Safe Standards for Temporary Wiring

Whether it's a renovation or new construction, temporary wiring is regularly used to provide power around a job site before the permanent electrical system is in place. To ensure worker safety, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has created standard 1926.405: Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment for General Use. This standard regulates safe work practices for dealing with temporary wiring.

General Requirements

When installing temporary wiring, follow these guidelines established by the OSHA standard:

- Wiring systems cannot be installed in ducts used to transport dust, loose stock or flammable vapors. Wiring systems also cannot be installed in ducts used for vapor removal.
- All metal enclosures for conductors must be metallically joined together into a continuous electric conductor that provides effective electrical continuity.
- Flexible cords or cables (extension cords) cannot be used as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure. They also cannot be concealed behind walls, ceilings or floors.

Temporary Lighting

Often times, there will be a need for an alternative form of lighting before permanent fixtures are in place. If your project needs temporary lighting, remember:

- All lights used for general illumination must be protected from accidental contact or breakage.
- Light sockets must be properly grounded.
- Temporary lights cannot be suspended by their cords unless they are specifically designed to do so.
- Portable lighting used in wet and/or conductive locations must be operated at 12 volts or less, unless you are using a ground-fault circuit interrupter.

Proper Maintenance

With all the work going on around it, temporary wiring can take a beating. It is important to regularly inspect temporary installations to ensure that they are in proper working order. When inspecting temporary wiring, ask yourself:

- Is wiring in good condition and firmly secured?
- Is this wiring capable of safely carrying the amount of current that is required?
- Is there a circuit breaker to prevent overload?
- Are all wires grounded properly?
- Do all conductors have the proper insulators?
- Are temporary light fixtures guarded properly?
- Are switches clearly labeled as to what they control and what positions are on and off?

Leave No Wire Behind

All temporary wiring must be removed as soon as the project that requires it is completed. Even if wiring is concealed during the course of construction, it still needs to be removed. Move temporary wiring as you go to avoid difficulties at the end of the job.

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JOBSITE: **Date:**

Name of Employee *(Please Print)*	**Signature**

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