

“For Safety’s Sake - Do Something”

Electrical Safety Practices On the Job

As a part of our Construction Safety Talk Series, we discussed how electrical hazards expose workers to burns, electrocution, shock, arc flash / arc blast, fire, or explosions. Accidents involving electricity can be fatal. To prevent electrical incidents, every time you enter a job site remember to:

Identify Hazards - Do a job site analysis when entering the work zone.

Minimize Hazards - De-energize unused equipment, cover exposed live parts, use proper PPE and tools.

Anticipate Problems - If it can go wrong, it might. Be prepared for all worst case scenarios.

Have Training - Make sure that you and everyone you are working with is qualified and has proper training.



Your Responsibility For Safe Practices Around Electricity Include:

Contractors

- Comply with OSHA regulations.
- Train employees on electrical safety.
- Contact utility companies in advance to de-energize or insulate overhead power lines.
- If asked to work live, verify with owner/client that de-energizing live electrical circuits/parts is not practical or would create a greater hazard.
- Only allow work on live electrical circuits/parts in accordance with a permit system with specific procedures.

Electrical Workers

- De-energize and lock out or tag out electrical circuits/parts you will be working on or near.
- Work only on live electrical circuits/parts in accordance with a permit system with specific procedures and if you are qualified to do so.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and use proper tools when de-energizing or testing live electrical circuits/parts or otherwise working live.

All Construction Workers

- Get electrical safety training.
- Ensure machinery and power tools are properly grounded or double insulated.
- Check all extension and power cords for wear and tear before use.
- Disconnect the plug on any power tool or machinery before inspecting or repairing.
- Keep at least 10 feet from live overhead power lines.
- Keep metal objects away from live electrical circuits/parts.