

# SAFETY MEMO

<b>Title:</b>	Managing electrical risks at the workplace		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday, 9 August 2024</b>	<b>Memo Ref</b>	<b>SM090824</b>
<b>Issued to:</b>	<b>All Contractors and Building Supervisors</b>		
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Recently, a Safe Work inspector visited a Coral Homes construction site and observed a contractor using an electrical lead on the ground where the lead was exposed to mechanical damage and moisture. This posed a risk of electric shock to the workers on site.</p>  <p><i>Image of an electrical lead exposed to mechanical damage and moisture.</i></p>		

## What is an Electrical Risk?

An electrical risk is the potential for a person to suffer death, shock, or other injury caused directly or indirectly by electricity.

The risk of electrical hazards is greater on construction sites due to several factors:

- **Varied Weather Conditions:** Work is conducted in diverse weather conditions, increasing the risk of electrical hazards.
- **Temporary Electrical Supply:** Electrical supply is often connected using extension leads, electrical portable outlet devices (EPODs), construction wiring, and construction switchboards, which can be prone to mechanical damage.
- **Powerline Proximity:** Breaches of exclusion zones around overhead and underground powerlines increase risk.
- **Busy Worksites:** The constant activity and changing workforce on construction sites contribute to the risk of electrical hazards.

<b>Direction to Contractors:</b>	<p>All electrical and power tools that are operated on a Coral Homes Construction site must be maintained as per the manufacturer's instructions. Failure can cause fatal and disabling accidents.</p> <p>All electrical equipment is to be maintained in good condition, be inspected and tagged by a competent person in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements every three (3) months.</p> <p>All contractors must comply with the following to ensure safe use of electrical leads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical leads are not exposed to excessive moisture or ponding water.</li> <li>• Electrical leads do not create any potential trip hazards.</li> <li>• Electrical leads are not run over sharp objects or surfaces with potential for damaging leads.</li> </ul> <p>Sub-contractors must report any suspected electrical hazards immediately to the Site Supervisor or Area Building Manager.</p>
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