Take 5 for Safety

Electrical Safety for Non-Electrical Workers Picture of the Week

Collider-Accelerator Department 5-21-2013



a passion for discovery





Overview

- Just because you aren't an electrician or electrical worker does not mean that you are exempt from electrical hazards
- Painters, tree trimmers, industrial machine installers, and others have all been killed from electricity
- This electrical safety topic is designed to increase awareness among workers who are not considered electrical workers because the hazards are potentially higher for them



Fatalities, 2003- 2010, Over 65% of Workers In The Selected Occupational Group Who Died Were NOT Electrical Workers

Occupational Groups			Total
			0.40
			642
Electricians	•	300	
Construction Laborers	•	146	
Roofers	•	43	
Painters, construction and maintenance	•	39	
Carpenters	•	32	
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations			366
Electrical Power-Line installers and repairers	•	132	
 Industrial Machinery Installation, Repair, and Maintenance Workers 	٠	71	
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	•	55	
Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	•	24	
Grounds Maintenance Workers			113
Tree Trimmers and Pruners	•	79	
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	•	29	
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations			108
Drivers/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	•	50	
Material Moving Workers	•	44	
Other Management Occupations			76
Agricultural Workers			43
Subtotal		1044	1348
Percent of Electrical Workers		44%	34%

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



DOE Shock Statistics





Causes of Shocks

- Faulty Equipment
- Attention to Task
 - Overhead power lines
 - Plugging and unplugging equipment
 - Situational Awareness
- Inadequate procedures

- Lack of training/qualification for assigned task
- Scope creep
- Inadequate Planning
- Inadequate/untested PPE
- Lack of preventive maintenance



Some Lessons Learned

Look before you leap

- Is the equipment listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Lab such as UL, or otherwise approved?
- Are there hidden hazards that your work may inadvertently access during your activity?
- Routine activities plugging and unplugging equipment, picking up electrical devices, etc. require that you pay attention to what you are doing





Some Lessons Learned

- Use a GFCI for additional protection, especially when working outdoors or in damp/wet locations
 - Many DOE sites require a GFCI be used with portable power tools
 - The Consumer Product Safety Commission believes that GFCI receptacles are responsible for saving thousands of lives since they became required in residential and commercial buildings
 - GFCI receptacles limit the potential current to a safe value – if you get shocked, you still need to report it, but you won't be seriously injured
 - Garages are another place you should always use a GFCI
 - TEST your GFCI's monthly for operability. While many have fail-safe circuits *now*, many GFCI receptacles have been in use for 15 or 20 years, and may not function as designed





Summary

- Remember just because you aren't an electrician or an electrical worker, electricity can still find – and kill – you or a coworker
 - Maintain a healthy respect for the electrical equipment you use
 - Pay attention to seemingly low-risk, routine activities
 - People are shocked, sometimes severely, when plugging and unplugging equipment from wall outlets and power strips
 - Maintain your electrical equipment
 - Test your GFCI receptacles
 - Look at your power tool cords for signs of wear before each use





