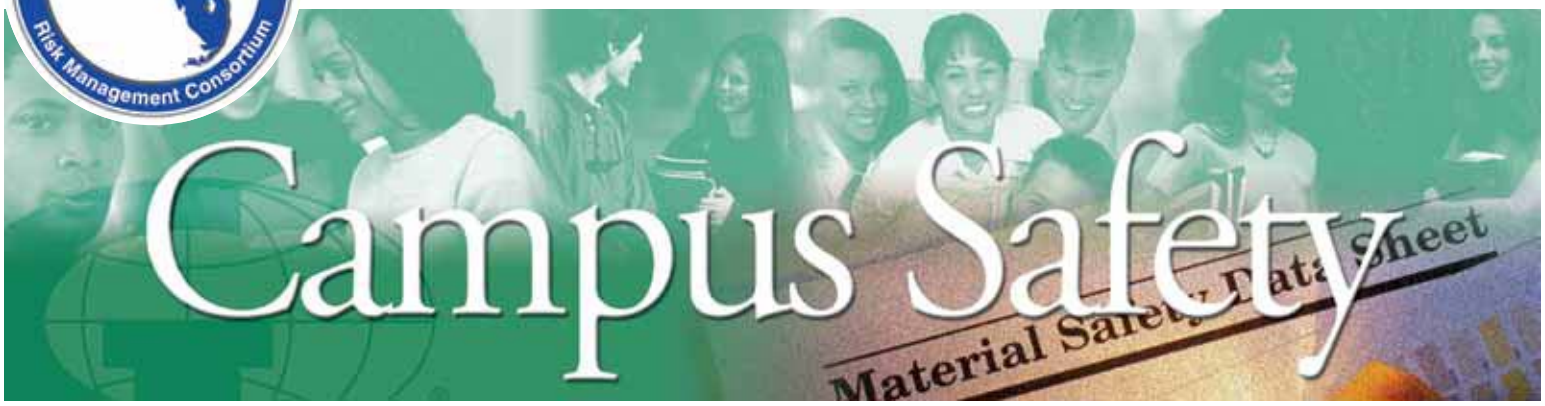
Florida Community Colleges Risk Management Consortium



Electrical Safety

As we know from our monthly electrical bill, we use electricity for numerous applications throughout our college campuses. Understanding and practicing electrical safety will keep those operations functioning smoothly.

Understanding Electricity

- Electricity moves through conductors from the power plant to the end-user.
- Conductors are wrapped in insulation (plastic and other coatings) to keep electrical current on the right path and prevent accidental contact.
- Insulators provide protection and keep current contained.
- Grounding wires provide a low resistant path for current to travel back to the earth providing additional protection from electrical shock.
- For outdoor or wet locations ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) are used. GFCI outlets are designed to shut off power if there is an imbalance of current where a shock could occur.

Electrical Shock

- Electrical shock can occur if a person comes in contact with a conductor and the electrical current continues to flow. The person then becomes a conductor causing electric shock.
- Electric Shock can cause pain, internal bleeding, cardiac arrest and can be fatal.
- Loss of muscle control, due to electric shock, could cause a fall.

Personal Protection

- To avoid becoming a conductor of electricity, insulation from the current is required.
- Wear insulated gloves and insulated boots.
- Avoid wet conditions.
- Avoid wearing jewelry or other metal objects that can act as a conductor in and around electricity.

General Best Practices

- Do not overloaded circuits.
- Do not run extension cords through water or wet locations.
- Remove frayed electrical cords and damaged electrical tools from service.
- Contract a licensed and insured electrician for electrical installations and repair work.

REMEMBER

Electricity is powerful and can be FATAL.
Report any electrical problems immediately.

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