



Electrical Safety

Safety Tips:

- Assume all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.
- Never touch a fallen overhead power line. Call the electric utility company to report fallen electrical lines.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead wires during cleanup and other activities. If working at heights or handling long objects, survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires.
- If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave the vehicle. Warn people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. Call or ask someone to call the local electric utility company and emergency services.
- Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water.
- Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized.
- If electrical equipment has gotten wet, have a qualified electrician inspect it before energizing it.
- If working in damp locations, inspect electrical cords and equipment to ensure they are in good condition and free of defects, and use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Always use caution when working near electricity.

Source: Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Protecting Yourself at Work:

- Keep extension and appliance cords in good repair and be sure they are properly rated for their use.
- Report immediately any damage or defective equipment, power hand tools or machinery.
- Avoid touching water, damp surfaces, ungrounded metal and bare wires if you're not protected.
- Avoid working in and around wet or damp conditions, equipment and electrical currents that aren't grounded and wires that aren't insulated.
- Protect circuits with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI).
- Close electrical control panels and cover receptacle boxes.
- Use equipment and tools the way they are designed to be used.
- Use 3-prong receptacles for 3-prong plugs.
- Look for posted signs that identify electrical hazards.

Source: National Safety Council

Lockout/Tag-out

- "Lockout/tag-out" procedures safeguard employees from unexpected startup of machinery and equipment or the release of hazardous energy during maintenance.
- Lockout devices hold the equipment's energy-isolation device in a safe or "off" position. They cannot be removed without a key or other unlocking mechanism, or through extraordinary means, such as bolt cutters.
- Tag-out devices are prominent warning devices that only an authorized employee fastens to energy-isolating devices to warn employees not to reenergize the machine while he or she maintains it. Tag-out devices are easier to remove and, by themselves, provide limited protection.

Source: Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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