THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Health, Safety & Environment

LAB SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

- Electrical Safety -

THE HAZARD

At all voltages, electricity can cause:

- Seizures
- Fire
- Electrical shock
- Damage to equipment & systems

- Skin burns & tissue damage
- Disruption to heart & breathing patterns which can lead to death

CERTIFICATIONS

In BC, electrical equipment must meet the requirements of Technical Safety BC

There are many certifications that are equivalent. Ensure your equipment meets these requirements using Technical Safety BC's Information Bulletin on Approved Safety Marks.

THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

- Electrical sockets and circuits near water should have a GFCI
- Water can conduct electricity

Extension Cords

- Extension cords should only be used for short term power needs
- Stress on extension cords (walking on, hanging, squished) can lead to damage

Surge Protectors

- Prevent damage to equipment due to high or low voltage

USE & MAINTENANCE

- **Inspect** cords and plugs regularly for damage or hot spots. Replace or repair damage.
- **Power Bars** with switches can offer protection to surges and can be used to turn off equipment in groups.

- **De-energize** capacitors prior to servicing equipment. Get help.
- **Unplug** unused items to prevent phantom power loss & reduce equipment wear. Unplug electrical equipment before servicing. Chargers are particularly problematic - unplug them when not in use

"IF IT WEREN'T FOR ELECTRICITY, WE WOULD BE WATCHING TV BY CANDLELIGHT"
- GEORGE GOBEL -