

OFFICE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

ELECTRICAL SAFETY



What is Electrical Safety?

Electrical safety is a set of practices and procedures to reduce the risk of injuries or fatalities due to electrical accidents.

It involves using safe equipment, proper training, and adherence to established rules and regulations. Electrical safety may include installing ground fault interrupters, using personal protective equipment (PPE), like gloves and boots, and ensuring equipment is properly maintained.



Electrical Safety in the Home

- Check electrical cables for damage regularly
- Don't overload electrical sockets at home.
- Child proof electrical outlets.
- Keep electrical cables tidy and secured out of the way.
- Unplug appliances and devices when not being used.
- Watch out for water risks around electrical equipment.
- Clean, check and maintain electrical appliances regularly.
- Check the manufacturer's instructions before using new electrical devices and appliances.

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Importance of PPE for Electricians

PPE is worn to minimize and mitigate the risks and hazards associated with a wide variety of working conditions. Without proper PPE, workers are left exposed to significant risks of injury or illness. Electrical PPE, like safety shoes with non-conductive soles and insulating mats, provides insulation and prevents the flow of electric current through the worker's body. This reduces the severity of injuries in case of an electrical fault. Additional electrical safety includes;

- Protection against electrical shock.
- Protection from burns and arc flashes
- Reduction of electrical contact injuries
- Compliance with safety regulations

Following all safety guidelines are important and wearing the correct PPE for the job helps to mitigate any issues. Thus it is important for all electricians to have the correct PPE for the job.

Electrical Hazards in the Workplace

Electrical hazards refer to the potential dangers and risks that are associated with electrical systems. The main electrical hazards when working with electricity include:

- burns,
- electrocution,
- arc flash,
- electric shock
- and other serious injuries.

Other electrical hazards to consider include direct electrical contact, overload, short circuits and static electricity. All precautionary measures must be taken to prevent any accidents from occurring in the workplace.