

SAFE T ALERT

Engine Heater Cord and Plug Safety



With winter upon us, and the temperatures dipping well below freezing, the plug-in engine heaters that keep our

government vehicles warm are in full use. There are several safety issues to be aware of—particularly with regard to the electrical cords and plugs. Here are just a few **DO**'s and **DON'T**s of cord safety.

DO

- Do** inspect the cord and plug for physical damage before use.
- Do** grasp both the male and female portions of the plugs when removing from the vehicle.
- Do** keep the cord dry, away from water and free of snow as much as possible.
- Do** make sure that the vehicle plug is fully inserted into the cord outlet and if the connection is loose, tag out of service and report the possible faulty plug.
- Do** keep the cords entirely visible.
- Do** look to see if the heater cord is attached to vehicle prior to any vehicle movement.

DON'T

- Don't** use a cord that is split, frayed or damaged in any way.
- Don't** pull on the cord to remove from the vehicle. This damages the cord and increases the risk for shock.
- Don't** leave the plug or cord lying in the snow or water.
- Don't** bend or modify any of the metal parts of the cord plug, and don't force the vehicle plug into the cord outlet.
- Don't** allow the cord to be hidden from those who may be conducting snow removal.
- Don't** disconnect the plugs by backing away in the vehicle—this can be very damaging and dangerous.