

## May is Electrical Safety Month: Electrical Safety at Work

The following information has been provided by Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Electrical hazards, while a fraction of total workplace injuries, are more likely to result in death than injuries from other causes.

- Electrical accidents on the job cause an average of 13 days away from work and nearly one fatality every day.
- The nonfatal workplace incidents that cause the highest number of days away from work include contact with an electrical current through a faulty machine, tool, appliance or light fixture, and contact with wiring, transformers or other electrical components.
- Nonfatal electrical injury occurs most often to those who work with machines or tools and around electrical wiring other than power lines.

Electrical hazards on the job can be avoided by following approved guidelines. Skilled employees, trained in electrical safety procedures should make sure they understand and follow safety precautions. Those not trained to recognize and avoid electrical hazards should avoid contact with electrical equipment and systems.

You should:

- Understand the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and the hazards involved.
- Identify all possible energy sources that could pose on-the-job hazards.
- Know safety requirements and follow them.
- Select the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Complete a detailed job plan and communicate it to all coworkers.
- Before working on or around electrical systems or equipment, identify the load circuits and disconnect. Remember, in some cases, turning power off may cause other hazards.
- Use lock-out/tag-out procedures.
- Verify that the equipment or system has been de-energized by testing.
- Stop and revise the plan if at any time the job becomes more hazardous than anticipated.

Above all, never assume that the equipment or system is de-energized. Remember to always

### **TEST BEFORE YOU TOUCH**

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