

Preventing Electrical Injuries and Fatalities



Wherever you work, electricity is most likely present and a potential hazard. While electrical hazards are not the leading cause of on-the-job injuries and accidents, they are disproportionately fatal and costly. The good news is that on-the-job electrocutions and electrical injuries are preventable.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 2018, the industries with the leading number of electrical injury cases include construction, manufacturing, and hospitality which involve non-electrical jobs that do not traditionally receive much, if any, electrical safety training. This fact alone should prompt employers to enhance electrical awareness and safety training. The key to raising awareness is understanding that not all electrical hazards are the same and specific training for each certain electrical hazard must be provided. The most common types of electrical injuries include electrical shock, burns, falls, and electrocution.

Basic steps to follow:

- ⚡ Ensure that all electrical conductors and circuits are in safe working condition. Tag out and test circuits to ensure they are not energized before performing any maintenance or repairs.
- ⚡ Check to see whether necessary machine parts are properly guarded to reduce the likelihood of electrical contact or arcing faults.
- ⚡ In construction, OSHA requires ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) to be placed on all temporary wiring, and a competent person needs to inspect GFCIs and all cords on tools and equipment to ensure they are in a safe condition.
- ⚡ Check for any live electric circuits on the job site – including overhead or underground power lines or circuits in walls where workers might drill – and notify the workers of the hazard location/s. Locate all power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Remember, always be aware of your surroundings and never forget that electricity is dangerous and can be deadly, but these injuries are PREVENTABLE. For more information, contact OSHA or your Loss Prevention Representative. Check out the resource page at www.fcbifund.com/documents-and-resources/