

TOOL BOX TALKS

Electric Shock Injuries

Just about everyone that does any kind of maintenance, manufacturing or construction encounters electrical hazards. Electricity is a physical force that is invisible, and it can do irreversible damage. Just about everyone gets shocked at one point or another, but most are lucky because they don't receive an injury. But what about the workers that aren't lucky? Can you be shocked to death by only 120 volts? YES! Take all electricity, no matter the voltage seriously.

WORKSAFE TIPS

ELECTRICAL SAFETY REVIEW:

- Shock happens when electricity goes to ground through your body.
 - About 5 employees are electrocuted every week.
 - Causes 12% of workplace deaths.
 - Takes very little electricity to cause harm.
 - There's also the risk of fire.
 - Low amounts of amperage can cause severe injuries.
 - What could happen?
 - Burns – tissue is super-heated, resulting in damage
 - Falls – from ladders, platforms, scaffolds
 - Tissue damage – skin and muscle damage
 - Internal injuries to organs and tissue
 - Death
 - An electrical shock is received when electrical current passes through the body.
 - You will get an electrical shock if a part of your body completes an electrical circuit by:
 - Touching a live wire and an electrical ground, or
 - Touching a live wire and another wire at a different voltage.
 - Severity of the shock depends on:
 - **Path of current through the body**
 - **Amount of current flowing through the body (amps)**
 - **Duration of the shocking current through the body**
- LOW VOLTAGE DOES NOT MEAN LOW HAZARD**

BURNS

- Most common shock-related injury.
- Occurs when you touch electrical wiring or equipment that is improperly used or maintained.
- Typically burns happen to hands.
- Burns are very serious injuries that need immediate attention. Worker will need skin grafts & rehabilitation.
- Employees in elevated locations who experience a shock may also fall, resulting in serious injury or death.

ELECTRICITY ENTERED NEAR THE PALM AND EXITED AT THE WRIST.



ELECTRICITY ENTERED THE BODY AND EXITED THROUGH THE FOOT.



USE DOUBLE-INSULATED TOOLS WITH A GFCI – PROTECTS YOU FROM A SHOCK!





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