


SAFETY MEMO

Title:	Managing electrical risks at the workplace		
Date:	Friday, 9 August 2024	Memo Ref	SM090824
Issued to:	All Contractors and Building Supervisors		
Background:	<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> <div data-bbox="489 790 1311 1346"></div> <p><i>Image of an electrical lead exposed to mechanical damage and moisture.</i></p> <p>What is an Electrical Risk?</p> <p>An electrical risk is the potential for a person to suffer death, shock, or other injury caused directly or indirectly by electricity.</p> <p>The risk of electrical hazards is greater on construction sites due to several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.		

Direction to Contractors:	<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">• Electrical leads are not exposed to excessive moisture or ponding water.• Electrical leads do not create any potential trip hazards.• Electrical leads are not run over sharp objects or surfaces with potential for damaging leads. <p>Sub-contractors must report any suspected electrical hazards immediately to the Site Supervisor or Area Building Manager.</p>
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