



TOOLBOX TALK:

Electrical Safety



Electricity can pose serious hazards, including shock, electrocution, burns, and even fires. Fortunately, many of these risks can be avoided by following proper safety procedures when working with or around electrical equipment. Staying alert, using equipment correctly, and reporting any damaged cords, outlets, or devices can help prevent incidents and ensure a safer environment for everyone.

Occupational Safety and Health Standards are designed to address a wide range of electrical hazards found across various industries. These standards aim to protect workers by setting clear requirements for the safe design, installation, and maintenance of electrical systems. In addition to OSHA regulations, electrical safety is also guided by key industry standards from the National Fire Protection Association, including NFPA 70 (the National Electrical Code) and the Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces. Together, these standards help ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to electrical safety in the workplace.

Common Dangerous Situations:

- Faulty equipment
- Damaged insulation on electrical equipment (including the coating on extension cords)
- Utilizing extension cords as permanent power sources
- Overloading wall outlets.
- Storing combustible materials close to heat-producing appliances.

Ways to Work Safer:

- Examine all cords for damage insulation and missing ground prongs. If you find any of these conditions, contact your leadership or submit a ticket to have the item removed or replaced.
- Ensure all electrical boxes and panels are secured; they should close and lock. Maintaining a clear working area around the electrical panel is also crucial; 36 inches around the panel must always remain clear.
- Appliances should always be plugged into a wall outlet and never into a power strip or surge protector.

If all employees have the appropriate electrical safety knowledge and training, they can ensure their home and work environment is safer which may reduce or eliminate the potential damage or injury.

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