

## Risk Management Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

### Risk Management Environmental Health & Safety

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The problem with RPT campus usage is the variety of models used, many without standard safety features to prevent overheating and a possible fire. We've all seen news reports of fires that have been caused by cheap power strips that overheat.

To correct this threat, EHS recommends the following RPT standards for campus use: *APC Home/Office Surge Arrest 12 Outlet Electronic Surge, 6' Cord, 2160 Joules (PH12)*



Remember these safety guidelines for RPT use:

- No daisy-chaining with other RPTs or extension cords. They must be plugged directly into the wall outlet.
- Keep them off the floor whenever possible.
- Avoid using RPTs for high-power devices like refrigerators, microwave ovens, coffee pots, and space heaters.

Sheets (SDSs) are available for industrial and research materials on campus. If you notice unlabeled hazardous materials or processes, or a fading label, please replace the label immediately, or contact your supervisor for assistance if you cannot do so. If a new, hazardous product or process is being added to your work area, make sure that your supervisor explains the particular hazards, showing you the SDS for any hazardous chemicals, and showing you how to work around them safely.

For more information about general hazard communication, investigate [Hazard Communication](#), or contact EHS.

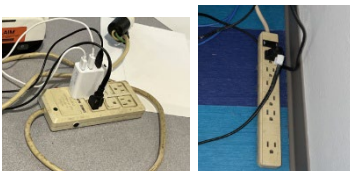
### 3 Slips, Trips, & Falls

Slips, trips, and falls are common accidents in all work environments. Here are a few ways of prevention for these incidents:

- Focusing on the task of walking and being aware of surroundings. Looking for stairways, curbs, speed bumps, changes in surface or elevations can all prevent these incidents.
- Using ladders or stepladders properly and ensuring they are set up properly before use are critical to avoid falls from height. Make sure the ladder is labeled and follow the directions on the labelling.
- Parking lots can have many different hazards – curbs, gravel, oil patches or a combination accompanied by inclement weather. If not aware of what others are doing around us and where walking, slips, trips, and falls can occur.

### 1 RPT Usage

Wondering what a RPT is? They are all over campus and represent a possible fire threat. RPT stands for relocatable power tap or better known as a power strip. Here's a couple of pictures of RPTs taken during routine EHS Building Inspections:



### 2 Hazard Communication

Hazard communication signage and labels are a very important safety tool. If we know what a material or process is, and what hazard it presents, we can much more easily prevent exposure to those hazards. Consequently, commercial products and University and College equipment are labeled in accordance with GHS standards, and Safety Data

- Using handrails walking up or down stairs is very important, especially during inclement weather. Keep one hand free for the handrail when walking stairs.
- Using caution when walking. Avoid pushing or hurrying and provide sufficient time to reach destination.
- Avoiding the use of cellular phone while walking. Texting distracts its user from surrounding environment and is one of the major causes of slips, trips, and falls.
- Reporting all unsafe conditions to supervision or Risk Management.

