

ELECTRICAL SAFEGUARDS

SAFETY TALK

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Electricity powers our everyday life, and it can be friend or foe. Too often, people think of the dangers as limited to frayed insulation, grounding, fusing, and electrical shocks. But other safeguards are important, too, and there's no such thing as being too careful when dealing with electricity.

CHECKLIST

- Never energize switches or controllers while protective covers are removed.
- Always de-energize circuits and lock-out switches before making electrical or mechanical repairs.
- Protect yourself from unexpected starts by tagging the de-energized electrical control or switch with a sign warning: "Equipment repair underway – DO NOT ENERGIZE."
- Whenever the presence of vapor, gas, or dust calls for "explosion proof" equipment, be sure that any portable equipment or trouble lights taken into the area are approved by Underwriters Laboratory for the existing atmosphere.
- Keep electrical equipment free of dust, oil, grease, and away from moisture, flammable liquids, and combustible materials.
- Report electrical difficulties promptly. DO NOT attempt electrical repairs yourself unless you are a trained electrician.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What areas of your job have the potential for electrical problems?
2. What can you do to minimize the chance for possible injuries?
3. Are there any specific points or problems you wish to discuss?

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