

## Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

### **Extension cords**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When you consider that each year about 4,000 people in the U.S. are treated for injuries related to the use of extension cords, you know it's important to pay attention to safety when using these devices.

#### **What to focus on**

Here are three things to keep in mind in order to stay safe when using cords.

**1. Inspect cords before using them.** Make sure that the insulation isn't damaged and that the plug isn't missing any prongs. Damaged cords must be taken out of service right away. Also confirm that the cord is the correct size for the equipment – the diameter of the cord should be the same size or greater than that of the cord for the device it's powering.

**2. Pay attention to the placement of cords.** Poorly positioned cords can cause damage to the cord as well as tripping injuries. Keep cords away from aisles and high-traffic areas. Be sure to clearly mark the location of the cord, and tape it down if you can. Don't run cords through walls or above ceiling tiles.

**3. Don't use extension cords in place of permanent wiring.** Use extension cords only when you have to, and never in place of permanent equipment wiring.