egress.
 - Excessive traffic may damage cable.
- If any cable is damaged, stop using it, tag it (indicate the problem), put it on the “fix it” pile and alert your supervisor or instructor immediately. Damage includes:
 - Connector pins: Bent, burnt, welded, discolored, missing ground pins
 - Connector body: Cracked material, missing strain reliefs or screws, melted parts, broken parts
 - Cable jacket: Split, tears, cracks or frays to the insulation, exposure to internal wires (metal)
 - “Modified cables”, i.e. removing ground pins, face plates, insulation, etc.
- Do not run cable around, through or next to any system that may affect the use of the system and cause the cable to get pinched or cut. (i.e. don’t run cable through the chain of a batten or chain motor).
- Do not run and/or affix cable to fire sprinkler pipes or any pipe of unknown origin.
- All cables must be properly secured so that they do not present a tripping or snagging hazards.
- Never connect multiple extension cables and surge protection devices (power strips) together.
- Electrical cable—Theatrical use:
 - Must be tied securely to the batten, pipe, truss, structure with tie-line.
 - If a cable run must pass through a backstage walkway, it must be further secured with tape and rubber carpet or a cable ramp. Try and route the cable away from high traffic areas.
 - Avoid stretching or pinching cables between objects or doors. This can lead to failure and overheating.
 - May not run through or across aisles, exit ways, doorways, or any public access areas.
- Extension cables (cords)
 - Extension cords are designed for temporary use only. Do not plug a power strip into an extension cord.
 - All electrical extension cables must be fully insulated with three prong ground connectors. Lightweight “zip cord” and flat wire extension cords are not allowed.
 - Make sure extension cords have adequate current capacity for the equipment being used. If you don’t know, ASK.

REFERENCES:

Thomas M. Shorrock, Florida Atlantic University, www.fau.edu/~shorrock, Feb. 3, 2006
Princeton University, Environment Health & Safety, Theater Safety, Lighting and Audio, 4/9/14
Yale University “Guidelines for Undergraduate Theatrical Productions and Special Events”, April, 2005
University of California Office of the President—Environmental, Health & Safety, Performing Arts Safety Manual

EMERGENCY ☎: 911



CSULB – Theatre Arts Department - COTA



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- Do not pull out an electrical cable/cord out of a receptacle (socket) by the cable/cord, pull by connector.
- Water and electricity DO NOT mix. Never lay electrical cable in or by the vicinity of water. Alert your instructor or supervisor if there is water present during lighting production or lab.
- Temporary cables, cords and wiring must not be spliced. Use proper connectors and terminations.
- ALWAYS ask your supervisor or instructor if you have any questions or concerns.

REFERENCES:

Thomas M. Shorrock, Florida Atlantic University, www.fau.edu/~shorrock, Feb. 3, 2006
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