



Toolbox Talks

Electrical Safety



Working near electrical hazards can be dangerous, and even fatal. Any work activities performed on or near energized equipment must be done only when safety measures are in place to provide protection to workers.

The following hazards are the most frequent causes of electrical injuries:

- path to ground missing or discontinuous
- lack of ground-fault protection
- contact with power lines
- improper use of equipment, extension cords, or other flexible cords

All workers must be aware of the electrical hazards to which they are exposed and should:

- be trained in electrical safety for the work they will be doing.
- 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.
- stay at least 10 feet from live overhead power lines.
- keep metal objects away from live electrical circuits/parts.

➤ Never bypass any protective system or device that is designed to protect employees from contact with electrical energy.

Properly maintained tools and equipment help protect workers against electrical hazards.

- Inspect electrical tools and equipment before each use. If you find a defect, immediately remove it from service and tag it so no one will use it until it has been repaired or replaced.
- Only use tools and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Workers who perform electrical repairs must be trained, qualified, and should:

- de-energize and lock out or tag out electrical circuits/parts they will be working on or near.
- work only on live electrical circuits/parts in accordance with a permit system with specific procedures and only if they are qualified to do so.
- use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- never work on energized equipment that is faulty or damaged.

➤ Effective guarding should be in place around equipment with exposed parts operating at 50 volts or more.

➤ Hazard warning signs that are clearly worded and easily visible must be posted at the entrance to electrical rooms and similarly guarded locations to alert workers and forbid entry to unauthorized people.

➤ Do not remove ground prongs from cord- and plug-connected equipment or extension cords.

