



Occupational Health and Safety

ALERT

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

If you believe you do not need to think about electrical safety because your job does not work directly with it, you are **wrong...** Recently, a student in one of our schools received a shock by simply plugging in an overhead projector.

What are the risks involved with electrical safety?

The electrical current in our schools and buildings has enough power to cause death by electrocution. Even changing a light bulb without unplugging a lamp can be fatally hazardous by coming in contact with live part of the socket. Broken, damaged or bent electrical plugs pose some of the greatest safety hazards.

The main types of electricity-related injuries:

- electrocution and shock – from direct contact or arcing
- burns – from flame, thermal, or flash
- falls – from a startle reaction to an electrical exposure

So what can you do to help prevent one of these types of injuries?

Simple – follow some of these general safety tips:

- Restrict children from operating electrical equipment
- Inspect tools, equipment, power cords, and electrical fittings for damage or wear prior to use – if you are uncertain, do not use
- Protect plugs in floor outlets from damage. If prongs appear bent, do not attempt to reshape and have it properly repaired.
- Replace or repair immediately - repairs to be done by a skilled person
- Disconnect power before making any repairs or adjustments to equipment
- Use tape to secure cords to floors or walls – nails or staples can cause a fire or shock
- Use appropriately rated amperage or wattage cords or equipment
- Note any unusually warm/hot outlets or cords – unplug and report immediately
- Do not use outlets or cords that have exposed wiring
- Eliminate octopus connections – do not plug in several power cords to a single outlet
- Pull the plug, not the cord
- Never break off a 3rd prong on a plug or use a plug with it missing
- Keep electrical cords away from heat, water and oil

You are part of prevention. Make electrical safety an important part of your job. When we forget simple safety practices and allow other things to take priority, then someone will likely get hurt. Don't let this happen to you!

Attitude is everything. It's that extra something that means you care about safety. For more information, refer to the Safe Work Procedures in the Occupational Health and Safety Manual.

**For questions or more information on Occupational Health and Safety:
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