

Safety Talk

Electrical Safe Work Practices

Electricity can be easily viewed as a necessary evil at every jobsite. It's needed to get work done but it brings with it certain risks and hazards. The best way to avoid an electrical accident or injury is to develop a healthy respect for its power and following safe work practices. These include:

- Reenergizing electrical equipment and circuits to prevent unexpected or accidental start up. It's important to never work around an electric circuit that you could come in contact with unless it's been deenergized and grounded or guarded by other means. Always heed locks, tags, warning signs, fences and other barriers that are in place to limit access to electrical equipment.
- Always use electric tools and extension cords that are in good repair. Never use tools around voltages that they're not designed to withstand.

Remember:

- Regularly inspect tools, ground and cords
 - Always use available safety features like 3-prong plugs, tools that are double insulated and safety switches.
 - Keep machine guards in place and follow proper procedures
 - NEVER use worn or frayed extension cords
- Be aware of the location of overhead power lines. If work is to be done near them they must be deenergized and grounded or in some way the employees must be protected. All unqualified employees must stay at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.

- Not digging or excavating should be done until the location of underground power lines has been determined. If this isn't feasible, employees using tools and/or jackhammers that could contact a power line must wear insulated protective gloves.

Some of these practices may be time consuming or slow work a bit but in the long run, the increased safety to employees is well worth the possible inconvenience.

Discussion Questions

How often should extension cords and the cords of power cords be checked?

Why is it necessary for unqualified workers to stay 10 feet away from overhead power lines?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/_____

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date