

Talk No: 18	Title: USE OF EXTENSION LEADS & TRANSFORMERS
Introduction: Fire incident history has shown that a large proportion of structure fires are caused by extension leads that have been either damaged or overloaded, they also pose slips, trips and falls hazards	
Main points: – The lowest practical voltage extension lead should be used and for power tools should not exceed 110v – Only safety isolating transformers should be used. – Leads of minimum length should be used. – Transformer and leads should have thermal cut-outs. Discussion points: – Use extension leads only when necessary and only on a temporary basis, do not use extension leads in place of permanent wiring. – Always fully un-reel extension leads when using on equipment, using a lead that is coiled could result in the lead overheating and causing a fire. – Use a transformer rated above the power of the equipment that is connected to it. – Use extension leads that are the correct size or rating for the equipment in use, the diameter of the extension leads should be the same or greater than the lead of the equipment in use. – Only use leads rated for outdoor use when using a lead externally. – Do not run extension leads above ceiling tiles, through walls or across traffic routes. – Keep leads away from areas where they may be damaged and areas where they may pose a tripping or fire hazard (e.g. doorways, walkways, under carpet, etc.). – Always inspect a lead prior to use to ensure the insulation isn't cut or damaged, discard damaged leads, leads that become hot, or with exposed wiring. – Never unplug an extension lead by pulling on the lead; pull on the plug. – Extension leads must be regularly PAT tested and in date. – Never join extension leads to make them longer. EXTENSION LEADS CAUSE FIRES	
Notes:	