

## National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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OSHA establishes safety rules to protect an individual while at work. OSHA is used at hospitals, food industries, construction sites, etc. OSHA cannot just be applied in public places but at home as well. Applying OSHA at home includes me inspecting my father's construction equipment. Who knew that I would be the one ensuring my dad's safety? Taking a 10-hour OSHA certification helps you be safe as well as helping you keep others safe by sharing your safety knowledge.

Construction sites are dangerous, there could be wood pieces flying in front of you, saws on the ground, or electrical cords through the ground causing a tripping hazard. Every day my father comes back to work I make sure his equipment is in good condition. Things I inspect are electrical cords and equipment plugs. When inspecting electrical cords or equipment plugs I look for exposed wires and cheater plugs. An electrical cord and equipment should have a three-prong plug. A three-prong plug gives a grounding to prevent electrical shock. My father sometimes has electrical cords that do not so he tries to fix them. What he does is wrap electrical take around exposed wires and he then takes of the three-prong plug. After a few minutes, the electrical cord would be working again as if it was new. Even though the electrical cord works, there is a risk that workers or my father experience electrical shock or a fire. Plugging multiple electrical cords to each other can also cause a fire. I always tell him that he may be saving money but he will spend more money if he is injured. As I explain to my dad reasons why he should buy new electrical cords I also remind him that at work electrical cords should be out of the way so they don't create a tripping hazard.

Electrical cords are used in many places including hospitals. When I work as a surgeon in a hospital I will know how to properly use and manage electrical cords and be safe around them. OSHA has helped me become aware of the different risks involved when using a malfunctioning electrical cord or the misuse of electrical cords. Taking the OSHA 10-hour course doesn't just teach you one way to be safe but many ways to ensure your safety anywhere you work.